

MINISTER'S REPORT 2018 – 2019

Since the last ACM I have been invited to stay in the Circuit for a further two years from September 2019. This will mean (God willing) being your minister for seven years. In my previous appointments I stayed seven years and found the last years in many ways the most fruitful. As a church St Andrew's now enters "the next 50 years" after a successful anniversary year in 2018.

As most of you know or will guess, in August 2021 I shall retire. This means that over the next year or so some significant decisions will have to be made with the Circuit about the kind of ministry St Andrew's will need beyond 2021. Nowadays across the Connexion no minister is automatically replaced, and decisions about stationing are based on mission priorities.

There is plenty of work to do here, and I still feel strongly that God wants a Methodist presence in Worcester city centre, and that that probably means staying in our present building. The location of this building is our congregation's greatest asset (apart from the people of course!). It is a place to offer welcome and hospitality, fellowship, worship and prayer. It is also our biggest preoccupation. In the past year there have been continuing worries about its structure and maintenance, although there have been some great achievements and improvements too. We lack sufficient expertise among our leadership and will need to consider how we buy in the help we need. The church owes a debt of gratitude to a small team of people, who are giving generously of their time and energy, so that we can maintain this building. Like them, I am highly motivated to keep the building and to keep it safe and attractive to all-comers.

This year we have lost a number of good friends and church members, by death. We have rejoiced in their long lives, lived well, and we thank God for their Christian witness and their presence among us. Of course, though, there is sadness, and their passing reminds us of past losses, so we need to be gentle with one another.

Losing these friends has meant a sharp decline in our membership numbers and some decline in the average attendance at worship. We have been joined by a number of visitors, who are always greeted personally. However, there are few new people joining us. Some dyed-in-the-wool Methodists have settled elsewhere in the circuit, and now pass St Andrew's on a Sunday. My own feeling is that a lack of consistency in worship doesn't help. Studies elsewhere seem to suggest that growing churches have a consistency in approach, whatever that is – evangelical, charismatic, liberal or catholic. St Andrew's (from what people tell me) enjoys the wide variety of worship you have, through the Plan. I would like to open up a conversation about this over the next few months, and especially at the Worship Committee, which is open to all.

What is it that we can offer to prospective members on Sundays and through the week, and the year? Can we make any changes which would improve our appeal to newcomers?

We continue to be blessed by good music, in a variety of styles, and by stewards and worship leaders who contribute to the welcome and the worship on Sundays.

As you know, I particularly enjoy the informality of Café Worship, where people engage face to face with seasonal and topical issues. This complements what happens in house groups and I continue to commend them to you. St Andrew's has a pattern of starting and finishing courses in Autumn and Spring, which ought to make it easier to try a group and join it. If you reap the benefits of a small group within the church, is there anyone you could invite to join the next time?

I have always wanted to work ecumenically. We are only part of the body of Christ. Together we can do things that one church would find too difficult, and we can share resources. There have been some changes in the ecumenical context in the city over the last year, but I trust things are settling down, as church leaders from a wider range of churches and networks are meeting regularly to pray. That said, we have enjoyed good relations with the cathedral this year, and many

of us took part in Thy Kingdom Come at Worcester Arena at Pentecost. I look forward to a Passion Play in the high street on Good Friday 2020.

I enjoyed my sabbatical, which was a gift from the Methodist Church. As I have written elsewhere, it has given me more energy and passion, and I was able to re-connect with God, through courses, visits to lovely places and just by spending time resting and seeking God. Thank you to those who filled the gaps while I was away. I was glad to return among friends, for Easter.

In recent months Welcome Wednesdays has grown in numbers and certainly the volunteers have grown in confidence in meeting a wide variety of visitors inside and outside the church building. Saturday Coffee Mornings continue to hold up in numbers and income, which means a lot of hard work for many volunteers.

We provide a place where Worcestershire Welcomes Refugees can meet regularly, and our hall is occasionally used for larger functions, when the refugees from all over the county meet up for a party. The hall and rooms continue to be used by community groups and health facilities, making a real difference in people's lives. Now that we have excellent audio-visual facilities we are looking to increase the use of the church itself, for seminars and meetings. Although the building can be busy - and most church members are busy (especially with catering), there are still days when the church stands empty. Meanwhile there are longstanding residents of Worcester who don't know we are here. In the next year I hope to see more promotion of our facilities. We know the church space is a good venue. Let's share it and celebrate it.

The 50th Anniversary year proved really enjoyable and gave us all a focus, but the Festival Weekend with the Flower Festival, and "Saints Alive", were highlights for me. The busiest weekend, as usual, was the Victorian Fayre, when we offered stalls, meals, and a place to sit down, on Saturday and Sunday. This venture is being repeated (though it will be on a smaller scale) when the Worcester Food Festival happens in July. Besides some stalls booking in, and refreshments, the church will be open as a Quiet Place, with a small exhibition of paintings, and prayer stations, entitled, "Taste and See".

Apart from ongoing responsibilities with the building, for which we lack property stewards, there is a serious shortage of people able to serve as church stewards. We are blessed with an excellent team at present. In fact St Andrew's has had a succession of good steward teams – hard-working, and committed to the whole church, as well as Sunday worship. I have really valued their teamwork, and dedication, always with good humour. However there will need to be a changed pattern of leadership if no new people come forward to serve. We appreciate that not everyone is able to take on this role – the initial term is one year – and value the support of members who have served in the past.

Joining with Evesham, Willersey and Broadway churches to form South Worcestershire Circuit will obviously affect my work. In the first 6 months CLT have to work on our circuit's mission action programme. There is a fine balance between sharing everything across the circuit and supporting each church to serve its own community. I feel positive about this change. While there will be few new preachers, coming our way, there is leadership, scholarship and discipleship of Christ in the new team. Distances between the new churches are still small by comparison with my Dorset circuit.

In the year ahead the Methodist Church is encouraging local churches to "write your church's future story". I hope we shall have opportunity to do this, as we continue with our ongoing Mission and Development goals.

May God bless you. Helen Caine

CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| ST. ANDREW'S METHODIST | Church |
|------------------------|--------|

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2019

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|------------|------|
| South West Worcestershire | Circuit | Circuit no | 5/16 |
|---------------------------|---------|------------|------|

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1128272

If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status

Minister:

| |
|-----------------|
| Rev Helen CAINE |
|-----------------|

Church Stewards:

| | |
|---|--|
| Christine PARKER | |
| Clive & Margaret SOCKETT HMC | |
| Richard FOOT | |
| Carolyn MOODY | |
| Jan PITTS | |
| Alan FEWTRELL | |
| Vanessa FEWTRELL | |

CAROL MOSLEY HMC

Treasurer:

| |
|------------|
| Pat Lander |
|------------|

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

St. Andrew's Methodist Church

| SECTION A | | | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|-----------|---|------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| a1 | RECEIPTS | Note | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| a2 | Offerings and Tax recovered | | 42393.24 | | 42393.24 | 45236.03 |
| a3 | Bank and CFB interest and investment income | | 659.20 | | 659.20 | 417.78 |
| a4 | Lettings | | 21325.50 | | 21325.50 | 18668.50 |
| a5 | Other receipts | | 21553.12 | 2343.67 | 23896.79 | 46797.92 |
| a6 | TOTAL RECEIPTS | | 85931.06 | 2343.67 | 88274.73 (a7) | 111120.23 |

| SECTION B | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|--|----------|---------|---------------|----------|
| b1 | PAYMENTS | | | | | |
| b2 | Circuit Assessment or Share | | 28352.46 | | 28352.46 | 37394.26 |
| b3 | Donations | | | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| b4 | Repairs and Maintenance | | 7049.85 | | 7049.85 | 9648.74 |
| b5 | Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting) | | 15729.99 | | 15729.99 | 16572.01 |
| b6 | | | | | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| b7 | Other payments | | 28483.22 | 3677.06 | 32160.28 | 29879.23 |
| b8 | TOTAL PAYMENTS | | 79615.52 | 3677.06 | 83292.58 (b9) | 93494.24 |

| SECTION C | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|---------|----------|----------|----------------|----------------|
| c1 | NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR | (a6-b8) | 6315.54 | -1333.39 | 4982.15 | 17625.99 |
| c2 | Total funds brought forward from last year | | 57579.44 | 47875.91 | 105455.35 (c6) | 87829.36 |
| c3 | Sub total | (c1+c2) | 63894.98 | 46542.52 | 110437.50 | 105455.35 |
| c4 | Transfers and adjustments | | | | 0.00 (c8) | |
| c5 | TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR | (c3+c4) | 63894.98 | 46542.52 | 110437.50 (c7) | 105455.35 (c6) |

| SECTION D | | | | | |
|-----------|---|--|---------|--|-------|
| d | FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above) | | | | |
| d1 | Balance brought forward from last year | | 0 | | 0 |
| d2 | Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations | | 0 | | 1,188 |
| d3 | Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations | | 1,077 | | 1,188 |
| d4 | BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3) | | (1,077) | | 0 |

St. Andrew's Methodist

Church

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2018 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the District. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

| INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS | Receipts | Payments | Net Receipts/ Payments | Adjustments | Opening balances | Closing balances |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| e1 Catering | 10,554.12 | 11,022.00 | -467.88 | | 1,995.15 | 1,527.27 |
| e2 Mid Week Fellowship | 171.50 | 308.00 | -136.50 | | 140.85 | 4.35 |
| e3 St. Andrew's Singers | 92.91 | 90.00 | 2.91 | | 380.18 | 383.09 |
| e4 Flower Fund | 904.41 | 1,202.85 | -298.44 | | 1,651.80 | 1,353.36 |
| e5 | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| e6 | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| e7 | | | 0 | | | 0 |
| e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds | 11,723 | 12,623 | (900) | 0 | 4,167.98 (e11) | 3,268.07 |
| e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column) | 88,274.73 (a7) | 83,292.58 (b9) | | (c8) | 105,455.35 (c6) | 110,437.50 |
| e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH | 99,997.67 | 95,915.43 | 4,082 | 0.00 | 109,623.33 (x) | 113,705.57 |
| TOTAL RECEIPTS | | TOTAL PAYMENTS | | | | |

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2018

| | OPENING BALANCES | CLOSING BALANCES |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| f1 Cash in hand | | |
| f2 Bank Current Account | 16564.76 | 25852.59 |
| f3 Bank Deposit Account | | |
| f4 Central Finance Board | 36544.79 | 31869.88 |
| f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes | 52345.80 | 52686.03 |
| f6 Other funds | | |
| f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts | 105,455.35 (c6) | 110,437.50 |
| f8 balance total from above (e12) | 4,167.98 (e11) | 3,268.07 |
| f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH | 109,623.33 (x) | 113,705.57 |

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

| | At 31 August 2018 | At 31 August 2019 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| g1 Investments (include Endowments) | | |
| g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value) | 5,514,504 | 5,757,149 |
| g3 Other Assets | 140,566 | 146,751 |
| g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end | | 0 |
| g5 Other Liabilities | | |

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church Council

Signature of Treasurer

P. Lander.

Date

24/10/19

Name

PATRICIA LANDER

Address

31 HERON CROSS, WORCESTER WR2 4BW

Presentation to the *Church Council for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Church Council on
and were approved.

24/10/19

Signature of the Chair of the
meeting

HMCaine

Name of the Chair of the meeting

HELEN M CAINE

Date

24/10/19
HMC

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

St Andrew's Methodist

Church

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st August

2019

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~)*: ~~TX~~

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply appropriate

(3) I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB"), which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Name

Tom LIBBY

Signature

TR Libby

Relevant Professional qualification or body

Address

2, Hailsham Close, WORCESTER, WR5 2JB

Date

22nd Oct 2014