

Wellspring Church Wirksworth

Annual Report 2015-16

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The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for 2015-16.

Charitable Object

The Charity is a Methodist/Baptist Local Ecumenical Partnership, governed by a Constitution approved by Churches Together for Derbyshire, as Sponsoring Body, and by the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

The principal purpose of the charity is the advancement of the Christian faith, including the advancement of education, community service and such other general charitable purposes in such parts of the United Kingdom and the world as the Church shall determine.

The Church occupies premises at 49 St John Street, Wirksworth, which are held by the Trust for Methodist Church Purposes, on Trusts which are entirely compatible with the above object.

Organisational Structure and Decision making processes

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with the Constitution which requires them to be or to have been publicly baptised as believers or confirmed as believers, professing their faith in Jesus Christ.

In accordance with the Constitution, the members appoint six of their number as Trustees, who together with the Minister and up to four co-opted Trustees are responsible for the day to day running of the church's work and witness, and the financial and legal aspects of the charity. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are appointed by the Trustees.

Members Meetings normally take place six times per year to review the life and witness of the church; consider topics relevant to its witness; receive reports covering all aspects of its life; consider matters brought to the meetings by the Trustees; and generally help the church's life, work and vision.

Objectives and Activities

In order to achieve the principal objective which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as living Lord. Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These services take place each Sunday at both 10.30 am and 6:00 pm. Occasional services at other times and/or in other venues are advertised on the weekly news sheet. There are separate arrangements for children during part of morning services.

The church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of these services. A dedicated minibus service and the passenger lift on the premises assist less active people to participate in morning worship.

Following the retirement of our part-time Baptist minister and the redeployment of our part-time Methodist minister, efforts continue to find the right person to serve as our full-time minister, living in the town, leading and co-ordinating the church's activities, providing pastoral care for the congregation and other people, and equipping and encouraging the membership in their life, Christian witness and service.

The Church runs house groups from time to time for the growth of faith and discipleship in the homes of some members. The Church also runs a combined mid-week Girls' Brigade/Boys' Brigade and a one-day-a-week after-school drop-in with drinks, toast and jam. Our drama/music group produces a number of shows which attract a good audience locally.

In addition to weekly social meetings for coffee on Tuesday and Saturday mornings and a fortnightly evening Methodist Guild, the Church hosts a monthly Memory Café organised by the Rotary Club of Wirksworth for

people struggling with memory loss and their carers. A new project, Easy Meals, has started this year and is open to any member of the local community. It aims to provide a nutritious meal one evening a month for any member of the community. There is no formal charge.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable adults are appropriately vetted with regard to the government's Disclosure and Barring Service.

The church has read the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and is satisfied that the activities outlined above clearly demonstrates that the charity is providing a benefit to the public.

More information on the life and history of the church is available on our website, www.wellspringchurchwirksworth.co.uk.

Achievements and Performance

The Church does not measure the success of its programmes only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship and encouragement. The Trustees recognise that these are difficult to measure, but believe that 2015-16 was a positive year in the life of the church, and that it will be able to pursue its mission purposes next year with renewed enthusiasm.

Since losing our two previous ministers at Easter, the church has been faithfully and admirably served by members of the worship team; by other local preachers; and latterly by Revd Tony Wells, our interim part-time minister.

Four people joined the church during the last twelve months by transfer from other churches, having publicly reaffirmed their faith in Jesus Christ. One church member died during the year. At 31 August 2016, the membership stood at 59, an increase on the previous year. Average attendance at worship services has also increased slightly during the year.

The Trustees were encouraged by remarks made by one of the County Councillors about the positive part the church played in the life of the local community.

Financial Review

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry on its activities from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year.

As in almost every church, the most significant expense during the year has been the cost of ministry. A sizeable but hopefully non-recurrent expense has been the cost of preparing the legal documents necessary to regularize the shared use of our premises and the proposed annex.

The Church expressed its part in the life of the wider church by making grants to national and international Christian organisations and societies with Christian aims and objectives compatible with the church's own charitable purpose. These include the local Methodist Circuit, Baptist Home Mission, BMS World Mission and the Derby Refugee centre.

The Church is heavily dependent on its membership working as volunteers in all aspects of the church's activities, many of which run with little or no impact on the church's expenditure, but nevertheless contribute substantially to the achievement of the church's objectives.

The financial results for the last year, are set out in the accompanying financial statements. They show a comfortable surplus despite heavy spending on solicitors and repairs. This indicates that in a more typical year there will be enough income to fund a full-time minister. For the immediate future, Trustees are satisfied that they have sufficient reserves – together with anticipated on-going income – to enable the church to function effectively. A Reserves policy has been established to provide a cushion against unforeseen expenses.

The Trustees have made an assessment of the major risks facing the church, and are satisfied that there are policies in place to minimise these risks.