



BUXTON METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

AND ACCOUNTS

**for the year ending
31st August 2023**

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Name of Church: **BUXTON METHODIST CHURCH**

Name and address
for correspondence: Rev'd Andrew Parker
Chapel Street
BUXTON
Derbyshire
SK17 6HX

Charity status: During 2009 Buxton Methodist Church became a registered charity.
Number **1129654**

MEMBERSHIP OF BUXTON CHURCH COUNCIL 2022/23:

Rev Andrew Parker	(Chair)	Church Appointed members:	
Dick Silson	(Circuit Steward)	John Anfield	Glynis Leyland
Peter Johnson	(Circuit Steward)	Sue Anfield	Kate MacLean
Wendy Jones	(Church Steward)	Beryl Blackwell	Anna Quick
Ian Stubbs	(Church Steward & Treasurer)	Ann Bradwell	Helen Mirtle
Ron Sinclair	(Church Steward)	Angela Crawford	Pip Strachan
Isabel Sinclair	(Church Steward)	Gwen Cokayne	Bridget Ball
Anne-Marie Bentley	(Church Steward)	Nick Taylor	Jackie Cowlshaw
		Robin Evison	Christine Hodkinson

Number of Church Members as at 31st October 2022: 93

AIMS AND ORGANISATION

Buxton Methodist Church has accepted the definition of its aim and purpose given by the Methodist Church in Britain. We exist to:

WORSHIP:

Increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

LEARNING AND CARING:

Help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care

SERVICE:

Be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

EVANGELISM:

Make more followers of Jesus Christ

The Managing Trustees of Buxton Methodist Church are the 'Church Council', which is responsible for overseeing the life and mission of the church in accordance with our stated aims and objectives and in accordance with the Constitutional Practices and Discipline of the Methodist Church. It consists of people elected from amongst the members of the church and those who are members by virtue of their office.

Several sub-committees are appointed by the Church Council to assist it in its work and are responsible to it.

The Church Leadership team and Church Stewards, elected by the church members, ensures, with the minister, that Church Council Policy is carried out and they have responsibility for the day-to-day life of the church.

REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS 1/9/2022 – 31/8/2023

Church Mission Plan

We continue to review and update our mission plan keeping our focus on the vision for our church as:

'All are welcome and all are working together for God in our community' and 'our aim is to be a cohesive, caring church community. Learning, worshipping and witnessing to the love of God'.

WORSHIP

- Worship is central to our life. We seek to relate our spirituality and worship to the needs of this world and the community. We aim to provide worship that is relevant and accessible for all. Our weekly Sunday morning services are attended by about 60 – 70 people, with ages ranging from under 5's, through teens and up to those who have attended the same church for over 70 years!
- We have continued to provide a monthly online service via the zoom platform. There remains a small number of people who for various reasons cannot attend church in person and appreciate this opportunity to join in worship and remain connected with the church family.
- We hold a monthly evening informal service – Praise@6 - which provides a time for singing, learning new songs, discussion and activities.
- We have continued a quarterly pattern of quiet reflective services using chants from Taizé. The quiet and reflective aspect to this service is in contrast to many of the usual services and is appreciated by people both from the Methodist Church and ecumenically.

SERVICE

- Our Saturday Café continues and is busy with its regular clientele.
- Fair Trade church: We continue to promote Fairtrade and use Fairtrade products whenever possible.
- All We Can: We continue to support All We Can as a partner church and regularly hold collections and support their appeals.
- The Church Council makes donations annually amounting to 10% of our regular giving income. This is shared between the following regular contributions: Methodist Mission in Britain Fund; Methodist Fund for World Mission; Action for Children; All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development); Methodist Fund for Church Property and JMA, and local charities chosen on an annual basis. Additionally we raise money for local causes and national and international appeals throughout the year. We participate in Christian Aid Week.
- The church is a major provider of high quality rooms and facilities for the local community.
- Our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides continue to meet and maintain very good numbers.

- Buxton Festival Fringe: The church is well used as a venue for the Buxton Fringe and a number of concerts are held during the three week festival.
- This year the 'Raise the Roof' campaign has been a significant focus of our resources in terms of time and finance. There was a very successful campaign to raise money through grants and this was supported by consultation with the user groups who provided letters of support for this work. The building work took place during a 12 week period in early summer, repairing a number of different problem areas on the roof, particularly over the community rooms. Arrangements were made to allow access for a limited number of people to see the work close at hand. This enabled people connected with church and representatives from user groups to have unique viewing of both the church and across the town. There are a few on-going snagging issues but we hope these will be resolved during the 12-month defects period. Issues with the roof over the main chapel await further funding.

LEARNING and CARING

- We held a study group through Lent using the 'Exploring the Void' material based on the film 'Touching the Void'. This attracted people who don't normally join study groups.
- 'Inbetweeners' took part in the annual Christian Aid sponsored walk and what is becoming the traditional snowdrop walk.
- Funerals: The minister took a number of funerals in the name of the church and families are invited to the annual memorial service in December.
- Weddings: Following the Church Council decision to allow same sex marriages, we were delighted to be the venue for our first same sex marriage in May.
- Pastoral Work: The church aims to be a caring community for both its members and non-members alike. The Pastoral group meets once a quarter and tries to make sure pastoral contact is maintained with those in times of need. This may be through visits, phone calls and sending cards at Christmas and Easter.
- Churches Together in Buxton has struggled due to illness of the CTiB chair and irregularity of meetings. There was however shared ministry at the outdoor Remembrance Sunday service and Annual Wells Dressing Festival.
- Sunday Club: The Sunday Club provides a wonderful weekly opportunity for children to come together, learn and build friendship both with their peers and with those in the wider congregation. The number of children remains steady at about 6 – 10.
- The weekly Baby and Toddler Group provides a much-needed time for adults and pre-school children to meet, play and interact.
- Holiday Club: This year our theme of 'Team of Champions' led us to think about being part of Jesus' team, what it means to support one another, all having a role to play and using our skills to the best of our ability. During the week, 25 adults volunteered in many different roles from catering to tidying up and 30 children enjoyed the crafts, music, games and activities.
- 3Generate Group: This group of young folk aged eight and over, meets once a month for various activities. The highlight of the year is attending the national Methodist 3Generate weekend at the NEC. This year a group of nine of our 8 - 12 year olds joined over a

thousand others from all over the country to explore faith in a wide variety of ways. To help towards the cost of the weekend the group did sponsored events through the year.

- Safeguarding: We continue to maintain our church as a safe place to meet and review our procedures as and when necessary. The Methodist Foundation Module training is offered every 6 months and we invite those who are new to their role and those who need refresher training to attend the class on our premises.

EVANGELISM

- We publish a quarterly magazine containing a variety of information from the groups and different events which covers the diverse life of the church community.
- The weekly sheet has also become a significant publication and is very much appreciated by those who receive it in hard copy or by email.
- We also have an increasing presence on Facebook with regular posts and photos about events and activities.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Like many voluntary organisations, Buxton Methodist Church faces a challenging time trying to continue as an active church for all ages and maintain a busy community facility. The church is blessed with good resources in terms of finance, skills and people and we continually seek to enable people to find roles for which they are suited. We want to explore how we can involve our building users from outside the congregation on the management of our community facilities.

It is encouraging that new people continue to join the congregation and comment that they find a warm and welcoming church. In particular this year we have welcomed several families from Nigeria, who have settled in Buxton where they have found work in the social care sector and a number of early-retired couples.

Andrew Parker
Minister

Annual report for the year ending 31st August 2023

Treasurer's comments

Our income has been just over £100,000 more than in the previous year due to the grants received and the Gift Day for the 'Raise the Roof' project, which totalled £126,400. Expenditure was also £100,000 more as a result of paying for these repairs, £182,000 in total. The funds needed to make up the shortfall were made by drawing on our reserves and a bequest. Excluding the 'Raise the Roof', income from regular giving and lettings was similar to the previous year and café income increased by £2,000, this being the first full year of regular cafes since covid restrictions.

The main increase in expenditure was due to energy costs, as predicted last year. Gas and electricity costs were £10,487 against £4,800 for the previous year. There were also increases in the cost of insurance and water. New energy contracts came into effect from September 2023 which will reduce the amount we spend in this present year.

Ian Stubbs

Treasurer

February 2024