



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name  
TAVISTOCK METHODIST CHURCH

No (if any)  
1130587

CC16a

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 01/09/16	To	Period end date 31/08/17
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Offerings & tax recovered	118,246	43,582	-	161,828	167,994
Bank & CFB interest & investment income	99	110	-	209	117
Lettings	9,808	-	-	9,808	10,180
Other Receipts	19,747	14,781	-	34,528	42,947
Grant income	-	12,500	-	12,500	13,850
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>147,900</b>	<b>70,973</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>218,873</b>	<b>235,088</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>147,900</b>	<b>70,973</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>218,873</b>	<b>235,088</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Circuit assessment	78,775	-	-	78,775	75,965
Donations	14,100	750	-	14,850	13,647
Repairs & maintenance	9,512	30,892	-	40,404	43,047
Utilities (Insurances, water rates, heating & lighting)	9,265	-	-	9,265	8,774
Wages & salaries	17,243	29,131	-	46,374	42,580
Other payments	14,721	9,805	-	24,526	30,679
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>143,616</b>	<b>70,578</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>214,194</b>	<b>214,692</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>143,616</b>	<b>70,578</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>214,194</b>	<b>214,692</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>4,284</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,679</b>	<b>20,396</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>71,294</b>	<b>23,059</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>94,355</b>	<b>73,959</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>75,578</b>	<b>23,454</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>99,034</b>	<b>94,355</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Main TMC church funds	75,577	-	-
	TMC Property Restricted funds	-	5,015	-
	Internal organisation balances:	-	-	-
	Family Work Project	-	16,864	-
	Parent & toddler group	-	1,504	-
	Net work group	-	71	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>75,577</b>	<b>23,454</b>	<b>-</b>
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))		Agreement Error	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		REVD PAM STRANKS	?	
		JACKIE PALMER	?	

Charity Name TAVISTOCK METHODIST CHURCH		No (if any) 1130587		CC16a
<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>				
For the period from	Period start date 01/09/16	To	Period end date 31/08/17	

Workings:

TMC Total check	TMC Unrestricted
£	£

135,257	118246
209	99
9,808	9808
30,407	19746
-	
-	
-	
-	
175,681	147,899
-	
-	
-	
-	
175,681	147,899

TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	TMC Restricted	Family work	Parent & toddlers	Network
£	£	£	£	£

43,582	17011	23508	2463	600
110	110			
-				
14,781	10661	3823		297
12,500		12500		
-				
-				
-				
70,973	27,782	39,831	2,463	897
-				
-				
-				
-				
-				
70,973	27,782	39,831	2,463	897

78,775	78,775
14,100	14,100
40,404	9,512
9,265	9,265
17,243	17,243
14,721	14,721
-	
-	
-	
174,508	143,616

-				
750				750
30,892	30,892			
-				
29,131		29,131		
9,805		7,174	2,423	208
-				
-				
-				
70,578	30,892	36,305	2,423	958

-	
-	
-	

-				
-				
-				

174,508	143,616
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70,578	30,892	36,305	2,423	958
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1,173	4,283
-	
79,419	71,294
80,592	75,577

395	-	3,110	3,526	40	-	61
-		-	-	-		-
23,059	8,125	13,338	1,464			132
23,454	5,015	16,864	1,504			71



### 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\*):

(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.

\* Please circle as appropriate

Name

MR A. D. BAKER FCA

Signature

A. D. Baker

Relevant Professional qualification or body

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Address

BEDFORD CHAMBERS  
BEDFORD SQUARE  
TAVISTOCK, DEVON PL19 0AD

Date

20/6/2018

## **TAVISTOCK METHODIST CHURCH - ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES - Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017**

Following, are some abbreviated extracts from reports to our Annual General meeting that demonstrate in more detail the activities and achievements of Tavistock Methodist Church in the year.

The Family Work Project, through which the Church aims to serve and support families in the community, continues to thrive. Each of their reports shows the large number of activities run to support children and young people and their parents, especially those in one-parent and complex families. This is a project financed by voluntary giving and certain grants.

The Parent & Toddler groups run from church (five each week) continue to be extremely popular and a way of supporting and connecting with many families from the community.

The church provides a monthly hot lunch for anyone who wishes to attend called Open Door. This provides a chance for isolated people from the community to experience companionship in a warm, friendly and secure atmosphere and continues to be very well attended.

Our property team keep the premises in a good state, not only to facilitate our own worship but also to maintain and further our service to the community. The next major expenditure planned is to provide new kitchen facilities. Most work on the building is financed by voluntary giving.

Our ministers also meet regularly to pray and build on friendships with church leaders from other denominations in the Tavistock area. We believe these inter-church relationships are an important part of ensuring we serve our community in the best way possible and enables mission that one church congregation itself could not carry out on its own. We meet and worship regularly with other local churches and work together in a range of activities including Street Pastors (providing a volunteer Christian presence on the town centre streets late at night on Fridays & Saturdays), School Pastors (a volunteer Christian presence in the local college once a week at lunchtime), Prayer in the Square (opportunity for passers-by to come for healing prayer in Tavistock town square), Healing Rooms (a once a week opportunity for anyone from the community to come for healing prayer in privacy), Tavistock Area Debt Advice, Tavistock Food Bank, Mentoring of students in the local secondary school and Open the Book (where volunteers take bible stories into primary schools and present them in an accessible fun way) . There are also regular supper meetings organised jointly by local churches open to all the community and advertised in the local press, (separate events for either men or women), held at a variety of local venues for anyone interested to come and hear a Christian speaker share about experiences related to their faith and these are very well attended.

Our own Ministers and Church Stewards ensure that they meet together regularly throughout the year to review our activities and make changes according to circumstances, the needs of the congregation or of the wider community.

Within our own church fellowship, many regularly meet in smaller groups either weekly or fortnightly through the year. These “house-groups” are an important point of contact and vital for the life of the church as a whole, providing a place to deepen friendships and explore and pursue issues of our faith. Twice yearly teaching series in the autumn and spring are run to bolster depth of understanding of areas of the Gospels; attended by members of the house-groups in the main, but open to all.

*Eunice Weemys – Senior Steward*

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The principal role of the property team is to be responsible for the maintenance of the church, its buildings and land as a place of worship as well as for all the other activities that happen during the week. This includes fixtures and fittings, small projects, major projects, sustainability and most importantly Health & Safety. An additional responsibility of the property chair is the line management of the Church administrator and caretaker and any recruitment as and when the need arises.

Martin Watts (Property Chair)

## Family Workers' Management Committee

### Current Team:

(0-7)	20 hours/week
(7-11)	20 hours/week
(11-18)	10 hours/week

This project has had another exciting year with a wide variety of activities for families and young people. There is a busy schedule of regular activities as well as many one off events through the year led by the family workers supported by a committed band of volunteers. Details of these are included in the reports from the family workers themselves.

We continue to have links with the Catalyst Team. While the majority of their work is in the local schools, three Catalyst workers, Tim, Laura and Ed run the after school youth club at TMC on a Friday. Although numbers are small this meets a real need amongst these youngsters. The Catalyst team are supported each week by a member of TMC on a rota basis. New volunteers would always be welcome to join this valuable work amongst young people.

The Family Work Project continues to be funded by generous giving from the congregation along with various grants (details given in the statement of family work accounts). As a team we have continued to explore possible sources for future grants although in general these awarding bodies support the initial launch of a project assuming in time the project will be funded locally.

We thank the team for all their work, the ever growing band of volunteers and the generous giving of members of TMC all of whom play their part in bringing the good news of Jesus to the young people and families in our community. Thank you!

### Family work report 0-7 years

**Proverbs 22:6 "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."**

It's been another busy term for the Family Work Project as we seek to see our children and their families grow, deepen and develop in their relationship with God.

### **Regular activities :**

**TMC Toddler & Parent Groups** We have many families coming along weekly to play, sing, enjoy craft and meet friends. Toddlers provides a fantastic opportunity to develop relationships with non-churched families within the area, to show them God's love through our words and actions and to invite them along to other church events. We are blessed with an invaluable team of very dedicated volunteers who run these groups, for whom

we are very grateful. However, in September we will need more helpers, especially for the Wednesday afternoon session.

**Noah's Ark Tots** This weekly bible based toddler group welcomes preschool children (with their parents and carers!) who come to enjoy a time of learning about God, singing, wiggling(!), craft, games and refreshments. This session is attended by a mix of church families plus other families who have come from toddlers and Messy church which is brilliant. This term we have been following a programme called Jesus teaches me, using material from Rainbow publishers. It is so lovely to be able to celebrate the love of God with these littlies and their grown ups!

**Sunday S:CAPE 3-7's** We have a wonderful team of helpers who lead our Sunday morning sessions for these young children. We are using Scripture Union Bubbles material. We usually have between 12 and 16 children attending each week, and we feel that it would be beneficial to divide the group into 2 smaller groups, 3-5 year olds and 6-7 year olds. However to be able to do this we will need some more helpers. It is such good fun and such a blessing to see these very young children growing in their relationship with God, and it is a privilege to be a part of their faith journey.

**Messy Church** Messy church continues to draw many local families who come along for our celebration, craft and fellowship meal. It is especially exciting to see so many 'non church' families enjoying hearing the Word of God in such an informal (some may say slightly chaotic!), fun environment. We could do with some more people from within our congregation to come along and participate at Messy church, just to sit at a craft table and chat to the families. We are happy to run a training event if you find the prospect of chatting to new families a bit daunting. Thank you so much to all who do help at Messy, with craft, preparing food, setting up and clearing up, leading the celebration and praying for us. It is a huge team effort and wouldn't happen without our brilliant team of volunteers.

**Prayers for our Children** Once a month a group of us meet to pray specifically for our children and the children of others. We welcome any parent who wants to come along and have us pray for their child (of any age!) and we also take prayer requests. This is a very special time of closeness to God and we have had some wonderful answers to our prayers.

## **Special events**

**Toddler Eggstavanza** At the end of March we celebrated Easter with the Toddler Eggstavanza, a fun filled morning of themed craft, play, singing and yummy hot cross buns. For the first time this year we included some Christian craft alongside the usual chicks and bunnies, and it seemed well received, which was good. Also, each child was given an age appropriate book of the Easter story to take home. It was a nice opportunity to meet families from all of the different toddler groups. Thank you very much to everyone who helped make this a very successful event.

**Easter experience** Tavistock Primary school approached us to ask if we would be running the Easter Experience again this year. A team of us provided a reflective telling of the Easter story for KS1 children with craft activities. It was so lovely to see the children so thoughtfully listening to the true story of Easter, and some of the questions asked about the death and resurrection of Jesus were very meaningful. It was obviously the first time some of the children had heard the Easter story.

**Easter S:CAPE** We had a great time sharing the story of Easter with local children at the Easter S:CAPE holiday club. A morning of craft, games and activities all themed around the story of Jesus's death and resurrection. We pray that seeds will have been planted into the hearts of those children who attended, and that we will have the opportunity to nurture them at future events.



**Dadzone** This Saturday morning outreach event for men with their children continues to be popular and well attended. We provide themed craft and activities, a crèche area for very littlies, bacon rolls and drinks. It is lovely to see Dads spending quality time with their children, chatting to one another, and to have the chance to get to know them a little bit better. We get lots of positive feedback and hope to continue running this event every couple of months. Thank you to all the men from TMC who come along to support this event, and who are establishing relationships with these young families.

None of this work could have taken place without the fantastic work, support, commitment and help of the incredible team of volunteers! It is with truly heartfelt thanks that I extend my enormous gratitude to each and every person who has helped. I praise God for all his wonderful faithfulness, goodness and grace! May we all be open to His guidance and direction for the coming term!

## **Family Work** (7-11yrs) May 2017

*And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples.” John 13: 34-35*

It remains a great privilege to be part of the TMC family work team. The opportunities, experiences and blessings of the job are amazing. The family work with children aged 7-11yrs aims to provide a next step of activities for those already taking part in events or clubs provided by TMC in their younger years while being accessible to anyone who comes along for the first time. The work also builds on relationships with whole families and focuses on continuity and progression in provision while also aiming to be dynamic, responsive to needs and fresh. We continue to provide many events and activities for children while looking for new ways to take them forward in order to build further relationships with the families that we meet and in so doing to seek opportunities to share the Gospel. Alongside outreach activities, we continue to teach and encourage discipleship of the children within TMC as they grow in their faith and take their next steps.

**Sunday S:CAPE Children’s Club** is a great time of fun, worship, prayer, teaching and discipleship that takes place during the 10:45 service. Between 10 and 30 under 11yr old children attend Sunday S:CAPE sessions each week. Our next special event is the ‘S:CAPE & RE:ACT Presentation Service’ on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

**Trailblazers Youth Club** is a time when the children hear the word of God each week within a traditional youth club. We currently have 60 members and a growing waiting list. We’re looking forward to our family games and BBQ nights planned for this term. Please pray for the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with parents as well as children through youth club events.

**Den building afternoon** – this upcoming event is for children aged 7-11yrs and their parents or carers. The idea is to have an afternoon of outdoor fun followed by a campfire. Through this event we hope to build relationships with the children and families that we already have contact with through other events such as Youth Club.

**School assemblies** continue to be both great fun and a blessing with 22 assemblies each term across 11 local schools. Each school assembly includes a song, challenges, story and prayer and each has the overarching aim of sharing the message of God’s love for everyone. Assemblies continue to be an exciting opportunity to share the gospel with not only the children of Tavistock but also their teachers.

**Easter S:CAPE Holiday Club afternoon** – this was our big Easter event. The event combined fun, games, challenges, singing, dancing, craft, an Easter egg hunt and the story of Easter. Over 70 children attended.

**Summer S:CAPE Holiday Club** We are currently planning our Summer S:CAPE holiday club week for 5-18yr olds which will take place at the end of July. This year it’s called ‘Parable Power’ and will explore 5 of the parables of Jesus. It promises to be another great holiday club week with opportunities to share the love of Jesus with children and parents in fun and interactive ways.

**Messy Church** continues to flourish with a dedicated team of people facilitating it. It has been really encouraging to see many new families and people of all ages sharing in crafts, a celebration (story, songs, prayer, talk), a meal for everyone and of course lots of fun and fellowship. Messy Church is centred on sharing the message of Jesus and is a great opportunity for people of all ages to both serve and receive together. It runs monthly on the second Thursday of each month from 4.30-6.30pm – whatever age you are you are welcome to come along. At present, 70 -100 people attend each Messy Church.

### **School visits**

It was a privilege to welcome the year 5 classes from Tavistock Community Primary School to TMC at Easter. To facilitate the Religious Education syllabus, we ran interactive sessions explaining the Easter story, life after death and why Jesus died. Sessions for other year groups are planned for later this term.

**The 9:15 Service** remains a lively event that we regularly invite families to attend. God continues to bless this weekly event and as it grows we need to look at ways to take people forward not only through it and within it but also outside it. It has been a real blessing over the last few months to welcome more new families and to see the team of people leading and facilitating the service in various ways grow. Thank you to all who do so much at the 9:15. If anyone feels called to serve at this outreach service please do contact me.

### **10:45 Service**

It's great to see an increasing number of children and families attending the 10:45 service. The all age nature of the first 15 minutes is really blessing the children, young people and families that attend.

**Children and Youth Council** - This consists of members of our Sunday morning children's and youth groups meeting once a term to share their views, ideas and experiences of the working of their church. Their views are recorded and taken forward by the Family Work team to stewards, church council or other relevant bodies. March's meeting was postponed but our next meeting is in June.

**Safeguarding** - This remains a priority in all areas of the church and an area that the family work team take very seriously. Role descriptions, taking up references and completing DBS checks for volunteers is now a common part of our role. Thank you to all volunteers who complete this vital paperwork.

**Families** – as a team we aim to maintain good contact with families who attend TMC events or services and provide them with suitable and relevant activities, information and support. This is an important and complex task that is taking an increasing amount of our time. Please pray that our contact with families is well received and accepted.

**Publicity** – We now use text messaging services, group emails and publicity through schools to regularly publicise events. We use of our database to send targeted information. God is really blessing the outreach being made by the family work project and opening doors for future contact.

### **NEW**

We're always looking for new ways to serve children and families and we have a few new ventures planned for the future. Our next event has the aim to celebrate the intergenerational nature of church. If God speaks to you about how we can serve people in new or different ways, please do share this with us.

### **Coming up**

In addition to our weekly events, coming up we have: Den building afternoon, Schools work for Religious Education sessions, youth club family BBQ and games nights, school assemblies and Summer S:CAPE Holiday club. As we advertise in schools and prepare to share the message of God's love through Jesus please pray for the children, families, volunteers, Family Work Team and the event itself.

**Thank you** – The Family Work Project is currently coordinated and led by three paid workers but it is run by the TMC congregation. Without you the project cannot spread the good news of Jesus. Thank you to the huge team of volunteers for your support, dedicated service, prayers and hard work towards this aim. We remain excited about what God is doing.

Ongoing contact with and support of the families that we meet and who attend events and services is also a key part of the project and an area that the whole team works hard on across the age bands. This is also an area that the whole church must be involved in as the number of children, families and young people the church has contact with increases.

Please do contact us with questions, suggestions, offers of help, prayer or just for a chat.

## **Pastoral Care**

**June 2017**

Once again the Pastoral Visitors and many others in the fellowship have been supporting, encouraging and praying for those who have had joys, sickness, bereavements and other difficulties which are so much part of our human life. We so clearly see the strength and relevance of Paul's words to the Romans when he says, 'Be happy with those who are happy and weep with those who weep' as we look across our congregation. The faithful care and love which we see demonstrated by so many who so often go 'the extra mile' means a huge amount to many of us, right across the age groups, who are experiencing difficulties and pressure at various times. Our church motto is 'each one is special, accepted and loved'. It is so important that we should all know that to be our experience at TMC; a safe place where we can have the confidence to share our lives together and that is what we constantly seek to promote and achieve.

Earlier this year we asked the Pastoral Visitors for a breakdown of those to whom they deliver the Link and where they feel able to visit people in their homes. One thing emerging clearly from that was the importance of informal contact at TMC either on Sunday or during the week at Contact Groups where people are able to share together. It is encouraging to see many folk involved in a Contact Group and indeed, sharing refreshments either before or after services on a Sunday. These times are very valuable to us as individuals and also to the corporate life of the church. They are times to encourage, support, and learn but equally times to be supported and encouraged by others around us. Why not join us for refreshments if it's not something you tend to do, or consider becoming part of a Contact Group? Many people in the fellowship find their group a great Pastoral and Social support and Pastoral Visitors are very much involved in different groups.

We do have quite a few folk who find it very difficult to join us in Church for various reasons and the Pastoral Visitors serve them faithfully and consistently. We value and appreciate all they do, so much of it unseen, but all to the life of the church vital.

## **PRAYER REPORT- June 2017**

The first part of this report is always the same, as it needs to be highlighted each time - in case there is anyone new at this meeting or reading this - that the Prayer Ministry is a big part of the life of TMC from making rota's run smoothly to spending much needed time before God, either in intercession, supplication or thanksgiving. As well as prayer by individuals, small groups, contact groups, prayer before and after worship, we also have a variety of groups meeting during the week (and month) for general prayers and also for more focused prayers of intercession. So thank you to all of the prayer team leaders and all of those who are able to be involved in this invaluable role.

There continues to be many ways to be involve in this ministry, and you will find more information (see the Pray Together - Prayer Ministry flier) and contact details of each group **on the Prayer Notice Board** in the vestibule should you wish to get involved, or to point other people to!

### **SINCE THE LAST REPORT THERE HAS BEEN:**

**'Silent Retreat for TMC - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February'**

Back in February/March there were 2 opportunities to attend "Quiet Days" at Buckfast Abbey, one which was held just for TMC and another which was open to all. Twenty-one people from TMC managed to get away to this event, and from the feedback I've received it was a very special time, with the opportunity to just set apart some time to sit in the Lord's presence and to meditate upon some scripture, with the use of the whole grounds to enjoy. Some of the comments were:

*"The day was a wonderful opportunity to put everything else aside and concentrate just on God and what He might want to say. I received a great sense of peace that day and I loved it."*

*"I loved the day we had, it was a precious time with the Lord although a sad time for me God spoke deeply into a situation."*

*"To feel and know the warmth of God's love which changes everything and his streams of living water which flow through us is what spoke to me."*

If there is enough interest, we may be able to run a residential (1 night/2 day) silent retreat at Buckfast, hopefully in the Autumn.

#### **Other Retreats - to mention just a few**

In case you are interested in attending other similar retreats:

At **Buckfast Abbey**, the Plymouth Diocese also run other retreats during the year (for a day/a weekend & also 5 day retreat), please feel free to take a leaflet from the Prayer Ministry Notice Board.

The **Maranatha Community**, also run 5 day retreats which several of us from TMC have attended - see their website for more info: [www.maranathacommunity.org.uk/retreats](http://www.maranathacommunity.org.uk/retreats)

Their next event is on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July from 10-4pm, and is to be held at Lukesland, Harford, Ivybridge, PL21 0RF. The title of the Quiet Day is "An Oasis in a Desert of Sound. (To book please contact Joy 01752 895946 or [jandr@davies379128.plus.com](mailto:jandr@davies379128.plus.com)).

Also **Lee Abbey** run programmes and retreats, and so please see their website for more info and dates: [leeabbeydevon.org.uk](http://leeabbeydevon.org.uk)

#### **Sunday 10.45am Service Prayer Team - (Available for prayer after a service)**

The prayer team continues to support people that come for prayer with love compassion and a listening hear. I would like to thank the fifteen members of the prayer team for their commitment to prayer ministry. We take comfort in the reality that we are loved by God and he has our best interests at heart.

#### **Sunday 9.15am service & the 10.45am Weekly 'Prayers of Intercession' Rota**

There are still a requests for more volunteers for these rota, so please consider if you'd like to be a part of this team - all are welcome.

## **Monday – 7.30-8.15am & Friday 7.30-8.15am prayers**

These morning prayer opportunities are currently supported by a small group of people and as mentioned in the last report **it would be great to see more people at them**. Please challenge yourselves as to whether you are able to and whether you'd like to come along and join us. We spend time praying for the events and outreach work here at TMC and with TACT, and for individuals who need lifting before the Lord. This is also the time that we pray for any prayer requests found in the prayer box in the foyer.

## **Global Outreach: Report to the Annual General Meeting - June 2017**

### **Background**

For those relatively new to TMC, we have supported a charity called Mind the Gap for well over 10 years. Initially this work was running a home for orphans and abandoned children ; it accommodated around 30 children. Over the last 5 years Jenny has been working on a vision to extend the provision offered to a larger number of children who are cared for in family situations for as long as the children need (ie, they are not asked to leave at 16). This vision is being brought about by the purchase of a farm (already done) and by the building of up to a dozen “homes” on the farm, with each home having its own “house-parents” so that the children accommodated form trusting relationships that offer the children stability in a turbulent world. So far 2/3 homes exist and another is being worked on. In addition, the aim is to give the children an enhanced education. State education is available but is not of the highest standard so this is supplemented by the homes. In addition the farm offers the children the opportunity to play and work. The farms produce is used in the homes and some is sold (they have around 1,000 chickens so are able to sell large numbers of eggs locally).

### **Our role**

TMC is one of a number of churches in the UK that supports Jenny and Mind the Gap in its work. They also receive support from a number of churches in other countries. We do 3 things over the course of the year to support Jenny:

1. Host Jenny for a weekend, usually in October.  
Jenny tries to visit all supporting churches at some point in the year in order to update them on the work and set out her vision for the medium term future of the project. Jenny is an excellent communicator who challenges us to offer backing in different ways.
2. Prayer.  
We are trying to ensure that Jenny's needs are a focus for our prayers frequently in services. Ideally this should happen once a month but is sometimes less frequent for a variety of logistical reasons.
3. Financial support.  
We try to arrange a variety of activities to raise money for Mind the Gap and the children they support. The main one of these is a retiring offering at the time of Jenny's visit but other social events are also undertaken to raise Mind the Gap's profile and to raise funds.

## **ECO-CHURCH: REPORT TMC AGM JUNE 2017**

### **WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO DO?**

Since March 2016 we have been reviewing aspects of our life together to ensure it reflects care for God's Earth, with the aim of applying for an Eco-Church award. This national scheme, launched in 2016, involves logging progress through an online survey which covers five the areas of church life listed below. Details are on [www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](http://www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk), along with a number of helpful resources and case studies.

### **HOW FAR HAVE WE GOT?**

Nearly, but not quite, at **bronze**. The overall award is only given when all 5 areas score at least at that level.

### **Worship and teaching: silver**

Our worship, teaching and prayer across the age groups sometimes focuses on celebrating creation and caring for the earth, but there is scope to develop this.

### **Management of church buildings: bronze**

A number of “good housekeeping” measures are well established eg recycling, choice of cleaning and office materials. The kitchen upgrade has helped energy efficiency, but the Property Committee recognise the scope for further steps to reduce energy use (and costs), for example through introducing LED lighting. There is also scope to switch to purchasing power from renewable sources when the contract is next renewed.

### **Land: bronze**

Good work has been done in the past to make the land at the back of the church wildlife friendly, but we need to find volunteers to keep this up, and to introduce new features (perhaps with advice from Tasty Tavi).

### **Community and global: silver**

We have given support to initiatives addressing environmental problems, and calling for action eg on climate change, and have met with other churches in Devon who share these concerns. Our events include outdoor activities, and we often use local and FairTrade food. We can take this further, to help raise awareness among our members and the wider community.

### **Lifestyle: not yet at bronze**

While we occasionally mention opportunities for people to show care for the earth in their individual and household choices, we are not communicating this regularly as a core part of a faithful lifestyle. We can get to bronze with some steps to inform and challenge those who worship with us, eg on the impact of their choices on transport or shopping.

### ***RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AGM***

Ask that environmental impact is taken into account when TMC energy contracts are renewed.

Encourage all groups within the church to reflect care for the earth within their teaching, prayer and practical action.

Promote opportunities for people to volunteer for initiatives that help the environment, both within TMC and in the wider community.