



Annual Report 2017

The trustees present their Annual Report and financial statements for September 2016-August 2017.

Main Events 2016-17

The most significant event in the life of Wellspring in 2017 has been the calling and appointment of a full time minister, Rev Kevin Price. Trustees began the process of applying to the Baptist National Settlement Team in November 2016, and Kevin visited the church in January, then in March and April, to talk with the Trustees, attend various church events (eg Memory Café, Brigades, Coffee Stop) and lead worship on 3 occasions. There was a growing sense that God was leading both church and minister to enter into a partnership in ministry and this was affirmed by a unanimous vote at the congregational meeting. Kevin and Lesley moved to Wirksworth in August and the official Welcome and Induction service was held at the end of September at St Mary's Parish Church, both for practical reasons of space, and to celebrate the strong ecumenical links through Churches Together for Wirksworth and District. It was a joyful and memorable occasion

The Church was grateful for the ministerial support offered by Rev Tony Wells until August 2017. His wisdom, humour and commitment were highly valued and we expressed our thanks during a 'Farewell Tea' in August.

Worship both morning and evening has been led by a number of ministers and lay leaders, including our own Worship Leaders, and we give thank for the diversity of styles of worship. 2017 saw the official launch of Wellies, the Sunday morning children's group. Numbers are small but they have become an integral and important part of the worship, often sharing what they have been doing and leading the congregation in prayer.

The dedicated minibus service and the passenger lift on the premises continue to assist less active people to participate in morning worship.

Midweek activities continue to grow in significance and numbers, with the exception of Coffee Stop which has declined in numbers during the year. Memory Café, which celebrated its second birthday in August, and Easy Meals are now well established as Wellspring community events. Crossways drama and music group has rehearsed throughout the year and performed an original piece '*No Chance*' as well as carol singing at two local National Trust Venues and leading a Christmas service. The combined mid-week Girls' Brigade/Boys' Brigade has also enjoyed a good year, though numbers fluctuate, and Jam Club, a one-day-a-week drop-in with drinks, toast and jam, runs in school term time. Fortnightly Guild meetings attract a good group, and they organised a holiday to St Ives in June, which coincided with hot sunny weather and was greatly enjoyed by all who went.

The church has taken a full and active part in Wirksworth's Well Dressing, Carnival and Arts Festival. The well dressing, based on words from Isaiah 58, was much admired by visitors and local people. The Brigade Float, based on the Wizard of Oz story, won the shield for best float in the Carnival procession.

During the Art and Architecture Trail weekend, the church provided a venue for exhibitors as well as a much appreciated Quiet Space.

Looking to the Future - Achievements and Performance

The Church does not measure success only in numbers, including financial numbers, but also in less tangible areas like fellowship and encouragement. 2016-17 has been a positive year in terms of growing friendships, commitment and caring, for members and others in the community. There is sense that Wellspring is becoming known and accepted in the town – we are 'on the map'. The splendid new illuminated sign over the main doors helps to remind people who and where we are.

The Trustees are grateful for the trust and support offered by the congregation, and continue to work hard to encourage the church in seeking to fulfil the agreed Vision, in terms of Worship, Pastoral Care, Reaching out and Property. Slow progress has been made towards achieving the vision for building an annex, but it remains a positive and active project, as groups thrive and there is an increasing need for community space within the town.

Congregational numbers have remained stable, though there have been no new members this year. One church member died during the year, and two moved away. At 31 August 2017, the membership stood at 56.

Financial Review

The financial results for the last year are set out in the accompanying financial statements. Recent expenditure on ministry has been low, thanks to the dedication of our worship leaders and the generous pastoral and leadership contribution made by our interim part-time minister, Revd Tony Wells, on an expenses-only basis.

Despite this, our finances show a deficit over the year. One reason for this is that when we were obliged to discharge Wirksworth's contribution to the Baptist Pension Fund deficit, we were in a position to do so from our funds without having to borrow and incur future repayments. Another significant expense has been the cost of refurbishing the manse, which had been tenanted and is now home to our new minister and his wife.

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 and to support full-time ministry. A Reserves Policy has been established to provide a cushion against unforeseen expenses.

Status

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. It is exempted from registration under Section 30 (2) (b) of the Charities Act 2011.

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

Charitable Object

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.

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.

All people working with children and vulnerable adults have received appropriate training, through the Methodist Safeguarding Scheme, with regard to the government's Disclosure and Barring Service.

Leadership

Ministers: Revd Tony Wells (*until August '17*), Revd Kevin Price (*from 1 August*).

Trustees: Bill Bowmer, Jenny Few, James Hinnells, Paul Heppleston, John Proctor, Peter Slack, Sue Watts, Barbara Wilson, Ali Proctor (*until January '17*).

Secretary: Barbara Wilson

Treasurer: Rob Few