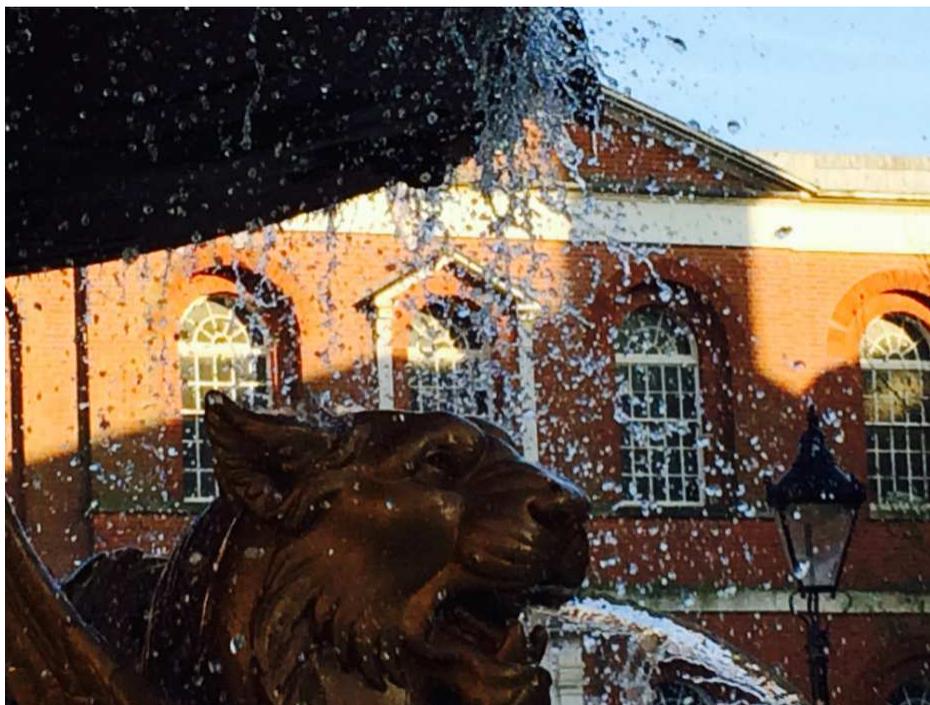


**BISHOP STREET METHODIST CHURCH, LEICESTER**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND  
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2015**



Bishop Street Methodist Church  
10a Bishop Street  
Leicester LE1 6AF  
Charity Number 1129068

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The church community consists of people from a variety of countries and backgrounds. Many work unsocial hours and find church attendance difficult, some are seeking work or have low incomes, some are unable to work, some are students, a few are asylum seekers, some are families with small children, some are retired. Bishop Street welcomes such a diverse community and tries to be sensitive to differing needs, and responsive to new initiatives, changes and ideas.

As a church in the city centre, many vulnerable people pass through its doors. Its premises are widely used by a very diverse cross-section of the city centre community - which includes people living in the locality and large numbers who travel into the centre from across the city and county. Christians from the Leicester area, and community organisations with no Christian background, all contribute to activities on the premises which enhance community life and support the marginalised.

This Annual Report of the Trustees of Bishop Street Methodist Church, highlights the work and activities undertaken by the church from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 to August 31<sup>st</sup> 2015. September 2015 marked the start of the church's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, with special services, concerts, meals, and returning ministers invited to preach. The life and work of the church is underpinned by its mission statement:

**The Mission Statement of Bishop Street Methodist Church is:**

to serve people in Leicester City Centre

In practice this happens through worship and mission, the aims being that:

**In worship we:**

- deepen our understanding of being a disciple of Jesus
- are challenged to respond both individually and corporately to that discipleship in mission and service.
- open ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit.

**In mission we:**

- embody the message of the love of God for all people
- prioritise activities which contribute to well-being and spiritual growth
- give special support to those marginalised by society
- provide accessible ways in which people can encounter Christian faith

**BISHOP STREET: A BIRD'S EYE VIEW**

<b>CHURCH LIFE</b>	<b>OUTREACH PROJECTS</b>	<b>BUILDING USE</b>	<b>ADMIN</b>	<b>PROPERTY &amp; FINANCE</b>
Worship	Art & Spirituality	Community Groups	Governance	Maintenance
Sunday School	Café	Concerts	Structure	Leases
Students	Heritage	Events	Management	Finance
Elderly	Talks at the Chapel	Exhibitions		
Vulnerable Churches & Faith Groups		Other churches		

## 2. CHURCH LIFE

### a. Worship

The Church is open 7 days a week and many people use it for private prayer. On Sundays, morning worship continues, together with Prayers at 1pm on Mondays and Wednesdays and a Bible Study at 12noon on Thursdays and a Communion Service on the first Wednesday at 1pm. Facilities are offered for baptisms, weddings and funerals, with accompanying pastoral care. Worship consultations are held during the year to which all members of the congregation are invited. All the Bibles were replaced with an updated translation.

The church hosted the Girls Brigade Centenary parade service, a service for the Royal College of Nursing, and a Leicester-wide Good Friday Service. It participated in Sing Christmas with Radio Leicester when Christmas Carols were sung in Town Hall Square, had a Church Christmas meal and organised Carols in the Café.

The membership and attendance at worship stands at 67 at the end of the Methodist year August 2015.

Church members were involved in a visit to the Church by Year 6 from Charnwood school, who came to learn about different aspects of the work of the Church.



## **b. Sunday School**

19 different children attended Sunday School on more than one occasion during this year. The children go to their class during the morning service and return at the end to tell and show the congregation what they had been doing. The themes during the year included the Gospel of Mark and Jesus by the Lakeside. The children also participated in the annual Nativity Play. The 3 regular teachers are helped by volunteers. There is a monthly Bible study for children who can read.

## **c. Students**

The church welcomed students from De Montfort and Leicester Universities to the morning service, and at the beginning of the academic year took them to a meal at a local restaurant. Many of the students participate in the activities at the chaplaincy centres at their university.

## **d. The Elderly**

A weekly 'pop-in' provides a meeting point for pensioners and the bi-monthly 'Elders' Gathering' has become a regular part of church life. It is attended by many who cannot get to church on a Sunday so a short act of worship, a time of fellowship and a tea is appreciated.

## **e. Work with the Vulnerable**

As well as supporting the work of the British Red Cross, and the City of Sanctuary in Leicester, the church continued to support asylum seekers within the congregation.

Open Church, on Mondays, in addition to serving refreshments, also provides a drop-in for a number of long-term unemployed people and people with mental health issues.

## **f. Churches & Faith Groups**

The church is an active participant in Churches Together in Leicester City Centre, which promotes ecumenical co-operation in the city centre. It also has links with the Leicester Council of Faiths, for which it offers rental space. Working with Christians Aware, it hosted a series of talks with people of other faiths during inter-faith week. As a church within the Leicester Trinity Circuit and the Northampton Methodist District, the church participates in the wider life of the Methodist Church.

## **3. OUTREACH PROJECTS**

### **Talks at the Chapel**

An initiative open to everyone, focuses on a topical subject for an hour from 6.15pm-7.15pm on a Thursday. The topics were:

- Folk Song and Dance practitioners and collectors in the Great War - Alison Skinner
- Wilfred Owen: War, religion and poetry - Richard Gill
- More Christmas Music - Neil Crutchley
- New Research in to the Literature of the New Testament - David Palmer
- Richard III talks - Richard Gill, Miriam Stevenson
  - The Royal Image
  - Richard III's Leicester
  - Richard III, Man of Prayer
- The Great War, God and T.S. Eliot - Richard Gill
- St Mark ... the end or the beginning? - Revd Stephen Foster
- Musical Responses to War - a recital by Revd David Clark

## Art and Spirituality

Activities have included:

- A banner making workshop
- Exhibition of Church Banners
- Creative Worship evening
- Contemplative Photography evenings
- Puppet making sessions for a giant puppet nativity,
- Women weaving Wisdom: an interfaith weaving project
- Afternoon Art retreat

## Cafe

The Chapel Café continues in the church foyer and is open 6 days a week. It is managed by the Zinthiya Trust who support vulnerable women to establish or re-establish themselves in the workplace. It provides a friendly and welcoming place for people to meet over coffee, lunch or afternoon tea. It often provides refreshments for events taking place in the church.

## Heritage

The Heritage room was open to the general public for the first time on Heritage Open Doors day on Saturday 13th September 2014 when 83 people visited the room. It was open again in March 2015 and June 2015 when the church hosted exhibitions relating to city and national Heritage themes. Information has been collected for an exhibition of World wide Methodism focusing on the background of members of the congregation for display in September 2015

A video camera has been purchased to enable a record to be made of the features in the city centre associated with John Wesley and the early days of Methodism in the city. It will also be used to record the conservation and restoration work on the organ and its casework during 2016-7. The team have continued to add to the photographs and information boards on display, complete the booklets on the named men on the War memorials and revise and reprint the leaflet about the church and its history. They have consulted with the museums conservation office about ways in which paper archives and photographs can be stored.

An evaluation form and accounts were submitted to the Methodist Connexion Heritage team in December 2014 when £5849.89 of the Grant of £13,850 had been spent.

## 4. BUILDING USE

### Community Groups

Amongst the users during the year are: Weightwatchers, Education and Youth Services Training courses, Community Cycle project, Chinese (Mandarin) language classes, Community legal advice call-point, 'Yes U Can' Kainé teenager group and



a teen parents group, Kainé gospel choir rehearsals, Victim Support training events, and Disability support advice sessions.

Leicester CND and Leicester Street Pastors use the Church office as their administrative base.

Eleven Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held every week, including a women's and Polish language AA groups. Two Narcotics anonymous groups meet each week.

Other regular and one-of activities include:-

Yoga for Relaxation and health,  
Leicester City Council Christian Fellowship,  
Prayer for Leicester meetings,  
Zimbabwe Human Rights group meetings,  
Coro Nostro choir rehearsal, Educational support 1 to 1 sessions.  
'Sainsbury Veterans' group meetings,  
an amateur film group,  
Guide Dogs support meeting,  
Dance Rehearsals (Spark),  
'Sew Sociable' sewing talks and workshops,  
'In Stitches' needlecraft group,

portrait drawing classes,  
Café Mama breast-feeding support group and breast-feeding  
councillor sessions,  
Pernicious Anaemia society meetings,  
Unite gospel choir rehearsals.

### **Concerts**

Concerts during the year have included 'Humble He', Charlotte  
Carpenter and Coro Nostro choir.

### **Events**

CD and Record fair, Leicestershire Guild of Storytellers, Yoga for  
Relaxation and health. Overnight hospitality for a modern-day  
Jarrow March. 'Everybody's Reading': an evening on English  
accents, Christian Literature Crusade 'author event', Woodcraft  
Folk visit to the city centre.



### **Exhibitions**

'I Witness', a Christian Aid exhibition on Haiti, 'Time to Change'  
art exhibition by a mental health group, U3A Photography  
exhibition, Alan Ross art exhibition, 'Faithful Friends' Art group  
exhibition, David Palmer: New research in to the literature of the

New Testament, Jamie Poole Art exhibition, Images of Leicester's Past - photography and history exhibition by Ruth Joy and Richard Gill, Saving a Century: national exhibition by the Victorian Society, Civic Society Heritage Fair and exhibition, Leicester at War exhibition by Leicester Museums, '12 years' project exhibition by the Zimbabwe Association.

### **Other churches**

The New Life Covenant Church and the International Breakthrough Ministries Church held their weekly services on the premises during the year.

## **5. GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT**

### **a. GOVERNANCE**

The appointment of Trustees and other officers follows the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD). The primary governing body of Bishop Street Methodist Church is the Church Council (the trustees), which is responsible for the general oversight of the church. The Trustees receive no remuneration or other financial benefits.

#### **Church Council**

The Church Council comprising Office holders, elected Church Stewards, elected Church Representatives, Circuit ministerial staff and a Circuit Steward meets at least twice a year. The Council is chaired by the Minister. All decisions taken at Church Council are minuted, and a summary is circulated via the church notices.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

All Church members can attend this meeting and are invited to raise any issue. Church Stewards and Church Representatives are elected at this meeting.

### **b. STRUCTURE**

Bishop Street Methodist Church is part of the Leicester Trinity Methodist Circuit, and the Northampton District of the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The Minister is supported by the following internal groups and committees who report to the Church Council

## **Finance and Property Committee**

The committee prepares accounts and budget and oversees day-to-day finance and property matters.

## **Forward Planning Group**

This group, open to all members of the congregation, meets to plan future activities. It works alongside the Bishop Street 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Group which is arranging events to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the church.

## **c. MANAGEMENT**

### **Money**

The Trustees have agreed financial management arrangements requiring dual signatures on all cheques and BACS payments, and prior approval for all, except minor items, of expenditure.

### **Paid staff and volunteers**

Day to day management of the premises is delegated to the Centre Co-ordinator, Art at the Chapel through the Art and Spirituality worker and the cleanliness of the premises by the cleaner. All employees undergo an annual appraisal and take part in regular review meetings and appraisals.

The Trustees have implemented a Safeguarding policy with appropriate DBS checks for all aspects of the work of the Church with children. The Trustees are implementing a system of formal risk assessment which is reviewed regularly by the Trustees and by relevant sub-Committees.

New volunteers and post-holders within the church undertook the Creating Safer Space Foundation Module safeguarding training organised by the Methodist Church. Volunteers are recruited, selected and supervised according to the Volunteer Policy.

## d. THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees who served the charity were :

<b>Officer holders</b> Revd Fran Rhys (Chair) Mary Gill (Secretary) Martin Briers (Treasurer) Patsy Green (Pastoral Secretary)	<b>Church reps</b> Deirdre Brunning Gillian Butcher Val Daye Leon Dundas Miriam Stevenson Robin Stevenson Sheila Swire
<b>Stewards</b> Frank Agyemang (to May 2015) Williams Agyemang (to May 2015) Margaret Byron Rudairo Chitsenga (to Aug 2015) Margaret Mackley Tony Moore Hope Ncube Gifty Oteng (to May 2015) Tanvi Pate (from May 2015) Stembeni Sakaike (from May 2015)	<b>Circuit reps</b> Jennifer Weston Rev David Vale <b>Circuit Ministers</b> Rev Barnabas Alexander Rev David Willis

## 6. PROPERTY and FINANCE

### a. Property

**General work.** A range of significant improvements and maintenance projects have been achieved over the year. A gas heater was installed in the upstairs Lewis Room, instead of plug-in electric heaters, so all community rooms and the Church office are now well heated. The Heritage Room and Little Vestry have also had wall-mounted electric heaters, with timers and thermostats installed. A small area of roofing in the east yard, which has been in a poor way for some time, has been re-roofed to protect the basement/Pilgrim House fire exit route. New emergency lighting along this route also improves its safety. Plans are in hand to restore the Church organ.

**Leased Properties.** No 10 Bishop Street continues to be leased to the CLC bookshop, the Leicester Council of Faiths and newenglish

design. A solicitor uses a room on the ground floor. The Zinthiya Trust rents No 12 Bishop Street, for use as a women's support centre.

## **b. Financial Review**

Total incoming resources in the year to 31 August 2015 were £87,228 compared with £105,030 in 2014, the reduction being due mainly to one-off grants received in 2014. Church collections increased from £15,969 to £17,600 (including Gift Aid). The total Gift Aid recovery was £5,940 (2014 - £2,081), the increase including some tax due from the previous financial year. £313 of the Gift Aid was allocated to the Organ Fund, £242 to the Benevolent Fund and £69 to the Development Fund, the balance being in respect of the General Fund.

Income from both Lettings and Rent showed slight increases, from £26,142 to £27,308 and £26,849 to £27,283 respectively.

The last of the three annual grants of £6,000 was received from the Northampton District of the Methodist Church for employment and associated costs of the Art and Spirituality worker. £420 was received from Methodist Insurance in settlement of the theft claim in January 2015.

Utility costs (electricity, gas and water) for the church and school rooms increased from £4,852 (2014) to £5,284, the final year of the current 3 year fixed price contract. Salary costs reduced from £24,724 to £21,114 due mainly to the maternity leave of the Art & Spirituality Worker from March 2015. £2,325 of the Salary Costs were met from the District Grant for the Art & Spirituality Worker. Repairs and Maintenance reduced from £21,292 to £11,070, the main item of £2,963 in respect of new heating for the Church Office being met by an anonymous donation.

The final snagging items in respect of the Development Work, completed in 2012, were attended to and a final payment in respect of the retention (less adjustments) of £2,817 made to the contractors. As there was insufficient money in the Development

Fund to cover this, a suitable transfer will be made from the General Fund.

At the end of the financial year the only loan outstanding was £25,000 from the Leicester Trinity Circuit.

Donations from Church Funds during the year totalling £1,440 were made to Methodist Church Connexional Funds, Leicester @ The Cross, Leicester Council of Faiths, Leicester Street Pastors, Action for Children, LWPT, MHA Amenity Fund and Leicester City of Sanctuary and a further £370 raised from collections for external organisations for JMA, the Methodist Church World Mission Fund and Christian Aid.

The accounts include a small restricted fund held, and administered, on behalf of Churches Together in Leicester City Centre (CTLCC) for which the closing balance was £135 (2013 - £659) and the Benevolent Funds closed at £1,461 (2013 - £1,773). In anticipation of major work being necessary to restore the organ the organ fund has increased to £5,500.

### **Reserves Policy**

Total reserves at 31 August 2015 amounted to £67,232 of which £29,611 was in restricted funds, leaving £37,621 in the general fund. Our policy aim is to hold in reserves sufficient money in our General Fund to cover six months budgeted expenditure i.e. £35,805.

### **Financial Details 2014 to 2015**

The accounts that follow are a shortened version of the financial activities of Bishop Street Methodist Church from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015. A fuller version, which will be submitted to the Charity Commission, can be obtained from the Treasurer, Martin Briers.

**Bishop Street Methodist  
Church, Leicester**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	<b>2014-15</b>	2013-14
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Offerings and Tax recovered	17,600	990	<b>18,590</b>	19,227
Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	237	62	<b>299</b>	346
Lettings and Leased premises	54,592		<b>54,592</b>	53,027
Other receipts	4,971	8,776	<b>13,747</b>	32,429
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>77,400</b>	<b>9,828</b>	<b>87,228</b>	<b>105,030</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Circuit Assessment or Share	17,327		<b>17,327</b>	17,000
Donations	1,440		<b>1,440</b>	2,458
Repairs and Maintenance	10,356	713	<b>11,069</b>	21,292
Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	17,856		<b>17,856</b>	17,436
Other payments	22,016	10,676	<b>32,692</b>	32,823
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>68,995</b>	<b>11,389</b>	<b>80,384</b>	<b>91,010</b>
<b>NET RECEIPTS/ PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	8,405	-1,561	<b>6,844</b>	14,020
Total funds brought forward from last year	29,896	30,492	<b>60,388</b>	46,368
Transfers and adjustments	-680	680		
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>37,621</b>	<b>29,611</b>	<b>67,232</b>	<b>60,388</b>

Cover photograph: Phillip Draycott/  
Bishop Street Contemplative Photography Group, 2015