



The **Methodist** Church

# AGM Reports SHMC 2018

*'To make disciples and join in God's mission  
for change'*



*New Year's Eve Service*

**All ages, All nations, All stages of faith**



**the  
Centre**  
ST HELIER METHODIST

## Minister's Preface

Welcome to these annual reports. I hope that you find them a useful reminder of where SHMC has journeyed in the past year and a guide for our future direction. They tell our story. They tell of the comings, goings and doings of this Church. They tell of Christ alive among us. They tell of the Spirit calling, guiding and empowering us. There is much for us to give thanks to God for!

A year ago, in the AGM report I said that we would focus on five areas of mission:

Discipleship Course and Pathway: men's ministry, courses and home group engagement

New Song: a new pattern of worship outside of Sunday 10.30am

Greater Participation in Worship: release more people's gifts in worship

Introduction of Talitha Jersey Hub: to bring restoration and hope through the creative arts

Research Social Exclusion in Jersey: to offer real change to those in need

I also said that in twelve months there will be the opportunity to measure what progress we have made! Well here we are one year later. How have we done? What has surprised, challenged and encouraged you?

Personally, I sense we have made progress, but it is not always easy. In many ways we swim against the culture of the day and discipleship is not a natural concept amidst a consumer led society. But Christ's calling remains the same and we are committed: To Make Disciples and Join in God's Mission for Change.

The Revd Loraine Mellor, the President of the Methodist Conference wrote in her inaugural address that there are great challenges and opportunities facing the Methodist church. Her address is included in these reports and is honest and hopeful in equal measure. I hope you find her words helpful.

I conclude by acknowledging the contributions of numerous people who collectively enable the church to function. Our management team who have had a particularly busy year, the numerous volunteers who do everything from pouring tea to watering the plants, teaching our young people, the team of circuit local preachers and worship leaders, and of course our excellent stewards.

Sincere thanks also to Sarah for her steady presence of ministerial administration and friendship, Jackie who has meticulously produced the accounts, Teresa's ministry of cleaning our buildings, Annie and Fiona's warm hospitality within the Café, Sally and Ellen's nurture among children and parents, and Hilary & Louise's outstanding work in the Nestling Nursery.

As Paul wrote, "We can do all things through Him who gives us strength" Philippians 4:13. I believe that to be true and we go forward in faith and confidence.

Every blessing

Tony





*Holiday club*

### **AGM Stewards Report 2018**

After stewarding for 6 years, this has been my final year, so this will be my last report. We have a good, dedicated team of stewards now, so I am leaving the team in very capable hands. The team members are: Kay Papworth, Ann Paul, Pam Marett, David Hicklin, and Simba Mashiri.

The year has been a busy one, plenty going on, and full of good things. Here are some of the highlights of the year:

Last April we had the visit of the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda. This was a huge hit, with people coming from all over the Island to hear them. Their ministry inspired us to give £550 for 5 years to support 2 children. One child from the junior section and one from the senior section of the choir. This money will be taken from the 10% fund.

In May some of us took part in a sponsored walk in aid of the Bible Society, organised by Cathy. This took us all around the green lanes ending up at Bethesda for refreshments. We were all very proud of ourselves having completed 26 miles.

In the summer, July and August, Tony and family did an exchange. He went to America to a huge Church, and their minister Ben Devoid, and his lovely wife Sandy, came here to Jersey to look after SHMC. We learnt a lot from them about how they do things in their Church, and I think they went away with ideas from us. We really enjoyed their company and friendship, a good experience for all concerned.

The stationing re-invitation of our minister was completed in September. There was a unanimous opinion for Tony to stay, so he will be with us for another 4 years.

G&T, Men's Bible group. meet once a month at the Manse, on a Monday for study and games. Any man who would like to come will be made very welcome.

St John's Ambulance, held their prize giving in the Church on the 17th of September, they were impressed with our venue, and may ask to hold it there again.

For the Harvest Festival service in September, Tony put on his best stripy shirt and pretended to be a Bee. The service was buzzing as we had the Jersey Bee keepers, and a real beehive. We learnt about how important bees are to our survival and danced the bee dance. After the service, some of the members of the congregation went to the Biarritz Hotel for a lovely lunch.



*Harvest Festival*

In October, once again Jersey Keswick was held on our premises.

We have had two Away Days last year; one early in the year and the other in November at St Martin's chapel. The next one will be coming up soon, so watch this space.

Both VCP and JCG prep held their Carol services in our Church. This seems to be an annual event. Both schools fill the building to overflowing which is wonderful to see.

All our Christmas Carol services were amazing, and very well attended. Then on New Year's Eve, we hosted a Circuit Breakfast Service. This, although a huge amount of work, was amazing. People came from all over the Circuit to join in. There were not even enough chairs or tables for people. This is what Church could be like, it was wonderful. It included songs, sketches, puppets, a quiz, something for everyone and food as well.

As part of a Duke of Edinburgh award, Mary Wankling has been helping the team with their duties. She is enthusiastic and hopes to help for about 3 months. While Teresa was on maternity leave, Louise covered her work. She was a very cheerful, likeable, conscientious worker, and we really missed her when she had to leave.

As there were no house to house collections, or envelopes given out, for Christian Aid this year, we gave £400 from the 10% fund.

As we have supported and given funds towards the Sark Sanctuary Centre, we are possibly looking towards going on a Day trip to Sark to see where and how our money has been used. Maybe August/September time?

Our president of Conference, the Rev Loraine Mellor was with us on Good Friday. She has made some very good points in her report, which I feel are both moving and disturbing, maybe we need to consider and act on them. "Catherine Booth", a lady mentioned in her report said:

“If we are to better the future we must disturb the present”.

So how are we disturbing the present in our Church today?

My time as a steward is now over. It has been one of the best things I have ever done. It has been hard at times but very rewarding and I feel so blessed that you as the Church have allowed me to serve you for these 6 years. Thank you, I have learnt so much about you, our Church family, and all the things that go on without being noticed. I feel that my Christian life has been enriched, by your love and support.

A grateful thank you too, goes to my wonderful steward team whom I have served with. I will miss our Monday evening meetings!

David Vasselin

(Philippians 4:4-9)



*Easter*

### **Pastoral Review 2017/ 2018**

I am glad to report that we appear to have a growing number of new people attending church and I hope they are beginning to feel part of our community.

As a Pastoral Committee we meet quarterly, where we spend a short time at the beginning of the meeting sharing thoughts on different subjects – listening skills, communication, prayer, aspects of caring.

We are always pleased to see Idrys Buesnel who at 102, is determined to be among the congregation on Sunday mornings, with the help of her friendly taxi driver. Kath Le Gallais has celebrated her 90th birthday and shared a cake with some members of her family.

Eunice Le Breton is still keeping cheerful, having celebrated her 101st birthday, and often joins Tony's aunt, Joyce, for a meal together. Joyce enjoys seeing her family and others with news of the church. These two ladies are happy and well cared for at The Little Sisters.

We missed Sami Fisilau and his family when they returned to Tonga. They had really enjoyed being part of our church community, and we had benefited from their lively company.

Sadly, during the past year, we had to record the deaths of four of our members – Shirley Cauvain, who had been ill for some time, at Lakeside in December; Russel Lucas, who died quite suddenly at home in December; and Marlene Foster who had been at St. Saviour's Hospital for some time died in January.

Ken King, whose health had deteriorated since last year died on 7th March. The Service of Thanksgiving, which he had planned with Tony, was a splendid tribute to Ken; well supported by family and friends, the singing of the hymns which would have pleased him greatly.

In July last year, while Tony and his family went to Thomasville, in North Carolina, on a pastoral exchange visit, the minister and his wife from that church came to stay at the manse in Tower Road. They arrived just before the Annual Lorry Ride to Gorey and were happy to be included in what was a very enjoyable outing, as the weather was at its best. There were approximately 70 members and friends, so Ben and Sandy had the opportunity of meeting a good representation of the church's congregation as the younger families played together on the beach and in the sea. They were anxious to become involved in all the church's activities, Ben as a pastor visiting the Hospital, where Idrys and Ken were patients at that time, and Sandy helping with the children's work.

David and Fiona Picot celebrated the baptism of their grandson Laurence James Head (son of Julia and Andrew) in September followed by the arrival of a new grandson Henry Alexander Barlow (son of Frances and Ian) in October. Vernah and Willard's son, Tinashe Muvengerwi, was born in March this year.

An Alpha Course led by Tony was well supported with sessions held on a Tuesday evening and also on Thursday at lunchtime, attended by some of our new members. The second part of the Course is due to be starting on Tuesday 17th April at 7.30 p.m. and Thursday 19th April at noon respectively.

During the year we held two Away Days, one in March at Bethesda led by Brian & Becky Purchase, and another in November at St. Martins. Both were appreciated and enjoyed by those who attended.

We send our love and greetings to all who are unable to be with us at worship, but please be assured that you are remembered and prayed for by all who use our Year Book and Prayer Diary. And if you feel you would like to be involved in any of the church's activities which are listed on the back page, please make contact because you would be most welcome.



## Reflections of the Past Year Children's Report 2018

Our work during the week continues to grow and change as numbers rise. Our Rascal Toddler groups are very large, and as with all of our groups a very fluid attendance. But a good atmosphere and lovely connections are being made, as we talk to people from literally all over the world.

Early summer holidays we repeated our "Family Holiday Club", which this time was a huge success. Many of our families just on our edge really enjoyed coming, playing and making friends. We included a short worship with an ongoing theme every day, which was appreciated. Our American exchange minister Ben and his lovely wife Sandy were very involved. Sandy helping Lou each day with the older children, who we hadn't expected, but came either with younger brothers and sisters, or with helpers.

Our annual Lorry ride was, as always, very popular. I think we had the most lorries ever. If any of you have ever been with us, you will know just how much fun we have.



*No comment*

At Christmas there were several Nativity Plays, that we were part of. The main one was the Christmas Eve Nativity at the Crib service. We try to involve as many of our children, that we can, who are available. They love this time of the year and being part of this, it is great to see. In January we all went Bowling, which was great fun.

As mentioned earlier, all our groups are healthily full, except for Messy Church, in which we have seen a certain decline in attendance over the years. So, after the Christmas one we stopped for a break. The team have continued to meet on the Messy Church afternoons to talk, plan and pray, for the ongoing work in this area. After much discussion and prayer, we have decided to try a "Messy Church," on a Sunday morning in the Church as a service. This may be quite radical, but it is worth trying. As it involves everybody together it could be really beneficial to all.

Our hope and prayer for Sunday mornings is that some families will enjoy it so much that they will come every week! This does not seem to happen. Every Sunday we have different children and very varying numbers, whatever we do, or whatever is happening at Church that Sunday. Our Kids Church Sundays and our ordinary Sundays are now very similar, but there are a few families who come only for Kids Church. The age ranges most weeks is very vast, so we do try to split the group, but as you never know who will be there, planning is incredibly difficult. We now have a Sunday Rota, so that one of us every 4 to 6 weeks gets a Sunday off.

Toddler Church is the highlight of our week! This is growing and just lovely. Mums, carers and children worshipping together. We have a team to help with this group which makes it easier and spreads the work load.

I am so grateful for Ellen and all we do together. We seem to complement each other well, which is so important as we seem to be always busy. We can often be found in our little room upstairs, working or talking! Please say hello as you walk by, or pop in.

We are continually grateful to everyone who helps us in any way, we need you all, to pray for, and love our children into God's Kingdom.

**Sally**

## Youth Work Annual Report

It's been a good year for deepening relationships and increasing youth engagement with worship. A new number of younger members are with us on a Sunday morning from time to time and once a month at Garage Club gatherings.

**Sunday Youth** on a Sunday morning can regularly see five attending, with more when we have a specific project. The age-span is ten to sixteen, which is a stretch. Leadership is mainly by Cathy Morling but supported by Jean Treleven and other Church members when the need arises. It was with sadness that Michelynne Bassue wasn't able to stay with our team due to work commitments in London, but it was powerful for the group to raise funds with a cake sale for the British Virgin Isles after the Hurricane which affected Michelynne's family. The Sunday Youth had enjoyed getting to know her and her support is missed. Their sense of belonging to the Church has deepened this year, helped by participating in a number of special services with music and drama. "The Bethlehemian Rhapsody" with Puppets, for our New Year Banquet Service saw 15 young people involved. It was inspiring to encourage and support Ngaa Katsande's connection and heart for a Zimbabwean Primary School. He spoke at a service and then we organised a cake sale with him. We are also fostering a relationship with the Esperado Charity – asking the young people to bake sometimes and help support other missional work. Engaging young people with projects where they can see faith in action is powerful. There is an appetite for more social gatherings and although the annual **Garage Club** Cinema Outing at Christmas was very popular, I have limited capacity to arrange much more.



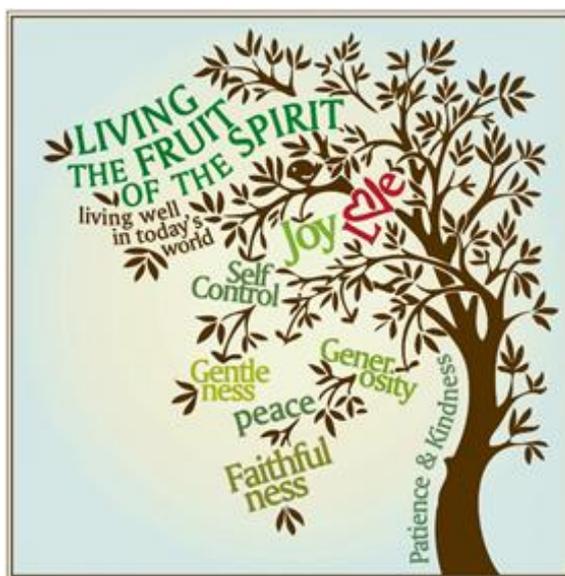
*The cast of Bethlehemian Rhapsody*

Our Sunday morning material is usually from **Youth For Christ**, but we followed the **Youth Alpha** videos and discussions alongside the Church programme. It was often a rush to fit in the video and a meaningful discussion

on a Sunday morning, but the quality of the resource was excellent and some of the topics engaged the group well.

Our singers and musicians are less frequent in their attendance, but there have been occasional sessions preparing music for Sunday services led by Ben Shaw, Libby Farnon and supported by Sue De Gruchy when they can. The Youth Band would benefit from new musicians going forward and some new arrangements.

**Garage Club** - Sunday evenings once a month, means lots of fun for tens to teens, and this year we began to explore different venues, for instance holding Summer sessions at St. Andrews in the park with a BBQ and one on the beach. This group includes young people with no other church connection, some from other denominational churches, as well as our own Centre Youth. Format is still forty-five minutes of games, twenty minutes for food, twenty minutes on faith, but now we are sometimes adding an extra thirty minutes of games at the end as well. St. Mark's were interested to look at ways of working together, so a number of leaders met to discuss how we could try and merge different youth initiatives. Garage Club joined with St. Mark's Youth Hub for a few sessions and joined St. Andrew's for some graffiti activity and then their evening contemporary service. The dynamic changed in each venue – St. Mark's felt right for older ones and St. Andrew's more for families. Our 14-15 year olds need a different environment. We would love to be able to offer a different programme for them for year 10 or 11 and above. It has been good to see Mary Wankling exploring the role of a Youth Steward for her DofE volunteering. We hope to find ways for all our youths to deepen their spiritual lives in the coming year by encouraging more of them to engage with *New Song*, *Jersey Keswick*, *Jersey New Wine* and next Summer a mission trip would be perfect for the older youths.



### Women's Ministry at The Centre

The distinctive and intentional ministry for women at the Centre continues in the shape of 'Recharge' – a morning of time to receive, reflect and recharge the spiritual batteries. Numbers are around 30 – 40. Cathy Morling has shared the leadership and organisation with a team of others this year, releasing many wonderful gifts and intentionally moving 'Recharge' from a dependency model.

There have been three 'Recharge' gatherings this year. The first in May 2017 was an exploration of Ephesians 2, considering our identity in Christ and exploring the imagery of God coming to dwell in us through His Spirit. This was facilitated in creative and symbolic ways by Cathy Morling and Naomi Bidmead. The second was in October 2017, focusing on 'Fruits of the Spirit' which was inspired and led by Helen Parker, supported by Cathy Morling and Lou Hicklin and included a creative collage. The third was in February 2018 and our guest speaker was Alice

Nunn from the Salvation Army, inspired by Philippians 4, challenging us to listen, act and be prepared to wait in prayer. We've been grateful to Catherine Baudains for supporting us periodically on the piano for our times of worship, the hospitality is always beautifully managed by Allison Gregory, and Lou Hicklin's creative input and gifts are invaluable.

Each gathering is unique and meaningful for those attending. The feedback is very positive, and we now have a database of contacts which we use to inform of the next gathering. We find that emailing reminders are essential, as well as producing high quality publicity postcards with all three dates for the year ahead printed on them.

The expenses for each morning are relatively small, but a basket for donations towards the cost of the refreshments is offsetting most expenses.

'Recharge' has brought the women at the Centre closer together, created opportunities to grow in fellowship with women from other churches and across denominations. There is plenty of room for growth in this area and an appetite for retreats. We look forward to another year of distinctive and special ministry, encouraging and increase in diverse leadership, strengthening relationships, deepening our spiritual journeys and listening to God's call for any developments in the coming year.



### **Talitha at The Centre**

What a blessing The Centre has been to Talitha over the last year. We have been able to confidently hold trainings, fundraising events, run workshop programmes and find a storage solution for our resources, without hiring spaces at significant cost. Also, the support of Jackie and Sarah in the office, helping us manage our finances in an appropriate way, has been invaluable. Thank you for your on-going prayerful, financial and pastoral support.

Our annual fundraiser in June 2017 required a lot of goodwill and support from members of the Centre, for which we are grateful, and was a tremendous success. The London Revue Company delivered a high quality, sparkling cabaret based showcasing Joyce Grenfell, and despite it being the longest and hottest day of the year, attendance was excellent. It was a beautiful celebration of creativity, community and the first Talitha Programme in Jersey.

The first six-week programme was hosted at the Centre in June and July 2017 and was run in partnership with The Jersey Women's Refuge for women affected by Domestic Violence. Four Talitha Practitioners led these therapeutic creative arts workshops, eight women attended, and their feedback was very encouraging. The Women's Refuge immediately asked us to run another programme and referred more vulnerable women to us for our second programme which we ran in January and February of 2018. Each programme has been led by Jersey trained Talitha Practitioners and under the leadership of the Jersey Hub Leader, Cathy Sara (aka Cathy Morling). Evaluative feedback has shown that the participants always wish the programme was longer or they could attend the next one, feeling they have increased in confidence and emotional understanding of themselves. For the second programme, Centre members volunteered to run a crèche for the participant's pre-school children,

who otherwise would not have been able to attend. This was deeply appreciated and was a great witness to participants and The Jersey Women's Refuge.

Holding Talitha programmes at the Centre introduces participants to a safe and trusting space that is associated with the Church, they discover the Centre Café, and it demonstrates the charity's faith foundations in a subtle but tangible way.

Talitha Jersey has held Dementia trainings at the Centre for Training Practitioners as well as an Adult Safe Guarding Course. Over the next year we intend to finalise the training of a further eight Jersey Talitha Practitioners, send out a team to work in Bolivia for two weeks, run more programmes for women affected by Domestic Violence at the Centre, begin offering Dementia workshops to support the work of established Dementia Care Providers in the island and then hope to explore Talitha's approach for vulnerable children.



### **Report from Management and Finance**

Maintaining both the interior and exterior of the buildings under our care in good condition and repair is an important and ever-increasing part of the Committee's work. However, finding contractors to undertake some of this work has been challenging.

Nevertheless, the painting of the windows and the repairs to the gutter on the East side of the church has been completed and similar work plus repairs to one window on the West side of the church will be undertaken next August to minimise disruption. The insulation of the loft has been completed.

Looking forward, the café as well as the youth room need refurbishment and plans are being drawn up for this.

Freedom for Life has vacated the rooms which it occupies in Ruby Ferguson House.

The Centre is as busy as ever and such work could not be undertaken without our dedicated and hard-working staff. Fiona Melton has joined the staff as an assistant in the café. The team in the kitchen is helped by several volunteers and the Committee is ever grateful to them as well as those who work on the repair and maintenance of the buildings and those who look after the staff.

All this work is undertaken by a small team of committee members and volunteers and we would very much welcome other members of the Church willing to assist in this regard. If you feel able to put your name forward, please contact me or any other member of the Committee.

Peter Luce



### Café Report

Another year has passed, it seems to fly by!

The café continues to gain more regular customers which is a great encouragement to us all.

During the busiest time of the day, I began to struggle on my own and so it was agreed I needed extra help. Welcome to our newest team member Fiona. She has settled in well and it has been a pleasure to work together.

Unfortunately, since Felicity left as leader of the Twinkles Group on Thursdays the number of children has decreased hence reducing the number of customers we have on a Thursday. Chantel now runs the group and seems disappointed with the turn out so please spread the word ...

We're in the process of expanding the menu which will hopefully be a positive step forward. Tried and enjoyed have been Bacon, Brie Cranberry and Rocket wraps.

New volunteers include Helen Toole and Gloria and a big thank you also to our faithful friends who are willing to help... Jean, David, Therese and Sue.

Our new project includes the refurbishment of the café which is an exciting venture.

Finally, we would love to see more church members frequent the café. A very warm welcome awaits.



### **Comments on the Accounts**

The attached audited accounts for the Church show a surplus of £44,902 as against a budget deficit of £20,026.

There are a number of factors which have contributed to this, namely

Net giving was £4,945 above budget

Income from room hire was above budget by £5,569

Expenditure on repairs and maintenance being £38,519 less than budgeted

Other costs such as cleaning and miscellaneous expenditure also being below budget.

The budget for the current year shows an expected deficit of £44,464.

£67,000 will be transferred from the Nursery less £16,750 to be paid to the Circuit.

A total of £65,000 for repairs and maintenance has again been included in the budget as it is hoped that the proposed works will be completed this year.

The audited accounts for the Nursery are also attached and these show a surplus of nearly £68,000 which is over £31,000 above budget. Again, this is due to tight control over expenditure and income being £5,712 above budget.

As stated above this allows £67,000 to be transferred to the General Account.

Peter Luce.





## ST HELIER METHODIST CENTRE

## GENERAL FUND

## INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR TO 31 AUGUST 2017

2017/2018									
Budget	INCOME	Note	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	2016 Actual	2016 Budget			
51,000	Cash collections & covenants		54,562	49,000	52,742	48,000			
10,000	Inc tax refunds on covenants		9,977	10,000	9,977	6,000			
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61,000			64,539	59,000	62,719	54,000			
6,100	Less tf to 10% reserve fund		6,454	5,900	6,272	5,400			
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54,900			58,085	53,100	56,447	48,600			
20,000	Rent from flats 1&2		16,752	19,413	16,794	19,032			
28,300	Room Hire	4	33,109	27,540	33,494	27,000			
4,000	Donations		1,900	4,000	4,435	4,000			
78,000	Nursery rent		72,000	72,000	69,360	69,360			
1,000	Bank deposit interest	5	1,121	1,000	1,154	1,000			
-	Quoted investment income		-	-	294	580			
	Grants from Circuit & District	9	43,763	-	43,763	-			
4,000	Catering		2,123	4,500	4,847	1,700			
-	Holiday club		( 229)	-	( 166)	200			
2,000	Fund raising		-	2,000	215	2,000			
60,000	Miscellaneous income		81,695	80,000	130,000	-			
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252,200	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		310,319	263,553	360,638	173,472			
	<b>EXPENSES</b>								
4,000	Accountancy/treasurer fees	6	3,096	3,800	3,636	3,200			
84,362	Circuit Assessment		87,095	87,095	100,390	67,890			
83,200	Staff salaries	9	98,941	67,498	91,278	54,611			
6,800	Staff soc sec Er costs		6,211	6,534	5,667	5,460			
8,500	Oil		7,424	7,000	5,295	10,000			
9,000	Electricity		7,697	8,500	7,863	9,000			
2,600	Water		2,117	2,500	2,152	2,600			
290	Rates		289	290	289	290			
650	Telephone		569	650	592	700			
8,000	Insurance		7,380	8,000	7,440	7,850			
2,500	Cleaning - Agencies		2,211	4,800	2,895	4,800			
1,700	Cleaning - Materials		1,664	1,600	1,478	1,600			
4,200	Printing, Stationery & Postage		3,740	3,250	3,227	2,800			
15,000	Repairs & maint - routine	7	15,000	15,000	15,725	15,000			
50,000	Repairs & maint - planned		11,431	50,000	-	-			
3,500	Professional fees		2,500	3,500	3,613	-			
500	Jr Church & Youth work		323	1,500	782	1,500			
500	Sundry Equipment			500		1,200			
350	Messy Church		302	150	107	-			
1,412	Connexional Funding		1,412	1,412	2,824	2,824			
10,000	Miscellaneous expenses	8	6,015	10,000	6,319	10,000	201,325		
297,064			-----	-----	-----	-----			
( 44,864)	<b>RESULT - PROFIT/(LOSS)</b>		44,902	( 20,026)	99,065	( 27,853)			

ST HELIER METHODIST CENTRE					
BALANCE SHEET					
31 AUGUST 2017					
	Note	2017		2016	
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Cash at banks	1	68,384		74,740	
Cash at Central Board of Finance		307,126		241,004	
Petty Cash		228		270	
Debtors	2	1,836		6,902	
Prepayments	2	21,702		21,584	
Stock	2	1,285	400,561	883	345,383
					345,383
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Creditors	2	10,800		10,704	
Accruals	2	5,767	16,567	2,850	13,554
			383,993		331,829
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>					
General Fund (Unrestricted)	3		358,316		313,414
Minister's Discretionary Fund			796		859
General Property Fund (Restricted)			6,475		-
Missions & Charities Fund (Restricted)			-		720
In & Out Collections (Restricted)			426		-
Mrs LS Nicolle Endowment Fund (Restricted)			1,247		1,247
Advertising Fund (Restricted)			430		430
Parking Fund (Restricted)			429		429
10% Charities Fund (Restricted)			5,338		5,325
Little Rascals Fund (Restricted)			1,000		1,000
Esperado Fund (Restricted)			2,398		1,294
M Tourtel Memorial Fund (Restricted)			7,139		7,111



*Vic Prep exploring the church*

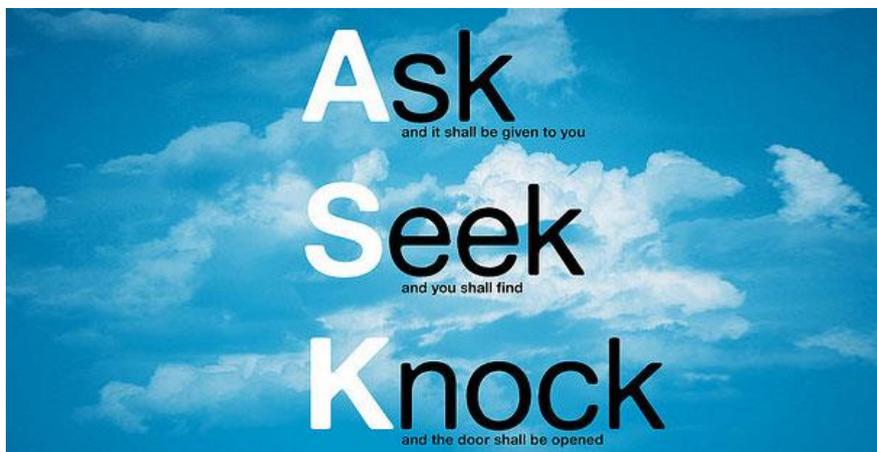
<b>ST HELIER METHODIST CENTRE</b>					
<b>OTHER FUNDS</b>					
<b>31 AUGUST 2017</b>					
General Property Fund			Parking Fund		
31.8.16	Balance b/f	-	31.8.16	Balance b/f	429
	Tf from inc/exp	6,475		No movement in period	
	Closing balance	<u>6,475</u>		Closing balance	<u>429</u>
Missions & Charities Fund			10% Charities Fund		
31.8.16	Balance b/f	720	31.8.16	Balance b/f	5,325
	Tf to Minister's Discr Fund	720		Transfer from Minister's Discretionary Fund - food vouchers	4,020
				Donation	-
				Transfer from General Fund	6,454
	Closing balance	<u>-</u>		Less paid to:	
				Action Aid	180
Minister's Discretionary Fund				World Mission for Haiti	1,000
31.8.16	Balance b/f	859		Whitechapel Mission	1,000
	Add various donations	3,612		All We Can for Refugee crisis	1,000
	Add tf from Miss/Charities	720		All We Can (general)	1,000
	Santa sacks	-		Watoto child sponsorship	552
	Tf to 10% fund for vouchers	4,020		Fresh Expressions	408
	Food bank costs	375		Benevolent Fund (vouchers)	5,320
				Closing balance	<u>5,339</u>
	Closing balance	<u>796</u>	Advertising Fund		
			31.8.16	Balance b/f	430
				No movement	
In & Out Collections				Closing balance	<u>430</u>
31.8.16	Balance b/f	-			
	Various receipts	2,048			
	Less paid to:		Little Rascals Fund		
	Meth. Action on poverty	381	31.8.16	Balance b/f	1,000
	Grace Trust	238		Add net receipts for period	1,690
	Action for Children	139		Less tf to General Fund	1,690
	Jersey Hospice Care	162			
	Fresh Expressions	592		Closing balance	<u>1,000</u>
	World Mission Fund	110			
			Michael Tourtel Memorial Fund		
			31.8.16	Balance b/f	7,111
				Add bank interest received	28
				Closing balance	<u>7,139</u>
	Closing balance	<u>426</u>			
Mrs L S Nicolle Endowment Fund			Esperado Fund		
31.8.16	Balance b/f	1,247	31.8.16	Balance b/f	1,294
	No movement	-	17	Receipts for the period	1,704
	Closing balance	<u>1,247</u>		Less:	
				Tf to Esperado project	-
				Monthly funding	600
				Closing balance	<u>2,398</u>

ST HELIER METHODIST CENTRE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

31 AUGUST 2017

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | We continue to maintain a balance of cash with Natwest to cover general running costs. The Central Board of Finance offer better interest rates on cash deposits and so the majority of funds are held there.  |
| 2 | Separate schedules for debtors, creditors, accruals, prepayments and stock are attached  |
| 3 | The General Fund includes a transfer from the Little Rascals Fund in the sum of £1,690   |
| 4 | Room hire receipts were encouraging during the period and we are grateful to the Street Dance Team for their continued support. We continue to receive regular funding from Health and Social Services for their use of the Youth room.  |
| 5 | Bank deposit receipts were slightly above target due to higher than expected cash balances being retained with the Central Finance Board. In the main this was because of funding being received from the Methodist Circuit and District in respect of staff costs, along with a one-off payment from the Nursery in the sum of £80,000. |
| 6 | The Treasurer's fees are likely to remain at the budgeted level for the foreseeable future. 2017 saw a slight reduction in the chargeable time recorded (some systems now automated).  |
| 7 | The total repairs and maintenance costs include £6,594 for the Church balustrade, and £3,400 for the church loft insulation  |



8	Miscellaneous expenses (over £100) include:		£
	CCLI Licence		389
	TV licence		146
	First Aid kit replenishment		117
	Lead Academy - year 2		1,200
	Re-imburse flight costs for Awayday		295
	Freedom Media - web hosting		517
	Bethesda for use of facilities for Awayday		100
	St Martin for use of facilities for Awayday		100
	Giving Envelopes		114
	Methodist Recorder subscription		146
	Flyers & presentation folders		257
	Prayer books		280
	Installation of Windows 10 (office computer)		114
	Purchase 2 x folding tables		215
	Replenish bunting		160
	Cash paid for lorries July		200
			<u>4,350</u>
9	Staff salaries		
	Gross salaries for the year		98,941
	Less:		
	Circuit grant for Family worker (2nd of 3 annual payments)	( 6,620)	
	District grant for Family worker (2nd of 3 annual payments)	( 6,620)	
	Circuit grant for additional Family worker (2nd of 3 annual payments)	( 3,877)	
	District grant for additional Family worker (2nd of 3 annual payments)	( 3,877)	
	District grant for café manager - 3rd of 3 annual payments	( 4,595)	
	Circuit grant for café manager - 3rd of 3 annual payments	( 4,595)	
	Circuit grant for Administrator - 3rd of 3 annual payments	( 13,579)	
			<u>55,178</u>
	We continue to be grateful for the ongoing support of the Circuit and District with regards to their contribution towards staff costs, and acknowledge that the grants due to be received in the financial year ending 31 August 2018 will complete the 3 year cycle.		



***'Road to Emmaus' flip-flops***

## ST HELIER METHODIST CENTRE

## NESTLING DAY CARE CENTRE

## INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2017

2017/2018			2017 Actual	2017 Budget	2016 Actual	2016 Budget
Budget	INCOME	Note			£	£
631,600	Fees receivable	1	621,766	616,000	627,132	601,800
240	Interest receivable	2	217	350	539	690
-	Other income		79	-	-	-
<b>631,840</b>			<b>622,062</b>	<b>616,350</b>	<b>627,671</b>	<b>602,490</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
441,450	Staff costs	3	420,217	440,000	414,557	444,474
5,000	Training (net of grants received)		3,723	5,000	5,037	2,000
17,000	Toiletries & Food	4	14,019	14,000	13,348	13,500
1,500	Art materials		1,128	1,500	1,443	1,500
3,500	Equipment repairs & maint.		2,767	3,500	2,271	5,700
78,000	Methodist Church service chg		72,000	72,000	69,360	69,360
1,700	Rates		1,657	1,700	1,661	1,700
1,500	Advertising/printing/stationery		1,324	1,200	1,141	1,600
820	Telephone & postage		649	820	749	800
180	Motor Expenses		-270	1,170	430	1,750
1,800	Bin servicing		1,355	1,785	1,396	1,750
11,400	Cleaning		10,497	11,100	10,179	10,900
4,200	Accountancy	6	3,690	4,100	4,096	4,000
10,000	Property maintenance & repairs	11	10,911	12,000	13,000	4,000
6,400	Professional fees	10	6,400	5,300	5,263	-
2,000	Sundries	10	3,286	2,140	1,416	2,100
2,500	Toys & books & equipment		727	2,500	2,486	2,500
<b>588,950</b>			<b>554,080</b>	<b>579,815</b>	<b>547,833</b>	<b>567,634</b>
<b>42,890</b>	<b>NET INCOME BEFORE GRANTS</b>		<b>67,982</b>	<b>36,535</b>	<b>79,838</b>	<b>34,856</b>
<b>42,890</b>	<b>NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>67,982</b>	<b>36,535</b>	<b>79,838</b>	<b>34,856</b>
	Balance brought forward		202,561		252,723	
	Transfer to SHMC Reserves		- 80,000		- 130,000	
	Balance carried forward		<b>190,543</b>		<b>202,561</b>	

ST HELIER METHODIST CENTRE					
NESTLING DAY CARE CENTRE					
BALANCE SHEET					
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2017					
		2017		2016	
		£	£	£	£
	Note				
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors and prepayments		905		885	
Stock	5	30		1	
Cash at bank	7	239,680		261,052	
Cash in hand		20		104	
			240,635		262,042
<b>LIABILITIES: Amounts due within one year</b>					
Fees received in advance		21,976		22,750	
Parents deposit fund	8	12,250		12,250	
Sundry creditors and accruals	9	15,866		24,482	
			50,092		59,482
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<b>190,543</b>		<b>202,560</b>
Represented by:					
<b>UNAPPROPRIATED SURPLUS</b>			<b>190,543</b>		<b>202,560</b>





**Michael in his Easter bonnet**

8	The parent's deposit fund is made up of deposits in the sum of £250 each.									
9	Creditors and accruals are:									
										£
										8,091
										5,336
										1,144
										196
										7
										35
										861
										196
										-----
										<u>15,866</u>
10	The Nursery has agreed a regular payment plan with Law at Work to cover the cost of various personnel and staffing advice and assistance.									
11	The Nursery has refurbished several rooms during the year and these costs of £6,713 are included within Property Maintenance and Repairs.									





### **A report from the office.**

This year has been busier than ever.

In October we hosted the Highlands and University of Plymouth in Jersey graduation ceremony. It was a well-planned and joyful occasion which took over several rooms with gowns, photography and the ceremony itself. We will be welcoming them back this year.

It was once again a pleasure to show Year 3 of Vic Prep around the building. This is becoming an annual visit which we all enjoy. The boys are interested in everything and often surprise us with their comments – i.e. mistaking the pool table in the Youth Room for a hot tub. (One for the Management and Finance Committee to consider?)

The Dance classes have slightly increased their bookings, we have had 2 Alpha courses and Talitha has been using the building much more.

Congratulations to Teresa on the arrival of Andre Lucas at the beginning of September – and thank you for keeping the Centre as spotless as ever. An unexpected blessing was getting to know Louise who covered Teresa's maternity leave. She now has a job at Maison La Corderie.

In March we held our first baby shower in the café. Organised by Gloria as a surprise for Vernah, it was spirited and joyful with speeches, dancing and good food. Tinashe arrived a few days later – his name means 'God is with us' in Shona.

At the end of January, the church and the circuit paid for me to attend a short course on Administrative Ministry at Cliff College. This was a week-long residential course leading to a Certificate in Administrative Ministry. It was a boon to meet other administrators - mostly circuit and district - compare notes and learn together. The teaching was interesting and the whole experience was thought-provoking and empowering. I had a great week. Thank you.

I am very grateful to those who have helped throughout the year

- Michael faithfully sorting and counting tea-bags for South Africa
- Ronan working hard each week with notices, guillotining inserts, tidying cupboards and sorting the Food bank donations
- Sean who has solved our intractable pigeon problem by using a bit of Geordie know-how

- all those who have delivered or picked up Food Bank donations, particularly the other churches in the circuit who are so generous.

Last year I attended an initial exploratory meeting organised by Tony in the little chapel. As a direct result of this meeting, in March he participated with 15 others from Jersey in a learning exchange with the Scottish Government in Edinburgh. This a very positive step that we are hoping will offer long-term benefits to Jersey and its care system.

Sarah



*Holiday club baked American biscuits*

**Report from Nestling Day Care Nursery.**

**Nestling Day Care Nursery Committee**

Chair	Hilary Bullock
Secretary	Gill Luce
Finance	Jackie Ollerenshaw
Committee:	Rev Tony Morling, Peter Luce, Jane Pointon, Enid Davis, Nance Hicklin.

This year has been very successful due to the dedicated and loyal staff who continue to work so hard in our Nursery.

They have undertaken various courses in Continuous Professional Development which involves much studying in their own personal time. As a result, it enables the staff to introduce better standards throughout the Nursery.

We aim to achieve excellence in all areas.

The garden is now our main concern as it is in dire need of a face lift. We are seeking advice from experts and hope to start work next August when the Centre is quiet.

The Committee of Nestling Day Care Nursery continues to meet on a regular basis. This enables us to discuss any major issues and it is important to keep in touch with Louise Jones-Butel our Nursery manager and to offer her support in the complex job of managing the Nursery. We thank her for her valuable commitment to the Nursery.

We celebrated 40 years since the Nursery was established. Parents and friends gathered in the Church which had been decorated for the occasion and enjoyed tea and a special celebration cake and were well entertained by the children.

The Nativity was as usual delightful, and we thank Sally Vasselin for training the children to sing. They now have quite a repertoire of songs for both Graduation and the Nativity. The Children love their time with Sally.

We now look forward to another successful year at Nestling Day Care Nursery ably helped by Sarah in the office who is always on hand to sort out any problems with a cheerful smile and is such an amazing help to all at the Nursery and St. Helier Methodist Centre.

Hilary Bullock

April 2018.



*Faure's Requiem on Good Friday*





In her inaugural address, the Revd Loraine N Mellor, the President of the Methodist Conference, asked: "How are we disturbing the present in the Church today?" as she shared her concerns with the current state of the Church and her vision for taking radical risks to change its culture.

***Reflecting on her worries over the "declining Church", Loraine took a sobering look at the current state of the Methodist Church and its dwindling membership. "We don't have too many churches, we just don't have enough people in them..."***

***As a potential solution, Loraine implored Methodists to take radical steps to change the shape of the Church, through a renewed focus on God-centred worship, generous hospitality and being unafraid of failure in evangelism.***

***"I know I am part, at present, of a declining Church, but I am not part of a declining gospel.***

***"The gospel of Jesus Christ is here to stay, but has the time not come of us to be radical? To take some risks in order that we can grow..."***

***"Because, you see... I don't believe that God is done with us just yet."***

#### **Presidential Address text**

Catharine Booth said: "If we are to better the future we must disturb the present"

So how are we disturbing the present in the Church today?

I do not for one second believe that God has done with the Methodist Church just yet, and I am not at all ready for the funeral.

But there is no getting away from the fact that we are a declining Church and we have to stop kidding ourselves that we are good at evangelism. Does this keep you awake at night? Because it does me! It worries me that we have dropped our membership figures below 200,000. It worries me that circuits cannot attract presbyters to their appointment, and the effect that has on the local church, the circuit staff and stewards. It worries me that a lot of churches have a lot of money in trust funds that is not being used for mission and evangelism - £5 million in the district where I serve alone and many, many more millions around the Connexion.

It worries me that some churches and circuits are still using old models of ministry and have a seemingly inability to change and adapt to the context, which we find ourselves in today. It worries me when I see ministers struggling with the workload, the number of ministers who choose to or are forced (due to ill health) to retire early. It worries me when I see the sheer number of meetings we ask our lay people to attend. It

worries me when I think we have so much as a Methodist Church to offer to our communities and that our connexionalism is a gift of God.

This of course is from my perspective of a district chair who week by week engages with circuits. It's my view and you may well see it differently, but I think we need to change. I think that change needs to be radical in order that we will survive and grow. I also need to remind myself that Jesus is Lord of the Church, and therefore I do not have to be, because he is, I should sleep at night. So, let us rejoice in those areas of our connexion where we are growing and are seeing new disciples.

I heard someone say a few months ago 'there is nothing wrong with the gospel so what is wrong with the Church?' Now that is rather simplistic I know, but it made the point and challenged me at the same time. Because this was also asked in the same meeting: 'if a local church has consistently failed to make new disciples is it still Church?' My response was, 'my heart says well done, good and faithful servants - mission accomplished here', but my head says, 'this is not the Church.' I believe we need to concentrate on the gospel and leave the Church to God.

I know I am part of a declining Church, this is my story and your story, but I also believe we are also a transitional church as we have all read in the connexion magazine, so what are we going to do about it because, brothers and sisters? Because I believe we must do something.

We have to change the shape, the narrative of the story and I contend we do that when the story is about our worship, about the hospitality that we offer, about the generosity of our sharing, by being disciples who are shaped by Jesus and his cross and by making decisions that give us a hope and a future. They are reflective of course of the themes our calling: worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism. And they are themes that I wish to pick up from John's gospel.

The reading from the end of John's gospel gives us a model that I want to explore this afternoon. So, this Presidential address from a biblical perspective, well, at least I hope it is.

We are at the end of Jesus earthly ministry, it is not the first time that the disciples have encountered Jesus. And once again, it's Peter who exclaims 'It is the Lord.' So surely it is first about our relationship with Jesus and about our worship of him.

Roger said this in the last year: "In a world where a multitude of truths and an infinite choice of lifestyles seem possible, Christians need to shape their lives by the pattern of Jesus. We have to be Jesus- Shaped".

The only way we can become Jesus shaped is by experiencing Jesus in our worship. Our worship today needs to be authentic, relevant, awe-inspiring and God centred.

Jesus is standing on the shore watching, waiting and praying for his disciples. He prepares breakfast for them, they are not far from shore, and they can converse together. Initially, they do not see who it is, but then Peter speaks, 'it is the Lord.' And here we see Peter who loved Jesus, who followed him, learned from him, shared with him, been bereaved, hurt, anxious, faithless and faithful and now hear the words, the words of worship of his Lord, how passionate, and poignant. You can almost feel Peter breathe them over the morning mist, words of worship and of wonder, 'It is the Lord'.

As disciples of Christ, our first priority must be to worship in that worship we must hear the word of God preached and the preached word must be relevant to our hearer. It must relate to where we are and for many of us today in a church that is not multi-generational, we are often preaching to retired, elderly, small in number congregations, so what can we say to them about what it means to worship and be energised and inspired?

That morning thousands of years ago on that lake, in that boat, Peter moved from being distressed and anxious, he had fished all night, he had worked hard, he had gone back to what he knew and in that moment was inspired and energised by his Lord. Our reason for being, be it aged 9 or 90, is that we are to offer our 'worth ship' to God.

Our 'worth ship' to God can be expressed in myriad of ways, from the great hymns of faith to the newest worship song from Taize to Iona, in silence and in a joyful noise; it can be liturgical and extemporary. Yet, some of the worship some of us encounter can be dull and narrow. Our diet in worship is not worshipful, but centred around our needs, what we like, and we enjoy.

I am sure some of you (like me) have had said at the church door as you shake hands after the worship- "I did not like your hymns much today," "I did not like what you said about the passage of scripture." But that is about I, not about what worship should be, and our worth ship of God.

Peter was no longer thinking of himself when he realised it was Jesus standing on the shore. He quickly put his clothes back on as he rushed to make it to the shore, swimming and wading to get to Jesus.

When our worship is vibrant, it is focused on God. When the word is preached and is relevant then our people are happy to invite family and friends. "Worth ship" is an imperative of our faith. That is where we encounter the living God. Where the place of preaching plays a central role, when people encounter Jesus through the preached word, that's when people grow in faith because their story resonates with the story from scripture.

We all know that Presbyters and Deacons are itinerant and Local Preachers are local, yet in some of our circuits do we have this the wrong way round? Church growth commentators tell us that consistency in worship is important. When people in the congregations see the same people week on week leading worship this gives confidence. Churches that have a regular team leading worship grow and we know of these places around the Connexion where they are seeing significant growth through worship, through the preached word, through being able to encounter a loving God and experience his glory, power, and majesty for themselves.

So, to enable our churches, to enable our people to encounter the gospel, worship needs to be of the highest quality, it needs to be focused on God and our 'worth ship' of Him. Where the word of God is preached, is consistent and relevant, and it needs to be led every week by a small collaborative team of preachers and worship leaders.

Oscar Romero said: "A church that doesn't provoke any crises, a gospel that doesn't unsettle, a word of God that doesn't get under anyone's skin, a word of God that doesn't touch the real sin of the society in which it is being proclaimed - what gospel is that?"

We see in this passage of scripture that the disciples are fishing, the commentators believe, and we know from the scripture that they had encountered Jesus since his crucifixion and this time Jesus tells them to throw the net on the other side of the boat. They must have wondered if life could get any worse. The agony of the last few days and weeks. Jesus is dead, what now? They go to fish and catch nothing, but they were fishermen, they go back to their roots. They know this lake like the back of their hands.

They have fished it many times, both in the day and in night, week after week, month after month, they wondered would it have changed that much over the last three years? And Jesus tells them to throw the net on the other side of the boat. 'Well Jesus that's just not done, we don't catch fish that way', but they are silent and do what the man on the shore tells them to do, which is interesting in itself, but 'What the hey? Could it get any worse? Let's give it a try!'

Does this reading suggest to you that Jesus referred to the fish as people? Yet many of us over the years have seen this in the passage, and I think it's there. There is a link in our minds to the calling of the disciples when Jesus says follow me and I will make you fishers of people. I want to suggest another way to look at it. It's not for me about the fish caught, it is about the disciples.

When they drag the fishing net full of fish to the shore Jesus has already started to cook breakfast for them, yet he says, 'come bring some of the fish you have caught as well'. Hospitality and generosity seen in a sentence. The hospitality that Jesus offers to his disciples in bread and fish and the way in which the disciples are able to respond out of their abundance. Is this not the blue print for our churches today to enable us to grow if our model of mission and ministry is focused around hospitality and generosity?

A few months ago, I heard someone say that the key thing for growth is that you must see failure as your friend. If you learn from what you did you will make a difference. I know from my own experience that successful growing churches that share the gospel have a long history of things they have tried and failed at.

Earlier this year the Archbishop of Canterbury said: "We must be cross-shaped, foot-washing, Jesus following, confident in faith and humble in service - and above all outward looking."

I wonder how many of us want to change the world, because I know I do. I want every single person on this planet to know the love of God. And I make absolutely no apology for that at all.

So often our dreams are limited, how big are your dreams and who limits them, not God, so it's us, the Church. If we are honest it is often us - we are afraid. I believe that our role as disciples is to express hope in a society that is disintegrating. Our role is to be connexional as that is our gift, and to use the resources of each other, each church, each circuit, each district and to stop reinventing the wheel.

Jesus asked the disciples to throw the net on the other side of the boat and to come and share what they had caught, to do what they knew best, and he added value, why should that not be the case today for us in our churches? This God of ours, this Jesus whom we worship, this breath of the Spirit - I do not think that he is saying do what we don't know, it's about doing what we do know.

There are masses of fish in the net, yet it didn't break, God's generosity is infinite. Yet many of us in the Church today find ourselves not able to find people anymore to do the jobs that need to be done. We can't find treasurers, stewards, pastoral visitors, ministers, so why if that is the situation we are in, are we perpetuating a system and a structure that is creaking. Why are we reinventing the wheel in every church, why are we not sharing our resources? Are some of us not being as generous and as hospitable as we could be? Jesus already had breakfast cooking, the disciples brought what they had, and so it becomes a combined breakfast of sharing of what was on offer: a sharing of time, of fellowship, of talking together, of love in action, and John paints such a beautiful word picture. So why, I ask myself are we fearful sometimes of other churches in our own circuit? Surely, it is about building relationships about joining in about being generous with what we have, about being incredibly and infinitely hospitable.

Surely, it is about the rich church helping the poor church, and I don't just mean in terms of money! It is about people resource, about gift resource, it is about joining in and really being connexional.

Now I know it sounds so simplistic. It is not just about being generous and hospitable with each other, it's also about all those who day by day and week by week come into our buildings. The people who live next door to us, who live in our communities. Yet, what might that generosity and hospitality look like for you in your context? What is the first thing we all have that we can share? Now I know that with however many of us there

are here this afternoon we will come up with lots of different ideas, but I want to say today, it is about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What can be more generous than sharing the love of God?

Many of us fearful of sharing our faith, of witnessing to this great and mighty God who we worship, and I can understand that we may be fearful of being rebuffed. We may be afraid of the questions that we might not be able to answer. We may feel inadequate for the task, well join the club as we all feel like that at some time or other, yet, I know we are not ashamed of God and our faith.

However, the reality is that in some places we do hang on to structures in the local church, which hinder our mission and do not meet people's needs where they are in society today. We are not as hospitable and as generous as we could be. I know too, from my own experience as a district chair we get bogged down by so many meetings that we have no time for being involved in mission and in sharing the Love of God.

Do you think it all might be rather divisive and it's easier to talk about what is not relevant and not to spend time learning how to share our faith?

A few years ago we had a resource as a Church called 'Time to talk of God' and it's still time to talk of God. And if you put 'TIME TO TALK OF GOD' into Google this is what you get

The aim of 'time to talk of God' is: 'to recognise our role and responsibility in sharing our faith today and to gain confidence in our personal story. So what are we doing in our churches to encourage people to talk of God? Do we have a growth plan in place, which includes a series of opportunities for people to learn what it means to share faith? Does the structure of our Church maximise the opportunity for people to learn how to be generous with what we have? Are our churches structured so that we can offer hospitality to all those we encounter and does a cup of instant coffee and a rich tea biscuit after worship speak to you of generosity and hospitality?

At our current rate of decline we need to make members at 3 times the numbers we are making now, and I am sure you are aware that 85% of those who come to faith today are under the age of 25. I want to ask myself some questions. I know we are declining, then why am I not encouraging every circuit to have an evangelist on the team. Why am I not encouraging every local church to have a youth worker, even if it is only for a few hours every week? I rejoice that some churches and circuits have growth plans in place. I rejoice that some churches and circuits have a budget line for mission and evangelism.

I ask myself another question. 'How am I building confidence among our congregations to witness in evangelism?'

What actually do we want our people to be generous and hospitable about? Honestly, I think it comes down to people knowing God loves them, and so I want to keep our apologetics simple. Sharing our faith, which begins with honouring Christ in our hearts. Remembering in every moment, of every day, that as Christians today we have good news to share, the very best news to share and that is that God loves you.

"But in your hearts honour Christ as holy, always be prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you: yet do it with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15)

My fear and my nightmare, is that as a church we will decline so much we will go out of existence as Methodists, we will not have many people around but we will be very rich as there are millions of pounds locked away in church funds. I fear that we are not being hospitable and generous with what we have. We are not using our money to enabling people to learn how to share Jesus. Our money is not paying for an evangelist, not funding a youth worker, engaging with the one program, having an intern, not serving the poor, not feeding

the hungry, not sharing the amazing wonderful life enriching love of God, but moreover, not appreciating that everyone we encounter has something to offer as well.

Elaine A. Heath, in her book *The Mystic Way of Evangelism*, puts it like this: *"Evangelism is intrinsically relational, the outcome of love of neighbour, for to love our neighbour is to share the love of God holistically. The proper context for evangelism is authentic Christian community, where the expression of loving community is the greatest apologetic for the gospel"*

Let's build relationships, share this great gospel that you are loved by God. That's where it starts, with relationships. The disciples had no reason to trust the man shouting at them from the shore, but subconsciously they knew it was Jesus. Yet, Peter was the first to recognise him, but when they did they came as well, they joined in, they trusted their leader and in it all rescued their belief, their understanding, their commitment to the Lord and reignited their belief in the gospel and together they turned around a situation that looked doomed. Out all-night fishing, caught nothing, but then over breakfast they discovered that no all was lost. In fact, it was just the beginning and with the Lord it all changed.

We have to focus primality on our worship where we encounter our living God, we have to be generous and hospitable and we have to make some decisions to give us a hope and a future.

The disciples had a number of decisions to make that day. Should they go fishing at all? Having decided that is was worth it, they had another decision to make, should they throw the net on the other side of the boat when all their inclinations were telling them that it is not the right way to fish. Should they be listening to the voice of the man standing on the shoreline? Then the decision to follow to the shore dragging the nets full of fish, and finally the last decision of all, to take what they had caught and join in the breakfast.

Decisions, decisions, decisions...

I think the reason some of us do not talk about our faith is that we do not think we have anything to offer. Sisters and brothers, you have much to offer. Have confidence, we can as disciples enable the Church to grow and to make disciples. It's about all of us, people of faith.

John Millbank a Theologian at Nottingham University, speaking about the Church of England, said: *"The future of the CofE's mission depends very much on the restoration of a learned clergy who will once again command cultural respect."*

That quote rather assumes a lot, but made me question what are we doing? what decisions are we making that means that we are continuing to spread our ministers ever more thinly and not putting pastors into our churches? The reality is we have too many churches in the wrong places for our communities today. Great 100 years ago, but our communities have moved. We don't have too many churches. We don't have too many churches, we just don't have enough people in them. Therefore, we need a touch of Jesus so we can see his glory.

The disciples over breakfast had a touch of glory and moved by their decision making from one position to another.

So, let's move too, lets replant churches, Jesus showed the disciples another way, they had nothing in the nets, we know we don't have enough people, not enough ordained ministers and in a declining Church and an ageing Church and we ask ourselves where are the ordained going come from unless we radically change our position.

Why do some churches not have a growth plan in place, but also for some, do not have a palliative pastoral terminal care plan in place either?

The first 24 years of my life after school was in the health service, and I loved it. It was very different being a nurse in the 70s and 80s than it is today. We had Matrons, I was terrified of mine, she was called Miss Markham, but we phased her out. We then had nursing officers, I was one, but we then got phased out. And now we are back to matrons again.

Cancer then was a sentence, not a word. Macmillan nurses did not exist, we did not have end of life care plans we did not have care plans. We did not have terminal care plans now we do, and they contain pastoral, spiritual, physical, family care plans. When we know the end of life is approaching. Therefore, I wonder, why do we not have that in place when we know the end of some of our churches life is approaching?

The Church is almost, if not past the tipping point when we all need to take some risks in mission and our discipleship to enable us to grow. The disciples had to take a few risks that day.

I am trying to be positive and commit myself to telling good news stories and I flatly refuse to buy into the story of decline.

But I don't want to be the sort of person who ignores the voice of Jesus calling from the shore. I don't want to buy into the rhetoric in the fear that I might start to believe it, but I also have to be realistic and I don't want to be seen as burying my head in the sand either. If we keep talking of decline, we will come to believe our own publicity.

Therefore, my call today is as the Conference, as the Connexion, as a local church and circuit as districts, is 'let's change the culture.' Knowing that the word culture means how we do things around here. Let's take some risky decisions, just as those first disciples did thousands of years ago and change as they did. Let us commit to talk of God, to make new disciples.

Let us achieve this by being hospitable, generous and loving our people, and encouraging our people to talk of God. Let's release our ministers to engage in mission and not maintenance. To be where Jesus would be, eating with them, sharing with them, with those who are homeless: the hungry, the lonely, the bereaved, to do all the things that Rachel and Roger have spent the last year encouraging us in - to develop new partnerships, new relationships.

One of our charisms as a Church is that we believe that our unique blend of social justice and that evangelism goes hand in hand. So, let's continue to believe it. We have much to offer.

So, what is your church and circuit's vision for growth? Remembering that old Japanese proverb: "Vision without action is a daydream, action without vision is a nightmare" and then the words of an unknown commentator: "Where there is no vision, the people perish, but where there is no process or structure the vision is doomed."

In conclusion I want to take you back to 1932 to Methodist Union (is that right Mr Secretary? I got it wrong first time and I was corrected) and John Scott Lidgett, a past President of the Conference who died the year I was born (so now you know how old I am). In his Presidential Address he said something which I very much warm to and something I want to share with you today: "Methodism has a calling to meet together, worship God and do mission."

Well, you may not agree with this Presidential Address and I have never been a diplomat. I am not even sure because I'm not a theologian either, that it's theological. I may have interpreted scripture wrongly, and not listened to God well enough, but what I wanted to say in a nutshell is this:

Let us focus on our worship where we encounter our living God, we have to be generous and hospitable and we have to make some decisions which give us a hope and a future.

I know I am part at present of a declining Church, but I am not part of a declining gospel. The gospel of Jesus Christ is here to stay, but has the time not come of us to be radical to take some risks in order that we can grow? Because you see, perhaps in my naivety I don't believe that God is done with us just yet.

Amen



*Highlands graduation*

## Minutes of the St Helier Methodist Centre Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**Welcome & devotions:** These were led by Rev Tony Morling (TM) which offered praise and thanksgiving to our living God in Jesus who shows us Grace and Peace- followed by Hymn 481.

**Attendance:** The attendance sheet was circulated and returned with apologies from Sally Vasselin and Vic Beaugie. 57 members were in attendance.

1. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting** held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016 have been circulated, agreed and signed off by TM.
2. **Membership Changes:** New members have joined SHMC and we rejoice in receiving people from the world church (all names are at the bottom of page 5 of the AGM Report).

**Baptisms:** The births and baptisms of both Amelie Iris Shaw & Joshua Le Masurier were celebrated.

**Deaths:** Margaret le Herissier & John McCarthy

3. **Church Stewards:** David Vasselin (Senior Steward) gave a brief overview of the team for the coming year: David V, David H, Pam, Kay, Simba and Ann. Voted unanimously.

TM asked both David V and Kay to say a few words about Stewardship:

David Vasselin

*"Thank you to the team and also the congregation for all your efforts. It's not just one or two people, it is a team and the team is there for us and to help keep the church going. We are there for the Lord and please keep us in your prayers."*

Kay Papworth

*"TM asked if I would just give an insight into my first year of being a steward. I can honestly say that before I began I did have concerns, what if I can't do it? However, with guidance and patience from the team they allowed me to shadow them so that for those first few months I could ask them anything and they were there for me. There is flexibility and we do work closely together. Being a steward is not just a job for a Sunday that is what I initially thought. It's a lot more than that. There is some work involved and we have to give of our time but it is terrific to do it and if there is someone who is thinking about being a steward then I say go for it. I did and I love it."*

This was followed by the words of Mark chap 14 v 8 and 1 Peter chap 4 v 10 spoken aloud by all the members.

**Election to church council:** Gill Luce, Libby Farnon, Enid Davis, Martin Le Boutillier, Jan Le Boutillier, Nance Hicklin, Sue de Gruchy, Pat Tourtel, Roy Picot and Maureen Rayson, Helen Parker and Arthur Kembo. Voted unanimously.

4. **Presentation of Reports:** Printed reports were distributed to all members one week before the AGM in order that all had the opportunity to familiarise themselves. No comments were received in relation to the reports, therefore, all were agreed. Thank you to all those responsible for submitting a report.

**Financial Overview** – Appreciation was shown to Peter Luce as he came forward to speak. Peter advised that the majority of the financial work is done by Jackie in the office who does both the church and the nursery accounts. Jackie is a real blessing to us and thanks were offered to her for all her hard work as without her we would really struggle.

**Accounts:** Church: Peter advised that the audited accounts show a surplus of £99,065 as against a budget deficit of £27,853 (see comments on page 14 of the Reports). Reserve policy changes means that there has been a transfer of £130,000 from the nursery account to the church accounts, this is a one off and does help us to maintain the building and mission work. There has been an increase in our giving and an increase of

contributions from the circuit with positive and healthy results. £65,000 has been set aside to maintain the building in the next year as there are several important works which need to be carried out. Church Council has set aside £10,000 to the Minister's Discretionary Fund in order to fund the food bank and other need as determined by the Minister and Treasurer. With the Nursery being full at the moment, and with the continued help of the circuit, it is hoped that we have a platform to expand our ongoing mission work.

**Circuit assessment** is above that £67,000 as shown in the budget. TM commented that the reason is because of 25% levy to the circuit on the money transferred to the church account from the nursery.

**Financial report** accepted and unanimously agreed.

**Nursery:** The accounts show the situation is better than was predicted. The main reason being the new manager has implemented tighter controls and this is having an effect on the figures. Also the nursery is full which adds to the income of the overall budget.

**Nursery accounts** professionally audited and are agreed by all present. Voted unanimously

TM expressed thanks to Peter and the management team in all they do. Peter expressed a desire to see more volunteers come forward to sit on the Management Committee.

5. **Ministers Comments** - TM mentioned one change that has taken place since the last AGM and that is the appointment of Ellen Davies as Family/ Cafe worker. She is highly appreciated and has an enormous amount of energy and faith. All members welcomed Ellen. She has passed her Food Hygiene Course and so it would be great to present Ellen with certificate in due course.

**TM made members aware** that the Morlings have been with SHMC for 4 years which means that the usual re-invitation process led by the Circuit will take place this summer. There are clearly established procedures drawn up by the national church to follow.

It is an opportunity to take a measured look at the future aspirations of the Centre and with the Circuit discern whether by extending the appointment there are objectives which together we can work towards. John Le Gresley will take the lead in the process on behalf of the Circuit.

The members' attention was drawn to page 3 of the AGM Report and our primary calling:

**To Make Disciples and Join In God's Mission For Change** and how Tony's ministry can further help us grow as a church to those ends.

**Ben Devoid and his wife Sandy** will be joining us from North Carolina, America (July 16<sup>th</sup>-Aug 14<sup>th</sup>) while Tony goes to Carolina to look after Ben's congregation. We very much look forward to this experience and all that Ben can offer to the Circuit during his time with us. We wish TM and his family well on this exchange.

**Sign of encouragement** - The members considered some of our current mission activities:

The Food bank

Sally's & Ellen's work with children and families

The Café and a decent coffee machine

Men's Meeting

Mission opportunities – Toddler Church

Helping members and non-members to understand the bible more fully

To concentrate on a few things and do them well

Possibilities to consider for the future:

Open café on Saturday

Fridays for the elderly or Christians Against Poverty

Outside speakers

Opening the Church during the week

Last year Phillip had asked TM if we had managed to source outside funding to assist with the running of the church. Unfortunately this was not possible. However, we did get considerable funding for the boiler.

## 6. Final Closing Comments

Di thanked God for His guidance and provision of great staff team.

TM thanked Barrie for flowers tubs outside and his willingness to move chairs after worship.

7. Hymn 410 – Lord your church on earth is seeking

8. Closing blessing

9. Next AGM: Date to be arranged



*A beehive in the vestibule at Harvest*

11.15am

**Annual Church Meeting Agenda**

Welcome & Explanation

Hymn 564

O Thou who camest from above

Minutes of May 7<sup>th</sup> 2017

Apologies

Attendance/apology record will be circulated:

Membership changes

Appointments

Church Stewards (Including re-elections and thanks)

Reps to Church Council

Presentation of Reports

As distributed

Financial overview

(Including nursery accounts)

Peter Luce

Thanks to Jackie & Peter Luce

Minister's Comments

Discussion

Our Five Areas of Mission: How are we doing?

(See Preface)

Hymn 489

All I once held dear, built my life upon

Closing Prayer

We bless this church in the Name of the Lord.

We bless it as a place of flourishing, where people show love and care to one another.

We bless it with compassion, where those who struggle can find a home.

We bless it as a beacon of light and hope, where people come to know Jesus.

We bless it with new life, as the old bones rattle and revive.

We bless it with vision and energy, as the Spirit breathes in strength and courage.

We bless it with joy, as the Resurrection life spills over into our streets.

And as we bless, may we be a blessing to all we meet.

In Jesus' name, may this blessing abound.

Amen.

Blessing

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