

# Bradford South Circuit

## Annual Report

# September 2020-2021

**“Sharing God’s Love”**

“As God’s people we seek to work together to celebrate and share God’s love in Christ for all”.

# Superintendent's Report

It has been another challenging year for us in the Bradford South Circuit, with the Coronavirus pandemic continuing to have an impact on everything on a local, national and global scale.

Our church buildings have been closed during part of the past year. When they have been open, for most of the time it has been for worship only, with normal activities suspended as far as in person presence has been concerned, although some groups have found new and alternative ways of staying in touch and providing services for their members.

Having already established a pattern of worship and staying connected using online platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, our website and Youtube, providing hard copies of texts to those who were not able to access the material on line, this has continued throughout the year.

As a circuit we serve a diversity of communities within the city, from social housing estates to communities on the margins of the city who prefer to identify themselves as urban villages, to those where maintaining a Christian presence feels particularly challenging. By virtue of the pandemic and our online presence, our reach has stretched much further, even beyond our shores to other countries.

The circuit consists of 12 worshipping communities within the circuit, with New Hey Road joining with Ebenezer since the beginning of the pandemic, Trinity (Manningham) meeting at Touchstone and 1@11 (the Sunday Morning worship element of the St Arnold's project) meeting in the Peacock Bar.

Whilst some things had to be cancelled for the second year running (e.g. Holiday at Home), this year has offered us new opportunities. We have welcomed Rev Caroline Ryder as part-time presbyter within the circuit, her district role being that of Team Leader at Touchstone. Caroline shares her time 75% at Touchstone and 25% within the circuit, with some overlap of work and shared opportunities for evangelism and growth.

Despite the uncertainty and change, our annual report is testimony to the fact that Bradford South Circuit continues to be blessed with people who have a diversity of gifts and talents, many of which have been used and expressed in new and exciting ways. All this bears witness to our passion for shared discipleship, witness and mission in a way that fulfils our calling to make Christ known in the world through our words and deeds of love.

This report is evidence then, that through all the challenges we have faced, the people of Bradford South Methodist circuit continue to remain faithful and hopeful, facing opportunity and change with the assurance that God continues to have plans for us and for the city in which we witness.

Rev Lyn Gregg

Superintendent Minister

# **Statement of Core Values**

## **Bradford South Circuit 27/33**

- All we do as a circuit is within the beliefs and practices of the Methodist Church.
- Each person is created in the image of God.
- All people are therefore valued and respected regardless of age, gender, sexuality, ability, cultural background or faith.
- We are responsible, under God, for each other and our social, spiritual and personal needs.
- All members of groups or churches should be allowed and enabled to participate in decision making, within the proper process.
- We adhere to the United Nations rights of the child in our work with young people.
- All should be kept safe from harm and it is the responsibility of us all to work towards this together with particular attention to the requirements of the Methodist Church.
- We respect and value the work of all, paid and voluntary in the circuit.

# Circuit Staff Team 2020-21

## Ministerial Staff

Revd. Lyn Gregg —Circuit Superintendent

Churches: Southfield Lane, Wibsey, Wyke

Revd. Graeme Dutton (half time in circuit and half time in City Centre ministry)

Churches: Ebenezer (Dudley Hill), New Hey Road (East Bowling),

Revd. Albert Gayle

Churches: Aldersgate,(Low Moor), Clayton, Thornbury,

Revd. Sarah Jemison (part time minister)

Churches: Cornerstone, Horton Bank,

Revd. Caroline Ryder (Team Leader at Touchstone and part time in Circuit)

Church: Trinity (Manningham)

The support ministers across the circuit will be Revd. Lyn Gregg and Revd. Graeme Dutton

## Lay Staff

Mrs. Alison Terrell– Circuit Administrator & Lay Pastoral Worker

## Circuit Office

Clayton Methodist Church, Clayton Lane, Clayton, Bradford BD14 6PA

Tel: 01274 816724

Email: [bradfordsouthcircuit@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordsouthcircuit@gmail.com)

For more information about the Circuit, visit our website:

[www.bradfordsouthcircuit.wordpress.com](http://www.bradfordsouthcircuit.wordpress.com)

## Core Opening Hours:

Monday and Tuesday, 9.30-12.30, Wednesday 1-3pm

# Circuit Stewards

We began this year with seven Circuit Stewards, Elizabeth Smith, Joy Donkin, Richard Walsh, Suzanne Allsop, and the finance team – Trevor Kershaw and Melanie Walsh.

At the end of August, Nancy Hare stepped down having completed her 6 years and we thank her for all her work. Suzanne Allsop became senior steward. At the March 2021 Circuit Meeting, Derek Marshall's offer to be a steward was accepted and approved and he will join the team on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021. Joy Donkin stepped down during the year and we thank her for her work. We continue to ensure that the manses are kept in good repair. Following the closure and sale of Clayton Heights Methodist Church the circuit has taken on responsibility for the rented cottage in Highgate road and work on this property to bring it up to standard is ongoing.

The Revd Albert Gayle will commence his extension of 3 years in September 2021 and the Revd Sarah Jemison will commence her extension of one year. We look forward to their continuing service in our circuit. Sarah has decided not to seek a further extension and will sit down at the end of August 2022.

In September 2020 we welcomed to our presbyteral team the Revd Caroline Ryder, new team leader at Touchstone. Caroline spends a quarter of her time in our Circuit and we are grateful for her input.

In September 2021 we will be joined by a supernumary minister, the Revd Patricia Malham, and her husband Damian Boddy, who is a Local Preacher and organist.

We are grateful to all our ministers for their hard work, particularly during this very difficult year. Each one has worked hard to adapt her/himself to the unusual circumstances which have prevailed due to Covid 19. They have ensured that all church members can be included in services and other events during lockdown. We thank them all, and in particular the Revd Lyn Gregg for her helpful and inspiring letters each week, including during her sabbatical. Also the Revd Graeme Dutton for working so hard to provide us with online services, the circuit coffee morning on Saturdays and afternoon tea on Sundays. The latter began as coffee after the morning service. Sarah and Albert have kept bible study groups functioning on zoom. All these services produced by the ministers each week and other events, have been, and still are very much appreciated. Other benefits to the circuit including the formation of the Evangelism and Growth Group (EGG) are reported elsewhere.

We also thank Alison Terrell and Christine Peacock for their continuing work printing and distributing the paper copies of the service and all the volunteers who take them out to church members. Many people in the circuit have found themselves working harder than usual to keep things going in church and circuit and we extend a grateful thanks to them all.

Sadly this year we have lost people to Covid and other causes. Trinity who were meeting at Touchstone have decided to request to cease to worship, as have Thornbury. Trinity and Clayton Heights have sold their buildings, New Hey Road have put theirs on the market and Thornbury will be doing so in the next Connexional year. We continue to remember all those who have been affected by these changes.

I would like to extend a personal word of thanks to my fellow stewards who have given of their time and energy during the year to serve the circuit in so many ways, and in particular their attention to detail in dealing with manse repairs and finance. Thank you for all your help and support. We look forward to welcoming Derek to the team on the 1<sup>st</sup> September.

Finally we are always on the lookout for people who would be interested in becoming circuit stewards. Our term of office is six years maximum, so we will always need people to replace any who may be stepping down. Please think and pray about this and if anyone is interested in finding out more, please speak to Suzanne or any other steward and we will be happy to answer any questions and explain what the role entails.

Let us all, as a circuit, move forward in the coming year, working together, united in the desire to show God's love to all and to bring glory to Him.

God bless,

Suzanne Allsop

Senior Circuit Steward

# Holy Week

Holy week this year was all online on Facebook The circuit website, YouTube, anywhere but in church. Each day the key word began with 'A' and Holy Monday was 'Anger'.

## **Holy Monday - Anger**

Jesus was very angry when he was in the temple, a righteous anger about the way people were using the temple for cheating the public in every way they can for as much as they can. The Pharisees were angry at Jesus for challenging their easy lives and their authority. Some people today are angry that Covid is keeping them indoors or away from work or visiting relatives. It's a waste of time being angry about something that can't be helped, best to put that energy into a righteous anger to improve something for somebody.

## **Holy Tuesday - Authority**

Jesus knew all power comes from God. God is the authority to bring darkness to light. Jesus reasoned with the Pharisees to question his authority. The same has happened all through the ages people asking 'by whose authority are you doing this?' Because we know Jesus we know where authority comes from.

## **Holy Wednesday - Anointing**

Mary (sister of Martha) anointed Jesus's feet with expensive oil. Anointing was kept for dead people, it was the norm to wash visitors' feet. Mary could show no greater love than by anointing his feet and drying them with her hair. Such a loving, extravagant gesture.

## **Maundy Thursday - Acceptance**

Jesus prayed 'not my will but thine' He was accepting his father's will. God's will to wash the disciples' feet. God's will to break bread for the last time. God's will to go into the garden that night. When we do something to help others we are accepting and carrying out God's will.

## **Good Friday - Atonement**

Simon of Cyrene took up the cross of Jesus and followed him to Calvary. It was a big deal! We should do the same, but would we? I think I'm too much of a coward. Jesus stopped in the middle of his journey to speak to others. In the middle of this horrendous trial he thought about others first. Do we stop and think of others in the middle of our grief? Three worship leaders read the script that was interspersed with music and readings. It was a beautiful service and I urge you all to watch it again.

## **Holy Saturday - Alone**

Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea took his body away because law said they had to rest on the sabbath. How can they rest when they're feeling so alone? How can Mary and Martha rest when they are so bereft? How can the disciples rest when they feel so guilty at leaving Jesus? So much loneliness, and Jesus died alone. During the Covid pandemic many people have been feeling lonely and forgotten. Some like Jesus died alone.

Each of the days of holy week were enhanced by pictures that I can't describe. Each one beautiful and meaningful in its own way. It's well worth visiting the websites and viewing them all again.

Nancy Hare Cornerstone

# The Plan and LCA's

The plan has been a particular challenge this year, not least because of the uncertainty surrounding our buildings and our preachers. Plans have been prepared as expected, but it has been only the 'online' arrangements that have remained unaffected by Covid changes and lockdowns.

With LCAs filling nearly 50% of the most recent plan (May-August 2021), this past year has been a particularly challenging one for church stewards and worship leaders. It was hoped the weekly provision of online services and transcripts of the online service would ease the burden of LCAs, which has largely been the case, with only a small number of churches choosing to remain closed during those weeks when an LCA was planned. For those who have used the online resources offered, some churches have taken the opportunity to watch the service as a gathered congregation whilst others have used the text as a 'Reader's Service'. Having these additional resources so readily available has been particularly useful when changes have been forced upon us at short notice.

*Rev Lyn Gregg*

## Local Preachers

During this year we have seen significant changes amongst those accredited as Local Preachers in our circuit. The number of accredited Local Preachers within our circuit currently (end August 2021) stands at 21 including 1 preacher 'on Trial'.

Although we have not been able to hold the accreditation service for one of our recent 'on Trial' preachers, we have now been able to plan it for the beginning of September 2021.

Of the 21 preachers, 10 (either temporarily or permanently) were not taking appointments.

During the pandemic 3 Local Preachers have gone to glory, one having received only recently a certificate honouring 60 years' service. Although we would have preferred to present it in a more public manner, it was comforting to know the certificate had been received rather than having it sittin, undelivered, in a filing cabinet somewhere.

We currently have no Local Preachers 'on Note', but if anyone feels they are being nudged towards becoming a Local Preacher or Worship Leader, please speak to someone about it. Who knows, you might be hearing a 'call to preach', and we would very much want to welcome and encourage you to test that calling.

*Rev Lyn Gregg*



# Administration

This has been a challenging year again for us all. My health issues meant that the Ministers had to carry the administrative burden for a good part of the year and I have appreciated how gracious they were about this. I have reduced my hours from 28 to 24 hours per week and I am now back in the office at Clayton on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. There has definitely been an increase in paperwork, particularly in regard to GDPR, and requiring information that I don't have, putting an added burden on church secretaries. However, I am only a phone call away and am always happy to help.

Alison Terrell Circuit Administrator

# Property

A huge thank you to everyone who has continued to look after our properties throughout these months of the pandemic. Your diligence and vigilance has ensured that, when the time came, we had safe and secure buildings to return to.

Of course, the difficulties this season has presented to us has hastened the need for some difficult decisions to be taken at a number of our fellowships. Thornbury have decided to cease to meet and the building will be placed on the market. New Hey Road are now meeting for worship with Ebenezer each week so the chapel building at New Hey Road will also be sold.

Whenever we sell a building there is a great deal of sadness because, as we let go of the bricks and mortar of a chapel we also let go of a spiritual home. This process always carries with it a great deal of grief. However, we remain hopeful that the resources released by these sales of property will mean that the circuit is able to fund new initiatives in mission, worship and ministry.

After a difficult year of death we look forward to new life springing forth.

Isaiah 35:1

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Graeme

# Schools Work

As with everything else over the last 18 months our schools work has had to change dramatically, and I don't just mean the challenges of home schooling my own kids!

We've been able to continue leading collective worship sessions using videos on YouTube. Whilst this has sometimes felt quite difficult, it has also allowed us as a staff team to be quite creative. We've tried to rise to the challenge of providing good quality, fun and engaging worship for the schools we visit.

You can see the results on the Circuit YouTube channel, but beware of lions!

Obviously, schools have had an incredibly difficult time with teachers and support staff having to learn to respond quickly to ever changing rules and regulations. A big part of our work with schools during this period has been offering much welcomed pastoral support to staff members.

Hopefully, we will soon be able to visit school halls and classrooms again to continue building the relationships we have been nurturing with staff and students.

Please do continue to pray for all the schools in our city as they enter the next stage of change.

Graeme

# Pray First

A little oasis of calm and structure in the middle of the week. Since we started our weekly Circuit Prayer meeting it has had a number of different homes and structures. However, it has always been an opportunity to speak and listen to God and find balance. Like so many things this last year, Pray First spent a while as a virtual meeting with people joining on the phone or live on Facebook as I led us in prayer from my study. It gave an opportunity for those who gathered to hear a friendly voice or two, see the face of someone they knew (even if it was mine!) and bring their concerns and their hopes to the foot of the cross. As restrictions eased I returned to Java Joe, broadcasting our prayers live from a table at the cafe. Now, we're back meeting physically but are still using the new skills we have learned to be 'present' each week on the phone, on Facebook and in person. This 'hybrid' nature has allowed, not only a connection with those who may not be physically able to attend, but also a sense that our prayer is more publicly visible. Anyone can watch either live or after the event on Facebook and hear what we have been praying about. This has led to a number of encounters of gratitude from people I had no idea were watching.

Graeme

# Circuit Youth Work

As with all else, our youth work has been greatly affected by the pandemic.

Meetings ceased mid-March 2020 and have not been able to resume since.

There has, however, continued to be opportunity for our young people to engage online with activities and events organised by Bradford North Circuit, District and Connexion, offering a valuable link with other young people of faith.

A number of our youth group members and other young people from around the circuit were able to participate in the Jesse Tree liturgy provided online by the circuit for advent 2020. Although none were visible, it was good to be able to hear them all once again. It certainly provided a meaningful and spiritual depth to our journey to see the new-born Christ in his crib.

Rev Lyn Gregg

# EGG

(Evangelism & Growth Group)



Concerned about the number of churches closing around the circuit, the Evangelism & Growth Group was launched at the March 2020 Circuit Meeting in the hope that those churches which remain open might find ways to engage with their local community, share their faith and boost their congregations.

EGG began with a relatively small number of people from around the circuit who had this shared concern, but it has since grown to include representatives from almost all of our circuit churches. We're keen to increase our numbers further, to share ideas for wider community engagement and begin to grow God's Kingdom in Bradford South.

Some church congregations have already shared ideas and some small shoots of progress can be seen. We're keen that all our churches engage with the EGG programme so that it can truly be a circuit-wide initiative. We have some funding, thanks to a legacy left to the circuit by Dot Lightowler of Horton Bank. We hope to put this to good use as opportunities for mission arise.

Despite lockdown we have already led three online services which have been well received, and we're now keen for work to begin to further connect our churches with their local communities. If this kind of evangelism is appealing to you and your church please join us. We have meetings every couple of months at which we share ideas and celebrate progress. Going forward we will make sure that meeting dates are publicised across the circuit to make EGG as widely accessible as possible.

Our aim is to inspire churches to find ways to grow and share the love of Jesus with their neighbours. If you think your church could benefit from such a programme and you'd like to get involved, EGG is open to all. Please be in touch and join in.

Trevor Kershaw (on behalf of EGG)

August 2021

# Online Presence

## Online Statistics –a snapshot. Taken during May

**YouTube** 47 subscribers who are alerted every time a video is uploaded to our channel

Total views 9.4K Total watch time 1.7k hours

Average view duration is 10:40 across all videos

Given the differing durations of videos we have published the average view duration is only slightly lower than the average video length for the channel. This means that the majority of people are watching the whole video.

## Circuit Website

Significant number of views are channelled through the circuit website and the videos which are embedded there. It is probably safe to assume that most watching via this medium are 'churched' people. The high watch duration/average video length ratio here suggests people are seeking out these videos rather than being presented with them during their usual internet and social media activity. (Although there are three people who subscribe who are part of the Saint Arnold's congregation only. They have no links to traditional churches in the circuit or anywhere else)

## Two service videos

23rd May

58 views Watch time 15.2 hours

16th May

57 views Watch time 16.6 hours

Compared to January

151 Views Watch time 34.7 hours

This will be a reflection of people returning to worship in person.

**Facebook - Circuit** 129 page 'likes' who will probably be alerted each time the page 'goes live'

23rd May

18 watching when it goes live.

600 minutes total viewed time

Over the month

3.1k minutes (*over 50 hours*) total viewing time

Highest performing video was Sunday 2nd May

770 minutes viewed in total Post engagement 43

Compared to highest performing video in January

Sunday 10th Jan (Covenant Service)

1.3k minutes viewed in total Post engagement 32

Facebook videos garner more immediate engagement than YouTube videos seem to, with a number of people offering comments as videos premiere.

Although the total watch time for videos on Facebook remains reasonably high, there seems to be a much lower duration/average ratio on Facebook. This is, in part, due to the way that videos are presented and shared. On Facebook people are much more likely to encounter previews of our videos but are less likely to watch the whole thing.

As time goes by, we are seeing a slight increase in the number of post engagements on Facebook. I believe this is being driven by two factors. Firstly, some people are now more confident in using technology which was new to them at the beginning of the pandemic. Secondly, we are seeing a slight increase in younger people, engaging with our videos.

### **Facebook - St Arnold's**

Beer and hymns - A New Hope  
Total minutes viewed 2664 Post engagement 112

Beer and hymns - Harfest  
Total minutes viewed 3706 Post engagement 184

These online Beer and Hymn events have had a good sense of reach and engagement, partly due to the help of our partner venues sharing the livestream. Again these engagements have come from a good mix of both those attending established churches, St Arnold's and the 'unchurched'.

### ***Our online presence has a wide reach to both old and new.***

From an elderly member who can no longer physically attend church:  
"Not having been able to go to church for so long, I've really enjoyed the Sunday service services on my phone. Thank you."

All of this online presence has led to our circuit being discovered by a student from America who is due to arrive in Bradford to study this coming September. He has already been attending services and events online and has indicated that he wants to become a member of one of our churches when he arrives in the country.

Graeme

# Finance

## **Annual Finance Report 2020-21**

As in previous years, this report comes immediately after the financial year end and, due to a delay at TMCP, our year-end figures are not yet finalised and cannot therefore be included in this report. It's safe to say however that the year 2020-21 has been like no other, as the COVID pandemic has affected us all. The Church has been no exception; for much of the year our churches have been closed, our services have been online and our church income has been adversely affected. Throughout this period the Circuit Finance Team have tried to support churches in any way they could.

During this unprecedented year the circuit has tried to reach out to churches and help them financially wherever possible. To that end, in September, we offered churches an assessment rebate of one half of a quarter's assessment. This was taken up by six churches, at a cost to the circuit of almost £12,000. We introduced a loan scheme to allow churches to undertake work should they need to do so, and we continue to keep in touch with church treasurers and support them in any way we can. The circuit recently granted Southfield Lane £20,000 to enable them to undertake emergency dry rot treatment and begin the long awaited scheme to install disabled toilets.

Assessments remain our main source of regular circuit income, although we realise that as churches close or become financially stretched it will affect their ability to pay in full, so we would like them to know we are here to help and support them.

In years past we might have been concerned about our reserves and our ability to continue to manage a deficit budget over a sustained period. However, in the current year, thanks to receipt of the net proceeds of sale of Trinity (£268,919) and Clayton Heights (£128,338) our reserves have increased. This trend will continue into 2021-22 when New Hey Road and Thornbury will also be sold. From a financial point of view this helps our circuit reserves, but it is concerning that we continue to close churches at the rate we do. Since the closure of Clayton Heights, the circuit has taken over the responsibility for the former caretaker's cottage on Highgate Road. Whilst providing a regular monthly income, it will also incur high maintenance and repair costs during the coming year.

Our main expense continues to be ministerial stipends. We currently have three full time presbyters, with Graeme's time split equally between the circuit and St. Arnolds. The funding we receive for the St. Arnold's project will end in a year's time and we will need to seriously consider the future funding of this project in the coming months. We also have one half time and one quarter time presbyter. Alison Terrell continues to be our only lay employee and supports the circuit through her administrative work at the Circuit Office.

There will undoubtedly be some challenges for us in the coming year, not least a shortfall in the Methodist Ministers' Pension Fund, which Conference agreed should be boosted with a contribution of up to 15% of the reserves of each church, circuit and

district in the Connexion. We will need to make a decision before the end of December 2021 as to the level of our contribution.

So balancing the books continues to be a challenge for churches and circuits alike. We will continue to ensure that the circuit budget is sound and underpinned by tight controls and sufficient reserves. Our longer term future may depend on difficult and courageous decisions having to be made as our circuit responds to ever changing ways of being church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

We acknowledge that finance is not everyone's cup of tea and is sometimes difficult to understand and you may have questions which you prefer to ask privately. The Finance Team are always happy to discuss the finer workings of the circuit's finances and answer any questions you may have.

We hope to be able to present the unaudited version of the income and expenditure account at the forthcoming September Circuit Meeting. The accounts will be fully audited by 31 December 2021 and presented for signature, along with our Reserves Policy, to the March 2022 Circuit Meeting.

As individual members of our various churches, it's important to remember that your contribution whether financial, practical or spiritual counts for a great deal and helps us to continue to do God's work together. Our churches, our circuit and our mission may change shape over the coming years, but we must be ready to face up to these challenges positively and trust God to support us in everything we do.

**Trevor Kershaw & Melanie Walsh**  
**Circuit Finance Team**  
**September 2021**

# When and where do you go to church?

For some, the traditional time of 10.30am on a Sunday is not easy, maybe even impossible, especially when the day starts late and slow. Add to this the difficulties experienced in trying to leave the house and travel to church, to then be part of a gathering of folk in a church building, and 'going to church' really isn't feasible at all. For some 'going to church' can be problematic or nigh-on impossible for any number of reasons.

But over the past 15/16 months church has become something different and more accessible to people in ways previously unimagined, accessible also to some who have been living with the grief of losing 'traditional' church from their lives.

*And so it is, in a living room on a Friday, a lap top is opened and placed on a chair so that the screen can be seen clearly by a small congregation of two. There is no set time, and this flexibility is essential because the routines of the day are anything but routine and predictable.*

*With the pressing of a few buttons, the picture on the screen changes from familiar family members to an image that has become just as familiar, and when accompanied by recognisable music (like a theme tune for a well-loved TV show), there is the recognition that we are 'going to church'.*

*As the music and the image of a flickering candle fade, a friendly face that has also become familiar over the past few months appears on the screen, and we settle down to worship.*

*It isn't always possible to join in the singing of the hymns. Sometimes the songs are unknown, at other times the words might be familiar but the music is different and, although we might give it a go, it's not always easy to join in if the melody is not easy to pick up along the way. But when they are well known we can join in confidently, knowing we are participating fully in worship, albeit an octave lower than when we sang in the church choir. When we can't sing along, we can still enjoy listening to others singing, following the words on the screen, or taking in the images displayed. The Lord's Prayer **is** something we can join in with – well, most of the time!*

*Familiar Bible readings and the message can all be heard and pondered upon without distraction. And all in the comfort of an armchair in a warm living room overlooking a garden and the bird feeding station.*

*And where once café church was something special and occasional, now it is the kind of church we attend every week, with a cup of tea easily within reach. Not that it is anything warmer than tepid by the time it is drunk, as it remains untouched until the service draws to a close. We've been far too busy worshipping to think about a cup of tea!*

We know many people have benefitted from our weekly online services, and although, for a good number, it has merely been a stop back until churches reopened, for others it has become much more as they have been able to reconnect with church, once again feeling as if they belong to a fellowship of believers. This, for them, is their church – a church that comes to them rather than them going to church. In our modern technological age isn't this what Jesus would have us do – go to where people are, even into their own living rooms!

Lyn Gregg



Since the beginning of lockdown I have been printing out the weekly service and taking it to Mary, a neighbour. Her husband was in a nursing home during the first lockdown and she would take him a copy and they would read it at the same time on a Sunday morning. Her husband has since passed away but she tries to read it on a Sunday morning at 10.30 when she know others will be doing the same. Then on a Wednesday the fish man calls, Mary gives the service to him, who takes it to his next call- a friend of Mary's who lives in Bingley. What happens to it after that I am not sure, but I know it is very much appreciated by Mary and her friend.

Elizabeth Smith Clayton

# Church and Society

Since the beginning of 2021 as individuals and as churches, we've been involved in a variety of projects and concerns. Despite the many restrictions, we have been very active!

On **Holocaust Memorial Sunday** in January, we were joined in our online worship by Mr Rudi Levor, who was interviewed by Joseph Rainbow. Mr Levor is in charge of the Jewish Reformed Synagogue in Bradford. He came to the UK as a child, with his parents, to escape the Nazi persecution. In our service we remembered victims of the Holocaust and other genocides.

In Spring, as vaccines in the UK were being rolled out, many sent donations to the District Appeal, in partnership with Christian Aid, to 'Give Thanks for Your Vaccine'.



And in May, we took on Christian Aid's 300,000 steps challenge, raising a total of £2,542. Funds this year will help build dams in Kenya, to enable local communities preserve a water source for domestic and agricultural use. Climate change has made rainfall unpredictable, so this is a way of helping combat the effect of the climate emergency

## Christian Aid Walk

### 300,000 steps challenge

On the 1st May 2021 I remember being breathless on my first walk.

This was to my local Co-op store in Wibsey and back - about 3000 steps.

Did I have the energy after a painful year (including family illness and bereavement) to do 300, 000 steps?

And yet I did not want to let down those whom we are walking for, or indeed Rev Sarah who was leading the way. The lack of water supply meant that women were walking miles every day to bring water home. I could not even imagine how hard that must be especially when there was a world pandemic. Our challenge seemed so small when I thought about this injustice and basic poverty.

To my surprise the challenge became a transformative experience. I will never forget: -

Knowing every step was making a difference.

Walking into my first church service (in a building) since March 2020 at Wyke Methodist Church. We arrived and sat amongst those already present as the hymn "Lord They Church On Earth Is Seeking" was being played. It's a favourite. *"In the streets of every city, where the poor and homeless dwell, let us show the Saviour's pity, let us of his goodness tell"* spoke to us all. What a significant moment!

Quiet walks as the sun set.

My son, Jack, counting my steps when my phone battery went dead.

Seeing bits of Bradford that we would rather not be walking through on a hot sunny day.

As we moved between the circuit churches strangers stopped us and gave generously.

Building my steps up in Broadway as I looked for my car - on the wrong floor!

My husband, Andrew, analysing progress on the laptop and encouraging more steps!

Joining with the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers on their first big walk after numerous zooms. What noise and utter joy!

Watching the total raised soar and being humbled by the kindness of so many, including Jean Sheard, who was quietly getting on with it.

Chatting with folk from the circuit as we walked - and being inspired!

Hitting 300,000 steps a day early after doubting I would make it a week earlier!

Drawing closer to our God, finding healing, and a new confidence.

This last weekend, as a family, we climbed Snowden which was my first mountain.

Unthinkable on the first of May at my fitness levels! Why did I take 53 years to do this? With such incredible views, how could I not feel even closer to God both on the journey and at the top? That's why I took my time! **My prayer is that the walking makes an even bigger difference to those living in poverty - than it did to me!**

Thanks for your support and inspiration.

Joy Rainbow Wibsey

When the Rev Sarah Jemison and Joy Rainbow decided to do the 300,000 steps challenge in the month of May I thought it was very ambitious, because to me it sounded an awful lot of walking. How wrong I was! I am not a walker apart from up to the paper shop and back most days but I decided it was a good cause and I wanted to be part of it and support them. So I did the three separate walks around the circuit churches. We were very visible wearing tabards and carrying a couple of collection boxes and lots of people did show interest as we passed by.

The second walk was on a Sunday morning and at first I felt a bit guilty about missing church. However I had committed myself to doing all three. One particular highlight for me was on this Sunday, as we walked to Wyke church, when a cyclist going the other way turned round and came back to talk to us. He gave us a generous donation and wished us well on our journey. This was just one of similar incidents that we encountered. Truly a walk of witness showing the love of God locally, and by supporting the work of Christian Aid, to more people than I would have, attending the Sunday Morning Service.

Another highlight was on arriving at Wyke church the doors were open and the last hymn was playing and we quietly entered the church and took our seats, self-distanced and with masks on to listen to the end of the hymn and the blessing. It was a special moment.

Another highlight for me was discovering Bowling Park and the trail of the three bears. Not everybody did all three walks and some people joined for part of the walks, but it was lovely to talk with different people and to share news and stories.



The success of the fund-raising with the walks connecting all the churches in the circuit, and the welcome we received at each, has surpassed all my expectations and in my view made our circuit feel more connected as a community.

Congratulations to Sarah and Joy for completing the challenge.

Christine Peacock Horton Bank

When Rev Sarah first mentioned that Joy and she were taking up the Christian Aid walking challenge, I thought to myself "I could do that", so I did. Most of the time walking alone but sometimes with friends and also two of the Circuit walks. The other Circuit walk was arranged with a friend on another day.

The walking wasn't really a challenge for me as I've always encouraged the children I have cared for to walk. However, whilst walking I have spoken to people on route some known as friends, others in passing whom I see on a regular basis, and some complete strangers who have seen me coming and passed me by, moving to be at a safe distance, and saying Hi or nodding to one another, sometimes both moving and then laughing as we passed. I have also thought about the friends I deliver the printed service to, occasionally knocking to have a doorstep chat. Sometimes I've been the only person they have chatted to face to face for a few days. In my mind I



have been around Church and thought about the members Richard and I have in our care, and many others as well, including the people who usually use the building.

Then, because I was walking for Christian Aid, I thought about all the countries still without running water and sanitation having to carry water for miles (a small bottle weighs heavier than you may think); longing for a drink and one not being available, (when I've forgotten to put mine in). It has given me a SLIGHT connection with these people. We are so lucky and not always grateful for all we have available to us. All this in the glory of our countryside awakening from its winter sleep, including a few walks by the coast.

I have managed 369,929 steps alone, 29,560 with friends, two circuit walks 29,346 total 428,835. These are approximate figures as step counters vary slightly. I am overwhelmed by the generous donations I have been given for Christian Aid from close family, and friends along with Church family. One person because she can no longer walk as well as she used to informed me she had set time and money aside each day to think about me as I walked and the people I would meet, along with the people that the donations were going to. The total amount I have raised amounted to £700.

THANKYOU

Jean Sheard Wibsey



## Christian Aid says 'Thank you!'

**People like Rose, in our photo, need every last drop of rain to survive this climate crisis.**

Your donations of **£2,542** will help communities, like hers, build better earth dams to harvest more water; sow drought-tolerant crops that grow even with the fewest of drops; or set up an advocacy group to demand change at the highest level and put a stop to this climate crisis.



BEACON works to a vision of Bradford district as a hospitable community where asylum seekers and refugees are welcome, enjoy access to justice and fair treatment and are supported on their journey to independence and integration.

## Church & Society Round up!

The work of **BEACON** (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern) has continued throughout the lockdowns and restrictions. Below are snippets from Katy, BEACON's Team Leader.

Restrictions 'have stretched and shaped BEACON's work and challenged us in many positive ways.' Although, we weren't able to celebrate as we would have wished, 2020 marked BEACON's 15-year anniversary and 'we are pleased to have been able to support many thousands of people seeking asylum since the charity began its work in 2005'.

As the pandemic took hold in March 2020, we successfully adapted our services to continue safely and remotely to meet the needs of those seeking asylum in Bradford.

'It goes without saying that this was only possible due to the hard work, resilience and commitment of our staff and volunteers, who have worked incredibly hard, despite changes and ongoing challenges in their own lives.



We have continued to support and raise awareness of the campaign to 'Lift the Ban' on the right to work for those seeking asylum, and BEACON was featured as a case study in a national activism pack for our work in raising awareness on the issue. The pandemic has also enhanced our partnership working this year – both locally with other agencies supporting people seeking asylum and nationally through our NACCOM (No Accommodation Network UK) membership and through networks set up by national charities such as Refugee Action.

These partnerships have greatly enhanced our work through the sharing of good practice and access to specialist advice. We were also really pleased that towards the end of 2020 we secured funding from Refugee Action's Respond & Adapt grant programme to set up a remote digital legal advice surgery in partnership with Fisher Stone solicitors.

We have also continued to raise awareness of the changing needs of people seeking asylum since the pandemic began, through the delivery of online talks and presentations to local groups.'

And on June 16<sup>th</sup>, a group of fifteen 'Walked Together' from Bradford to Leeds in solidarity with refugees and people seeking sanctuary in our area. It was great to walk again, bathed in sunshine, as sadly last year that was not possible.



So many people have been involved in these, and a myriad other projects, seeking to be a good neighbour to those in need.

Rev. Sarah

# Touchstone

Touchstone is a district project committed to providing transformational listening opportunities for individuals and groups. In doing so, we seek to increase mutual understanding, strengthen community cohesion and nurture healing and reconciliation. The building itself also stands as a significant Methodist presence in the heart of the city centre.

Throughout this last year, I have endeavoured to build stronger links with the circuit. The team at Touchstone are thankful to the circuit for their faithful financial and volunteer support over many years. Currently, there are several different streams of work currently being undertaken.

**1: Women Breaking Free:** Following a review of our work with those who have experienced trauma and abuse, I am delighted to report we have been granted permission to develop this important aspect of our work further. I believe this is timely and significant as we have the opportunity to help shape (and be shaped) the Methodist Church's commitment to creating safer-spaces within the church and society as a whole.

In addition, even before the pandemic, the need for support in the area of mental health was high. This has become even more prevalent and will remain so for the foreseeable future. How the church speaks in to this and supports people's wellbeing is crucial and especially if we are to be truly committed to nurturing life in all its fullness (John 10:10).

## 2: Presentations/Talks

The team have been sharing their listening ministry and interfaith work in numerous ways, including;

- Talks for the Methodist Women in Britain Forum and on International Women's Day.
- A virtual visit to Bradford was given to a group of Danish Pastors from the Lutheran Church, entitled 'Interfaith from the field'.
- Teaching on the MA module at Luther King House, Manchester. Seminar on listening and emotional literacy.
- Ministerial Development Day for the YW District. Workshop on embodied practices.

## 3: Group work

**'LiT':** The team received a grant from Bradford Council for an art installation as part of their winter LiT program. We completed delivery on this in February following a number of interfaith Zoom sessions on the theme of 'Wonder'.

**'The Art of Friendship'** group marked Holocaust Memorial Day. The women commemorated the victims and survivors of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides by listening to and reflecting upon the stories of survivors. They also led creative arts and writing sessions for Remembrance Sunday.

**'Loving Earth':** In partnership with the Quakers. The team ran sessions for a group of

women from different faiths which included: a guided meditation, sharing our fears and hopes around environmental issues and creating a textile panel on the theme.

**'Virtual Harmony':** A project examining how community music brings people together in an online environment. In partnership with the Music Dept at Leeds Beckett University.

**'Women's Ways to Wellbeing':** A 5 week-course helping women with caring responsibilities reflect on their wellbeing and the importance of self-care. Feedback has included:

*'It's been certainly life giving and I've appreciated how others have shared parts of their lives and helped one another grow to make this a better place to live'.*

*'It's been such a support in our sharing and commonality. It's good to know we aren't on our own. We've enriched one another's lives'.*

**'Mindful Walking Group':** In partnership with 'Aging Well' to support people over 65 in their wellbeing journeys. We are delighted to welcome back some of our volunteers who are supporting this activity.

**-Partnering with others:** The Immanuel Project (working with the most vulnerable and homeless). Alongside providing wellbeing workshops, I was also invited to coordinate and lead their Easter celebration. I am also working with BEACON and Abigail Housing on community building and hospitality opportunities for the autumn.

**Looking ahead:** The summer will be a busy time as we prepare to re-open. As a team, we are working towards producing a programme of activities to be launched Autumn/Winter, including 'Loaves and Dishes' a monthly Sunday lunch for those on their own. If you are interested in attending or volunteering please drop me a line.



Revd Caroline Ryder

Team Leader Touchstone

## Mindful walking

Over the last four weeks my husband and myself have spent about an hour on Monday afternoons being led in a walk by Caroline (who is based at Touchstone and is also the Minister for Trinity).

First we spent a few minutes thinking of the theme for the week and doing a few short exercises.

The walking was under the theme of Mindfulness with a different aspect of this highlighted each week.



Mindfulness means 'paying attention in a particular way - on purpose, in the present moment and non-judgmentally'.

The walks were followed by a drink and healthy snacks which were very welcome, especially as the first two weeks were very wet.

We walked in the area near Touchstone and it was very interesting to see much of the University Campus with an amazing amount of trees and plants, including a herb garden.

We also saw many different styles of buildings and some very old properties in Horton Green.

Some (all really!) weeks I started off feeling tired and why was I doing this!! However a few minutes into the walk the benefit of exercise, deep breathing (when we stopped to think about something we saw en-route) and remembering to be 'in the moment', all served to help me feel so much more alert and alive as we returned to Touchstone.

It has been a very interesting and positive use of time during the recent four Monday afternoons and something I would like to repeat on a regular basis.

I would encourage anyone (for this course you had to be over 65 but this could possibly be different in the future) to join in as the benefits are worth making the effort to get out and about.

Christine Milner New Hey Road

The offer of a chance to join a small group of people walking a short distance was too perfect for me to turn down. I was looking forward to getting moving properly again and being in the company of 'real' people, not just faces on a screen. So I was really looking forward to the Mindful Walking group led by Caroline and the staff at Touchstone during May.

I didn't really have an idea what mindfulness was; I'd always imagined it as something that focused on inner wellbeing by blocking out all that is going on around. I couldn't have been more wrong! Whilst inner wellbeing is important, mindful walking involves taking notice of what is going on around – the sounds, sights, smells – and recognising how they make you feel. I've found that it really helped me to take more notice of what's going on around me when I'm out.

The walking was at a steady stroll type of pace, which was perfect for me, and followed slightly different routes each week, always involving the University Peace Garden at some point. They were about a mile long, with a short stop halfway through to follow a meditation.

Each week had a different theme, and the last week's theme was gratitude. We were given a piece of paper with an E.H. Shepard illustration of Winnie the Pooh and Piglet – I've always been a huge fan of the stories – "Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude". I was certainly very grateful for the idea and being able to take part.

Teresa Lunn Wibsey

# St Arnold's

A huge thank you to anyone who has joined us for our online Beer and Hymns events during the last year. We've had beach parties, harvest festivals, acts of remembrance, Easter celebrations and a presidential visit, all while enjoying a great mix of traditional hymns, modern choruses, Bible readings, prayers and fellowship. Although it's not been quite the same as being down at The Peacock bar with you, all those events have certainly given me something to look forward to and I hope they helped you happily while away a few lockdown hours too.

With the relaxing of some restrictions we have now been able to move forward with our One@11 Sunday morning services at The Peacock bar. These are now happening twice a month, on the 2nd and fourth Sundays, which our regular attenders are very happy about. We're hoping that spending more time worshipping in the city centre will help to encourage some new faces to join us too.

Just before the first lockdown, which feels like it happened about 100 months ago, we welcomed the first official member to St Arnold's and commissioned two city centre chaplains: Suzanne and Teresa have been looking forward to when they could safely start visiting coffee shops in the city centre, ready to offer friendship and prayer to anyone in need. They have been welcomed with open arms into a number of places including the very lovely Lefteris Coffee and Tearoom on Tyrrel Street and the wonderful plant shop/cafe/home from home 'Plant One On Me' on the outside of John Street Market. (I know it's supposed to be called the Oastler Centre now but no one knows where I mean if I call it that!)

Please do pray for them as they offer hope and healing acting as representatives of our church in those places outside the comfort of our own walls.

Please also continue to pray for our hospitality industry. They have been hit so hard by this pandemic. I have gone back to offering chaplaincy in the physical spaces of the bars in the city. While there I have seen just how difficult a balancing act they are having to endure, to keep customers happy while ensuring they stay within the restrictions to keep everyone safe.

Beer and hymns made a physical return to North Parade on the 29th of August as part of a Street Festival and it is hoped that we will continue to meet at The Peacock bar to sing each month, including a very special session of Curry and Carols as part of the first ever North Parade Christmas market. More, very exciting, details to come soon!

Graeme

# Rowanberries

**A**lmost 18 months has gone by and in one way it has flown by and in another it seems to have been a very long 18 months since the day the decision was made in the first lockdown to close the scheme to all but essential visitors. At that point we all thought it would be a few weeks and we would be back up and running but 18 months later we still find ourselves living day by day and handling the challenges that COVID brings.

Throughout the time we have been fortunate to this point that, for the most part we have remained safe and well throughout across the scheme, and continue to pray that this will continue. For staff the year has been extra busy – sanitising the full building at regular intervals through the day, delivering post, shopping, medication to flats, covering shifts often at very short notice, cleaning flats, all alongside the regular day to day care for our residents. Added to this the extra stress of trying to keep a sense of calm to the scheme in what has been a stressful and often frightening time for staff and residents alike. And with their own concerns about keeping family safe and well.

For the residents the realisation that communal areas were closed and family and friends were unable to enter the building was extremely difficult, especially when it became apparent that this would continue for months, rather than days, and residents were asked to remain in flats. Isolation and loneliness became the main concern. As much as possible staff provided activities to do in flats, with quizzes, bunker bingo, newsletters, gazettes and church services printed off and delivered.

We said goodbye to a number of residents during this time, and the scheme became very quiet, as we were unable to meet together or allow new people to move into flats as they became empty.

In recent weeks it has been lovely, as we have slowly started to ease restrictions, to see residents in communal areas and sharing together over lunch in the bistro. Rowanberries has started to come back to life a little, with friends and family visiting, and activities slowly starting to recommence. New residents have been moving in and getting to know their neighbours. Our current project is to use our exercise bike to volunteer to take turns in 'cycling' the 127 miles of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, inviting sponsors to help us fundraise for our residents' amenity fund. We are looking forward to finally working together with MHA Communities as One MHA and adding even more to our activity programme. We still have some restrictions in place to try to keep everyone safe and well, and look forward to the day when we can recommence church services and welcome back in our visiting ministers and church friends.

In the meantime, please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to move forward a day at a time, still very aware of the continued threat of COVID, and the need to be safe and vigilant.

Dawn Harris

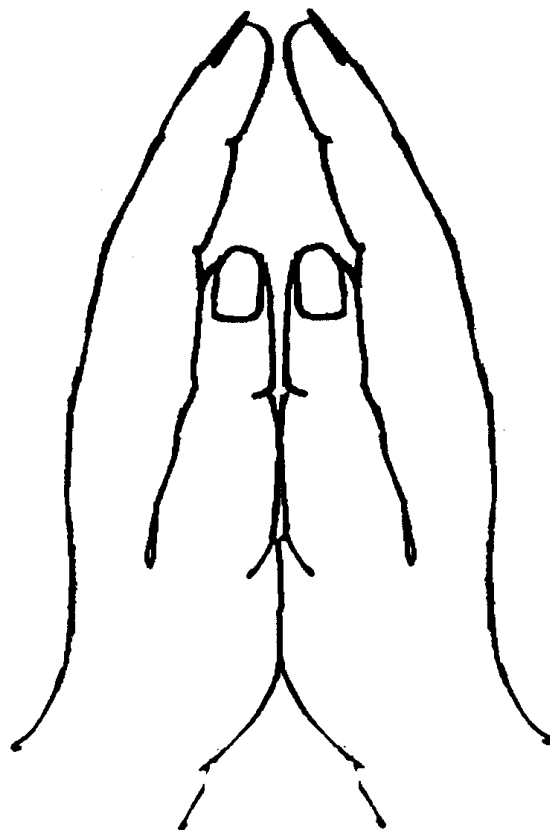
Chaplain (MHA Rowanberries)

# Prayer diary

## Daily prayer focus:

1. Our ministers and their families
2. Our administrator and circuit leadership who strive to ensure the circuit is not just a unit of business, but one of vision and mission also.
3. Our church stewards, our treasurers who take care of our finances, and all those who work to keep our churches going.
4. Our congregations, especially those most vulnerable, that we can all continue to know we are a part of the church family.
5. Our District, our Chair of District Rev Kerry Tankard and his family and all district office holders.
6. The housebound and those in supported living. For the pastoral visitors and all who maintain contact with them.
7. Our local preachers and worship leaders
8. Our uniformed groups and those who work with them.
9. Local schools, and the continuing relationships our ministers and members are able to strengthen with them.
10. Aldersgate, as they work and witness to further the work of God in stimulating and thoughtful ways.
11. Clayton as they regroup after losing some key members, and reestablish activities which enable them to reach out into the community.
12. Cornerstone seeking to maintain and manage their large listed building for worship and service in the community
13. Ebenezer that they may discern a clear way forward.
14. Horton Bank giving thanks for 150 years of worship, witness and service, seeking ways to fulfil their calling in the future.
15. New Hey Road as its members explore the next step of their journey, seeking to be led by God's Spirit in their mission amongst the community.
16. Southfield Lane, as they continue to discern how to be faithful disciples and witnesses in their particular context.
17. Wibsey, that their relationships with the community may be strengthened.
18. Wyke, for the work done as 'churches together', especially the food bank.
19. St Arnold's as it continues to build a community of faith within our city centre. Supporting local businesses by worshipping and praying with them as they travel through difficult times.
20. For the new partnership with the Immanuel Project, working in the city centre with the most vulnerable; and the new monthly service
21. As circumstances change, those who seek new Christian communities where they feel welcomed.

22. We pray for those who are part of the online community of this circuit. May all who gather virtually feel the warmth of welcome, the heights of worship and the depth of God's love surrounding them
23. For peace, justice and harmony between the diverse communities within Bradford
24. For our children and young people and those who offer their talent and their time to work with them.
25. For the ways we are able to work together with other Christian groups.
26. BEACON (Bradford Ecumenical Asylum Concern) seeking to address the needs of destitute people seeking safety in the UK
27. Chaplains around the city working in universities, hospitals, Marie Curie, and the Courts.
28. Rowanberries, all who live, work and volunteer there.
29. Touchstone, for the new activity programme and the team
30. Inn churches and those who work with the homeless and with the foodbanks
31. Methodist Connexion and Worldwide mission



# Looking forward to 2021-2022

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work

2 Corinthians 9 v 6-8

## PLEASE PRAY:

- That we may continue to explore how the circuits can be a unit for mission across the City of Bradford.
- For a circuit that engages in, and lives by prayer.
- For St Arnold's, and other city Centre work, that relationships developed will continue to deepen, and our presence in the City Centre will be cemented.
- That our circuit and churches, will continue to nurture our young people.
- That we will seek ways to reach out and build relationships with community groups who use our premises.
- For support for the new initiatives around the circuit.

**Bradford South Circuit**  
**Income & Expenditure Account**  
**Year Ended 31st August 2021**

<u>Income</u>	2020-21	2019-20	<u>Expenditure</u>	2020-21	2019-20
Assessments	160475.00	165275.01	Ministers Stipend	98560.25	90127.20
Assessment Rebate	-11858.76	0.00	Ministers NI	8693.23	7886.54
Interest	1181.07	2670.49	Ministers Pensions	25632.77	23398.20
Benevolence	0.00	110.17	Ministers Expenses	1494.65	3191.24
Rental Income	4941.20	500.00	Lay Employee Costs	12940.17	16691.79
Connexional City Centre Grant	10000.00	10000.00	Admin Charges - Payroll	480.00	480.00
District City Centre Grant	5000.00	5000.00	Apprenticeship Levy	529.99	530.78
Bradford North City Centre Grant	3000.00	3000.00	District Assessment	46260.00	48188.00
Youth Income	24.83	400.00	District Advance Fund Levy	1726.34	1759.05
Dot Lightowler Bequest	2163.33	0.00	Connexional Levy on Sales	208245.60	0.00
Clayton Heights CFB	3575.53	0.00			
Other Income	1627.80	1034.40	<u>Manse Costs</u>		
	180130.00	187990.07	Council Tax	8240.84	7892.46
Sale of Trinity	414804.00	0.00	Water Rates	2495.00	2299.00
Sale of Clayton Heights	180563.60	0.00	Insurance	2225.30	2880.58
Sale of Cornerstone Crcket Field	45072.80	0.00	Repairs	7177.46	16532.60
Cornerstone Loan Repayment	5600.00	0.00			
	826170.40	187990.07	Postage, Printing & Stationery	1177.52	1163.81
<u>Transfers</u>			Telephones	2542.46	2665.73
CAF Bank from Petty Cash	0.00	0.00	Office Costs/Rent	871.60	1937.00
CAF Bank from CFB	0.00	16000.00	Travel	0.00	96.80
CFB from Mandy Roberts	0.92	245.98	Training	0.00	100.00
CFB from Petty Cash	0.00	500.00	Bank Fees	87.00	60.00
CFB from Model Trust	250000.00	0.00	Audit Fee	2050.00	2150.00
CFB from Chapel Road	27000.00	0.00	Admin Costs - TMCP	249.54	251.91
CFB from CAF Bank	9000.00	0.00	Donations	500.00	0.00
	1112171.32	204736.05	Youth Costs	0.00	1046.00
			Messy Church	0.00	0.00
			Quinquennial Inspections	0.00	0.00
			Holiday at Home	0.00	68.40
			URC	208.00	352.00
			Benevolence Fund	105.00	2550.00
			Touchstone Grant	4000.00	4000.00
			Cornerstone Loan	0.00	5600.00
			Leeds City Centre Mission Loan	0.00	6251.00
			Thornbury Car Park Costs	1687.20	0.00
			Highgate Road Costs	1243.50	478.80
			Cornerstone Cricket Field Costs	3067.20	0.00
			New Hey Road Costs	358.48	0.00
			Clayton Heights Costs	6089.85	1122.00
			Southfield Lane Project Payments	11235.20	0.00
			Trinity Costs	827.00	5808.99
			Other Expenditure	1642.75	1127.78
				462643.90	258687.66
			<u>Transfers</u>		
			Mandy Roberts Account to CFB	0.92	245.98
			Petty Cash to CFB	0.00	500.00
			CFB to CAF Bank	9000.00	16000.00
			Model Trust to CFB	250000.00	0.00
			Chapel Road to CFB	27000.00	0.00
				748644.82	275433.64

<b>Reconciliation</b>		
Movement of Funds	Credits	831522.29
	Debits	475854.45
	Unpresented Cheque	-182.50
		<b>355485.34</b>
Represented by (above)	Income	1112171.32
	Exp	-748644.82
	Opening accrual	-23237.12
	Closing Accrual	15195.96
		<b>355485.34</b>

**Movement of Funds**

	Opening Balance	Credit	Debit	Transfers	Closing Balance
CAF (Bank)	6052.81	46433.79	55011.17	9000.00	6475.43
Deposit Account (CFB)	180982.95	138093.98	199246.60	268000.92	387831.25
Model Trust Fund	69053.77	646791.09	221435.25	-250000.00	244409.61
Mandy Roberts/Moira Hodgson	751.10	2.52	1.50	-0.92	751.20
Chapel Road Account	54964.44	169.22	109.93	-27000.00	28023.73
New Hey Road Account	16904.46	23.24	0.00	0.00	16927.70
Park Account	6146.89	8.45	0.00	0.00	6155.34
Petty Cash	202.50	0.00	50.00	0.00	152.50
	335058.92	831522.29	475854.45	0.00	690726.76





Circuit  
Accruals Accounts  
2020-21

**THE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**(ACCRUALS BASIS)**  
for the year ended 31 August 2021

**Bradford South**

**Circuit**

Registered Charity - Registration number

**1157285**

West Yorkshire

**District No / Circuit No**

**27/33**

**Ministers**

Rev Lyn Gregg (Superintendent)
Rev Graeme Dutton
Rev Sarah Jemison
Rev Albert Gayle
Rev Caroline Ryder

**Circuit Stewards**

Miss Suzanne Allsop
Mrs Elizabeth Smith
Mr Richard Walsh
Mrs Melanie Walsh

**Circuit Treasurer**

Mr Trevor Kershaw



Name of Circuit

Bradford South Circuit

Circuit No 27/33

**Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021**

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Circuit Model Trust (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020-21 £	Total 2019-20 £
<b>Income</b>								
1 Donations and legacies							0	0
2 Income from monetary investments							0	0
3 Income from investment properties	4	4,941					4,941	500
4 Assessments on Churches		148,616					148,616	165,275
5 Capital Receipts							0	0
6 Grants received							0	0
7 Other charitable income		26,000	641,191			3	667,194	25,874
8 <b>Total income</b>		<b>179,558</b>	<b>641,191</b>	-	-	3	<b>820,751</b>	<b>191,649</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>								
9 Grants and donations		4,000					4,000	4,000
10 Salaries and associated costs	7	147,321					147,321	141,295
11 Property maintenance		13,273	11,235				24,508	7,410
12 Connexional assessment & model trust levy							0	0
13 District Assessment & Levy		46,260					46,260	48,188
14 Depreciation							0	0
15 Office expenses		15,504					15,504	15,835
16 Other outgoings		14,744	208,474		105	2	223,324	25,150
17 Contributions to the district advance fund			1,726				1,726	1,759
17 <b>Total charitable expenditure</b>		<b>241,102</b>	<b>221,435</b>	0	105	2	<b>462,644</b>	<b>243,637</b>
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments							0	0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties							0	0
20 <b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>-61,544</b>	<b>419,756</b>	0	-105	1	<b>358,108</b>	<b>-51,988</b>
21 Transfers between funds		244,401	244,400			1	0	0
22 Other gains/(losses)								0
23 <b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>182,857</b>	<b>175,356</b>	0	-105	0	<b>358,108</b>	<b>-51,988</b>
24 Total funds brought forward		1,209,988	69,054	-	13,971	751	1,293,764	1,345,752
25 <b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>1,392,845</b>	<b>244,410</b>	-	<b>13,866</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>1,651,872</b>	<b>1,293,764</b>

Name of Circuit

Bradford South Circuit

Circuit No 27/33

## Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Circuit Model Trusts (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2020/21	Totals 2019/20
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>							
Circuit Manses & Equipment	8	970,090				970,090	970,090
Investment properties						0	
Investments						0	
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		970,090	0	0	0	970,090	970,090
<b>Current Assets</b>							
Debtors	9	15,609				15,609	15,159
Loans by the Circuit		6,251				6,251	11,851
Investments with TMCP		28,024	244,410		751	273,185	69,805
Central Finance Board Deposits		403,676		1,083		404,759	180,983
Cash at Bank and in hand				12,783		12,783	84,271
<b>Total current assets</b>		453,560	244,410	0	13,866	712,587	362,069
<b>Current liabilities</b>							
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	10	30,805				30,805	38,396
Grants payable within 2018-19						0	
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		30,805	0	0	0	30,805	38,396
<b>Net current assets/liabilities</b>		422,755	244,410	0	13,866	681,782	323,673
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		1,392,845	244,410	0	13,866	1,651,872	1,293,763
<b>Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)</b>							
Grants payable after 2018-19						0	
Loans to the Circuit						0	
<b>Net assets</b>		1,392,845	244,410	0	13,866	1,651,872	1,293,763
<b>Funds of the Circuit</b>							
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,392,845				1,392,845	1,209,988
Circuit Model Trust Fund (Unrestricted)			244,410			244,410	69,054
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			0			0	
<b>Total Unrestricted Funds</b>						1,637,254	1,279,042
Restricted Funds				13,866		13,866	13,971
Endowment Funds					751	751	751
<b>Total Funds</b>		1,392,845	244,410	0	13,866	1,651,872	1,293,764



Name of Circuit

Bradford South Circuit

Circuit No 1157285

## Notes to the Accounts

### 1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities applicable in the UK (effective from 1 January 2015) – the Charities SORP (FRSSE) – in replacement for the SORP's 2005 version specified in its related 2008 Regulations and in accordance with the 'true and fair override' provision contained therein."

### 2. Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Circuit which are Unrestricted. The Circuit Model Trust Fund has wide purposes defined in Standing Orders and is categorised as unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are also the following Endowment funds as listed. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

### 3. Accounting policies

#### Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Circuit's financial position and activities.

#### Income recognition

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Circuit becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

#### Resources expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

#### Grants

Grants made by the Circuit from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Circuit accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

#### VAT

Since the Circuit is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

#### Tangible fixed asset for use by the Circuit

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000.

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed values, of which the land component is not known. No depreciation is provided on the building because the trustees consider the current residual fair value of the buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

#### Investment properties

Investment properties - no property is currently deemed to not be held for the long term purposes of the charity.

#### Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SOFA.

#### Debtors and prepayments

Debtors relate to the payment of the September stipend in August.

#### Creditors

Creditors include both sundry expenses and specifically the 1st quarter assessment received in August.

#### Impacts of accounting changes

A statement is required if there has been any restatement required to previous reported information as a consequence of the new SORP.

Name of Circuit

Bradford South Circuit

Circuit No 1157285

**4. Investment income**

	Unrestricted	Circuit Model Trust Fund	Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Central Finance Board				0	
Rental income	4,941			4,941	500
Other				0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,941</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,941</b>	<b>500</b>

**5. Payment to trustees**

This Year Last Year

Payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Circuit by agreement with the Circuit meeting

Number of trustees who were paid expenses

Total	0	0
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**6. Fees for examination or audit of the accounts**

This Year Last Year

Independent examiner's or auditors fees for reporting on the accounts

2,100 2,160

Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor

Total	2,100	2,160
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**7. Paid employees**

This Year Last Year

Staff costs paid during the year were:

Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind

110,799 105,062

Employer's national insurance costs

8,693 9,644

Pension costs

26,334 23,398

Expenses

1,495 3,191

Total

147,321	141,295
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Average number of staff employed during the year were:

6	6
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Name of Circuit

Bradford South Circuit

Circuit No 1157285

## 8. Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation

	Residential land £	Other land £	Manse £	Other buildings £	Other fixed assets including motor vehicles £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Payments on account and assets under construction £	Total £
Balance brought forward			970,090					970,090
Additions								0
Revaluations (+/-)								0
Disposals (-)								0
Transfers * (+/-)								0
Balance carried forward	0	0	970,090	0	0	0	0	970,090

## Accumulated depreciation

	Residential land £	Other land £	Manse £	Other buildings £	Other fixed assets including motor vehicles £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Payments on account and assets under construction £	Total £
Balance brought forward								
Depreciation charge for year (-)								
Revaluations (+/-)								
Disposals (-)								
Transfers * (+/-)								
Balance carried forward	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Net book value

	Residential land £	Other land £	Manse £	Other buildings £	Other fixed assets including motor vehicles £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Payments on account and assets under construction £	Total £
Brought forward	0	0	970,090	0	0	0	0	970,090
Carried forward	0	0	970,090	0	0	0	0	970,090

Name of Circuit

Bradford South Circuit

Circuit No 1157285

**9. Analysis of current assets**

**Debtors and prepayments**

Pre paid assessments

Accrued income

Other debtors

**Total**

**This Year      Last Year**

15,609      15,159

**15,609      15,159**

**10. Analysis of current liabilities and long term creditors**

**Current liabilities**

Trade creditors

Other creditors

**Total**

**This Year      Last Year**

30,805      38,396

**30,805      38,396**

**11. Capital commitments and contingent liabilities**

At the 31st August 2021 the Circuit has no capital commitments.

No contingent liabilities were identified at the 31st August 2021.

**Bradford South Circuit  
DECLARATIONS**

**Treasurer**

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the Circuit and that include all funds under the control of the Circuit Meeting.

Signature of Treasurer

*[Signature]*

Date

17/3/22

Name of Treasurer

Mr Trevor Kershaw

Address

75 SHBLE MOOR RD, SHBLE, HALIFAX HX3 7PL

**Presentation of the Circuit Meeting for approval**

I confirm that the annual report and accoutns for the year ended 31 August 2021 were, or will be\* presented to the Circuit Meeting at its meeting on and were approved.

17/3/22

Signature of the Chair of  
the meeting

*[Signature]*

Name of the Chair of the  
meeting

Rev Lyn P. Gregg

Date

17/03/2022

**Independent Examiner's report of the Trustees of the**

**Bradford South Circuit**

This Report is on the Circuit Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021.

**Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiners**

The Circuit's trustees are responsible for ensuring that the annual report and accounts for th eyear to 31 August 2021 present a true and fair view of the Circuit's income and expenditure for the year and of its assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date. The trustees consider that an audit is not necessary 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.



## Bradford South Circuit


### Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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, in nature or scale, or disclosures in the accounts, seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning 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. My 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 as disclosed below\*)

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respects 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.
- (3) I have / have not\* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Name of independent examiner	Jonathan Stead FCCA
Signature of independent examiner	
Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner	Chartered Certified Accountant
Name of firm (where appropriate)	Sleigh & Story Ltd
Address	Thornhill Briggs Mill, Thornhill Beck Lane, Brighouse, HD6 4AH
Date	07/01/2022