

The **Methodist** Church 

Melbourne Methodist Church  
Annual Report 2018 / 2019

“A year in the life of our  
Church”

# Ministers Report

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I still cannot believe that I am coming to the end of my 6th year as the Minister of Melbourne Methodist church, the years have sped by and during the next weeks the decision needs to be made by myself and the Circuit as to whether I stay beyond 7 years or move on in the summer of 2020. Whichever outcome, I am happy that the church is in very good heart. Recently the church council accepted the growth plan which was put together with the leadership team. That plan and the reports going to the Annual General Meeting show the amazing and diverse amount of things that the church is doing. It could not do these things without enthusiastic and hardworking teams. As Minister I know that I am only one part of the equation and I rely so much on the efforts of everyone to keep the show on the road and running so effectively. So I want to thank you all, for all the things, great and small that you do in the life of this church.

This year has been challenging for me, with a number of health issues. I have had to take more time off for sick leave than ever before. Once again I want to thank everyone for their love and support during the year. I especially want to thank all those who have stepped up to take over things that I was scheduled to do, at Splash the Tea service and elsewhere. I do need to particularly thank Dennis and Ros Smith for the way, often at incredibly short notice, that Dennis has taken up my Sunday preaching appointments. That is perhaps indicative of the love, care and dedication that are the hallmarks of Melbourne Methodist Church.

As you read the rest of the reports I hope you will be excited and enthused about the things that the church is engaged with, that are perhaps outside your own experience. I continue to pray that God will abundantly bless us, as we continue to work for His praise and glory.

John

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There are seven sections in this report. They are...

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# 1. Our Church – The Bigger Picture

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## *The Methodist Church*

Melbourne Methodist Church is part of the Methodist Church in Great Britain which is organised in the following way:

- The Connexion - Methodists are linked together in a 'Connexion' of churches, circuits and districts.
- The local church - The local church is the congregational place of worship, where Methodist members and attenders are nurtured.
- The circuit - A circuit is a group of local churches, served by a team of local preachers and ministers including the superintendent minister. We are part of the National Forest East Circuit and John Hartley is its superintendent minister
- The district - The district serves a geographical group of circuits, ours is the Nottingham & Derby District. The district is led by the district chair, Loraine Mellor.

People from our church are part of the Circuit leadership and help in a variety of ways. Mark Dale is a Circuit Steward and Matt Lee is Circuit Treasurer. There are 17 other churches in this Circuit in Sutton Bonington, Ashby, Coalville, Ibstock, New Sawley and many places in between.

Six of our members, Alan Brady, Mark Dale, Sue Draper, Bob and Margaret Harris and Stephen Wilkinson are Local Preachers and lead services at churches within our Circuit. Andy Whinray is training to be a local preacher. Following his retirement, Rev Dennis Smith continues to worship with us and serves as a Supernumerary Minister.

## *Melbourne Methodist Church Organisation*

Within our church (as in all Methodist churches) there is a structure in place to help the church run smoothly. All major decisions made by the church must be agreed at the Church Council which meets between four and six times each year. The Church Council is made up of representatives from the Annual General Meeting and from all the main groups within the church.

The Annual General Meeting of all church members also appoints the Church Stewards who, along with the minister, form the main leadership group of the church. The stewards meet monthly and help the minister with the overall running of the church. The stewards this year were Ros Smith, Judith Wardell, Becky Whinray, Pam Worrall, Alan Brady, Will Smith and Ben Wilkinson.

## 2. Our Church – on Sundays

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Sunday mornings are busy times at Melbourne Methodist Church.

- The worship leaders, music group and sound desk team meet at 9.30 am to finalise preparations for the service.
- The focal point of our church week happens at 10.30 am when we all meet together to worship God.
- There is a very active programme for the children and young people. All ages are catered for and the groups are run by a wonderful committed team of volunteers.

Reports about each of these follow.

### *Worship Group*

Members of the worship group continue to meet most Thursday evenings to either prepare for the following Sunday or to look at new songs to introduce on a Sunday morning. The worship leaders liaise with the preacher each week and work alongside them to prepare the service. It has been wonderful to have a new worship leader join us in the last year.

Although the Methodist Church has fairly traditional roots, our church tends towards using more modern worship songs.

Anybody is welcome to come along on a Thursday, either just for fun, to get to know the music better or to spend time with us finding out more about what's involved and what we do. Please speak to Joy (863716) or Becky (864468) if you are interested in any way.

### *Junior Church*

We are very blessed to have a thriving Junior Church and Youth provision. The actual number of children fluctuates hugely from one/two children in a group to up to 15 children in a group. This can make planning activities a challenge.

We currently staff a 3-7 year old group (Bubbles), a 7-11 year old group (Xstream), a younger youth group (school year 7 - year 9) and an older youth group (school year 10+). We also support some children individually. Unfortunately we currently don't have enough volunteers to staff crèche, although it is available for parents to stay with their children.

This year we have taken part in 'Forest Church' as a whole Junior Church and Youth and have also held a cake sale for Christian Aid. The children had a great time and raised lots of money!

We would really welcome more volunteers to the team. We try our best to only put people on the rota 3 times a quarter, so it's not a huge commitment and whether you want to help or lead you would be very much appreciated.

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### *Younger Youth Group*

The Younger Youth Group is made up of ten wonderful young people who are currently in Years 7 and 8 at school. Lucy L and Lucy R have the privilege of leading this group on Sunday mornings alongside a fantastic team of helpers. Each one of us in the team are so grateful for the opportunity to spend time with this kind, deep thinking and interesting group of young people.

On the second and third Sunday of each month the Younger Youth Group take part in Bible based discussion and activities. Recent topics discussed include poverty, kindness and worry. On the last Sunday of each month the Younger Youth join with the older youth for a Social Sunday. Social Sunday was designed to help our young people to get to know each other better as the youth at our Church attend six different schools so do not see each other during the week.

Please pray for our Younger Youth that each one of them would know how precious they are to God. Pray that they would begin to recognise God's plans for them and that they would know God's strength and peace as they navigate the sometimes 'choppy waters' of the teenage years.

Please also pray for additional leaders for the Younger Youth Group. (We would love our young people to sometimes be led by people who are not parents of young people in the group ... parents are good, but you can have too much of a good thing!)

### *Older Youth Group*

The older youth group caters for ages 13 and above and has eight members with an average of four attending in any one week. We follow a Bible Study programme on 2nd and 3rd Sundays and then join with the younger youth group on the final Sunday of the month. The group is predominantly led by Becky Wilkinson and Pam with a wide team of helpers.

We started the new school year back in September with a Youth Alpha Style "Christian Essentials" topic including themes such as "Was Jesus Real?" and "How and why should I pray?". Since Easter we have been looking at the theme of Suffering, Justice and Making a Difference. Our themes are chosen according to topics that the group have asked to ensure that their big questions about life and faith are answered.

### *Share & Prayer*

On the first Sunday evening of each month at 7.30 there is an opportunity to share how God has answered and encouraged us in our personal and group prayer times. As well as praying for the work and vision of our church we pray for each other's needs and concerns.

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*Rotas*

We have several rotas in operation for Sundays. There's one for Junior Church, one for Worship Group, one for the Church flowers and one that covers other activities such as welcoming people into church, making coffee, and cleaning the church. As there is so much happening on Sundays these rotas are needed to help the church run smoothly. If you would like to offer to help with any of these activities, or would like more information, please contact any of the Stewards.

## 3. Our Church – on Weekdays

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For us, as individuals within a church family, we live our faith every day of the week, at work, at home and in many other places. We run a wide range of other activities and events which take place on weekdays on our church premises, in the homes of our members and elsewhere. These include:

- Monday – Tiddlywinks - pre-school group
- Tuesday – Nine Months - group for parents with young babies
- Tuesday – Afternoon Tea Service (monthly)
- Tuesday – Men’s Group meets in the evenings
- Wednesday – SPLASH Praise and Play (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of each month)
- Thursday – Worship Group meets in the evenings
- Saturday – Coffee Morning (monthly)

On various evenings house groups and prayer groups meet.

Our Little Wesley’s café is open on several days of the week. A report about this follows.

### *Tiddlywinks*

Tiddlywinks is a toddler group which meets on a Monday morning from 10 am until 11:30 am during term time for children aged between 1 and 2.5 years old and their carers. There is an average of 16 children who come along regularly. It is a structured group involving singing, storytelling, craft, and free play where we were able to chat and get alongside parents and carers. The stories are either from the Bible or based on Christian values. The group runs with 4 regular helpers and one who is on call to cover holidays and sickness. It is a highly valued group within the community and much appreciated.

### *Nine Months – Every Tuesday 9:30 – 11:30 am*

A baby group for parents and babies up to 1 year old, providing a place for parents to chill out, and relax. It’s a group where mainly mums (sometimes new to Melbourne) have the opportunity to meet other new mums and make lasting friendships over a drink and a biscuit. No strings attached, just a quiet space! Denise Bourne runs the group and says “I really enjoy the group and each week there is always laughter.”

Numbers vary, but we always have a good group of mums who want to catch up and spend time together.

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### *Afternoon Tea Services*

The afternoon tea service attracts between 40 and 50 people when it takes place on the third Tuesday of each month. The church is filled with prettily laid tables, each complete with a posy of flowers. The service starts at 2.30 pm, but well before that people are gathering to chat and start completing the word search or puzzles on the tables.

The service begins with two traditional hymns. A delicious afternoon tea is then served. All the sandwiches and cakes are beautifully presented and very much enjoyed. The service then resumes with a meditation or sketch, a 'thought for the day', prayers and finally two more hymns. The Tea Service is attended by a variety of people, some who attend local churches and also those who have come to see this service as their church.

The church receives a lot of comments about how much the service is appreciated. Many thanks to the team of volunteers who make it all possible.

### *MAP (Men at Play) Men's Group*

Seven men meet regularly on Tuesday evenings to socialise and put the world to rights. A Saturday morning walk (open to all men and friends) was undertaken in March starting with breakfast at The Apiary in Castle Donington. Unfortunately a hailstorm interrupted the walk back to Melbourne via Shardlow and the riverbank! As part of a promise auction we transformed a small local garden in a morning helped by wonderful bacon cobs and tea. A weekend away is booked for early September near the Brecon Beacons. On a regular basis the group give support to the church events such as Splash and the tea service, and also help with 'one off' jobs around the church when required.

### *SPLASH!*

Splash is our pre-school play and praise event. The heart of what we seek to do in Splash is to communicate, celebrate and give thanks for the love of God in Christ Jesus. We do this in a way which is accessible to tots and their carers. Splash operates during term time on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in each month.

The doors open at 9:00 am for a time of free play, with good quality refreshments, coffee, cookies, grapes, juice etc. before the session proper begins at around 9:30. The main session begins like our Sunday worship with celebrating birthdays. The Bible story is introduced with a short puppet sketch, followed by a simple worship song, sometimes with instruments, sometimes with actions. The theme is then explored through crafts, before we all come together for 'The Wiggle Song' to get rid of the wiggles so the children can then sit and listen to the story. That's followed by a prayer and another song, and then it's back to free play again. The whole session ends with a blessing song, then the team begin the process of clearing away and putting things back for Sunday worship.

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From September 2019, Splash will have been running for 5 years and the numbers attending from day 1 have been very impressive. We regularly have in excess of 50 children, plus an equal number of parents, grandparents and carers, most of whom have no church affiliation. It is great to see the way some of them have made the transition into the life of the Sunday Congregation. Splash has been and continues to be a great success thanks to the God who leads us and the fantastic team who make it happen.

### *Saturday Coffee Mornings*

The Saturday Coffee Mornings have been going for well over 40 years now and are much valued as a place to meet up with friends over a good cup of coffee. There is a coffee morning at one of the churches in Melbourne every Saturday, with the coffee mornings at the Methodist Church being held on the first Saturday of the month. Many people kindly give of their time to make coffee – and do the washing up! If you feel you would like to help with this please contact Margaret Jackson (864366).

### *Athenaeum*

This year we have held 2 separate sessions. One for year 6 children and one for young people of secondary school age (11-16).

Whilst the younger group was consistently very well attended, behaviour was often challenging and without a sufficient number of volunteers, it was decided that this group would only be able to run safely once a month. Our older youth session continued to run every week, but was less well attended. However, due to this, we were able to develop good relationships with those who attended. We took part in the carnival procession and the young people helped to provide artwork that was displayed over the festival weekend. It is hoped that after the closure of The Athenaeum this summer, the young people from this session will begin to meet in a new way, as a part of our church.

### *Little Wesley's*

Little Wesley's cafe and play area is open two days a week. We welcome parents and carers with their pre-schoolers, babies and toddlers. Our inflatable soft play area is the only one in Melbourne and is a great attraction in all weathers. We host Derby and Nottingham sling library. This is an organisation that lends out baby carriers to parents who may not be able to afford them, or wish to try before they buy. We also host the Melbourne Breastfeeding Support Group. This is an NHS initiative supporting new mothers and their babies. Both of these groups have brought new customers to the cafe that have come back time and time again, some joining other groups such as Splash, 9 Months Baby Group and Tiddlywinks also.

### *House Groups*

There are five established house groups that meet regularly in the evenings, some every week and others fortnightly, or when they are able. The groups use a variety of study materials including books, DVD's and downloaded resources to facilitate discussions. These are valuable times when faith is explored and deepened, bible knowledge is gained and friendships are developed.

A new house group has recently formed meeting on 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings, drawing in those who are unable to attend an evening house group, Around 9 ladies meet for fellowship and the group has quickly knitted together. The group are currently using a DVD series which leads into very challenging and open questions. They are looking forward to meeting in the Annexe very soon!

All the groups welcome new members. If you are interested in joining a group you will be made very welcome. For more details please contact John Hartley.

## 4. Our Church – the Special Events

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During the year our church family arranges different events. Brief reports about the different activities follow.

### *Holiday Club*

Our 2018 Holiday Club was based around the theme of Junior Heroes – children in the Bible who accomplished remarkable things with God. We loved the theme as it shows so clearly that God's Kingdom has children at the heart of it. It ran each day from 10am-12noon for a fun filled and busy week, welcoming children from reception age to Year 5.

Once again, we were blessed by over twenty helpers – adults and teenagers who all dedicated themselves to bless the children who attended. Throughout the week we knew God's presence with us and the 50 children who attended responded really positively to everything that went on.

Many of these same children are 'lined up' ready to come to this year's holiday club. Please pray that God would move each one of them along in their journey with Him. Please also pray for many willing leaders and helpers to come forward so that as a Church we can effectively introduce our holiday club children to our endlessly loving God.

### *Light Party (October 2018) and Easter Party (April 2019)*

These events have now been run for a number of years to try and maintain contact with our Holiday Club children throughout the year. With the onset of GDPR, we are no longer able to

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advertise these events through the school newsletters and so numbers at both events have dropped. Instead, we deliver invitations to about 60 children and we also put posters up around the village.

### *Light Party*

25 Children attended our Light Party this year and we had a wonderful evening of activities and games celebrating Jesus the light of the world. Once again, a highlight of the evening was the torch-light treasure hunt in the Church.

This year, instead of dropping off their children and returning to pick them up at the end, several parents decided to stay at the party with their children. Not only was this very helpful, it was also great to be able to present our message of light and love to whole family groups.

### *Easter Eggstravaganza*

The Easter Eggstravaganza was attended by around 20 children. Throughout the afternoon, we had a range of activities helping the children to understand that the excitement of Easter is found in Jesus' resurrection (and not in the Easter bunny!). We were so grateful to God for giving us another opportunity to share life changing news!

## 4. Our Church – the Special Events

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### *Care For The Family*

This is one of the charities which the church supports financially. We have used their Parent Talk and Marriage DVD courses within the community, in homes, the Athenaeum, and a room in the local pub, thus encouraging dad's to attend. As a church we also encourage church members to attend the Care for the Family events, the most recent of which were Raising Faith in Derby, and Internet and Young People in Leicester.

### *Church Camping Weekend*

For the fourth year running a number of the church family spent a weekend camping together. On the weekend of the 5<sup>th</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup> July we descended on Carsington Fields Caravan Park, near to Carsington Water, set up various sizes of tents and caravans and enjoyed a time of fun, relaxation and fellowship. People arrived to get set up from around 4pm on Friday evening, with about 55 people finally making it at some point during the weekend. After a relaxed Saturday morning we went for a walk to Carsington Water and had a picnic lunch together. While those with little ones stayed to play at the reservoir, others carried on for a longer walk. In the evening we all joined together for a barbeque, toasted marshmallows and had a time of socialising together around the embers. This was a great time for getting to know each other better, especially some of the SPLASH families who had joined us. On the Sunday morning we took our camp chairs to the campsite barn, squeezing in between the bales of hay and machinery for a short service led by John. As always the weekend was a lot of fun and we are already planning for next year.

### *XLP*

The church gives, as part of our annual giving, to a charity called XLP. The charity operates in London, for the benefit of young people who live on estates. It seeks to form relationships with young people through sport and social events. They have double decker buses that they paint and refurbish, to become places to hang out together.

Josh and Ian, who are leaders at XLP, have both been a part of our church family in the past. This is why our church has such strong connections with XLP. Josh, Ian and other team leaders take groups of boys away on activity weekends, one of their regular destinations is with us in Melbourne.

Mini-buses arrive late on a Friday evening, with around 20 boys and leaders to stay in the Athenaeum for the two nights. They spend Saturday and Sunday on organised activities, and leave after lunch on Sunday. Our part in this is to offer a warm welcome and to feed and accommodate them. We provide a Saturday night meal and a Sunday lunch. We also provide food to make breakfast and a packed lunch. Everyone that visits has a great time, and we have watched some of the young people grow up and become members of the leadership team.

XLP visit us again in November this year. There will be requests in the notices for food donations for the weekend, so please help if you can. Do support this amazing charity in any way that you feel able. They are turning lives around at a difficult time, and in a difficult place.

## 5. Our Church – the Practicalities

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In addition to all the activities that take place within our church, much work goes on ‘behind the scenes’.

- People need to be looked after – particularly when they are experiencing difficult times. In the church this is known as ‘Pastoral Care’.
- The church property needs to be maintained.
- Accurate financial records need to be kept and bills need to be paid. Reports about each of these follow.

In addition this year we have undertaken a project to replace the old choir vestry with a new annexe.

### *Pastoral Care Report*

There are countless examples of the many ways in which church members look after and care for each other in times of need. In addition to this the church has a Pastoral Care team who meet regularly with the minister in order to share concerns and make sure that help is given to those who need it. Please let the minister, John Hartley, know if you know of anyone who is ill, in hospital, or would welcome a visit. He has said that he would rather be told twenty times than not at all!

### *Property*

The church uses two buildings to help deliver its mission. The church itself was opened in 1870 and Wesley Hall was built in 1853. With two buildings of this age, just like the Forth Railway Bridge, we face a continual need for maintenance work; whether it is maintaining what we have, or improvements to meet the demands put on it by a successful and growing church, all within a tight budget. It’s worth saying that our vision for growth of the church has resulted in the Annex project (see below).

Our projects this year have included:

- Temporary alterations to the inside and outside of church to enable the Minister’s vestry to provide step-free access into church whilst the Annexe project was being built
- Upgraded outside lighting to the get to the Minister’s vestry from Potter Street
- Replacement of the fluorescent tube lighting in Wesley Hall’s small downstairs room with LEDs to give a brighter and more reliable light source

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- Replacement of door finger guards in Wesley Hall
- A thorough clean-up of the Athenaeum
- Replacement of the emergency exit lighting units and battery packs in Wesley Hall
- Multiple minor maintenance activities from replacing light bulbs to broken toilet seats

Our plans for the next year include the major task of repairing and painting of the external woodwork of the church and Wesley Hall. We'll also be having a detailed inspection of the whole church by an independent surveyor (the so-called Quinquennial Inspection because it happens every five years), and we'll put a plan together to fix the problems identified.

Thanks to all those who've contributed in any way to enabling the property to do its job. We're always grateful for any help to do repairs, meeting contractors for quotes, opening doors to allow access for lettings or contractors. Please let Steve Draper or Duncan Allan know if you want to help in any way.

### *Annexe Project*

Several different sets of circumstances have come together over the past few years which culminated in the church developing plans for an Annexe to our church building. The problems we had encountered included...

- The church is made up of two buildings, the Church and Wesley Hall. The only toilet and kitchen facilities were in Wesley Hall meaning that any use of the church building involved keeping Wesley Hall free. This wasn't always easy or practical and, with increased use of the church building during the week, changes needed to be made.
- Access for wheelchair users, prams and the less able was only possible from Potter Street, along the side of Wesley Hall. Steps to the front of the church building on Church Street make access this way impossible.
- An old and tired 'choir vestry' with a leaking roof was not useable and it didn't present a welcoming space for people who needed an accessible entrance to the church.

In 2016 the church decided to change this and make the main church building a much more accessible and useable space for both the church and community use.

Architects were engaged and plans were drawn up to remove the existing 'choir vestry' that had always served as the main rear entrance to church, to be replaced with an extended modern annexe. The new build was to include catering and toilet facilities as well as a small meeting area and most importantly the improvements would include wheeled access from Church Street.

Original expectations of a total cost were about £180,000. However, when competitive tenders were returned from the builders it became obvious that the cost to completion would be considerably higher. This was due mainly to increased materials costs, extensive groundworks needed to create the level access and the realisation that site access was extremely limited. A final cost of roughly £270,000 was to be expected. The church and stewards met several times to agree a way forward – or to stop the project. Ultimately the

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decision was made to continue, helped by a recognition that significant funding was available from various organisations to support such building work as we had planned. A debt is owed to the small group of individuals that subsequently followed up the grant applications to the point where the building work could start.

Besides the grants from external organisations significant funds were raised by the church itself by means of a gift day and the various efforts of individual church members. The Methodist Church itself provided significant funds from Circuit, District and Connexion (National) levels.

A small working group was elected to meet with the architects and contractor on a two weekly basis to assist in decision making and act as a liaison with the church congregation.

Features of note in the new design are the zinc cladding which provide a very smart, contemporary addition to the church building – complimentary, but contrasting with the original stonework. The annexe was also designed with fully glazed ends to provide a bright, cheerful entrance to the main building. It also has efficient underfloor heating.

The building work progressed generally without problems excepting for a delay of two months at the very end due to problems laying the new flooring. The new annexe was eventually handed over to the church early in July 2019.

### *Church Finances*

Visitors to the church must sometimes think the congregation is very mean when they see the collection bag pass entire rows without anybody putting anything into it. However the reason is that the majority of the regular giving to the church (about 90%) is made by bank standing order.

One advantage of this method of giving is that it makes the administration of gift aid easier. In the last full year giving for general church purposes in all forms amounted to approximately £40,000, and we received an additional £9,000 from HMRC relating to giving that was gift aided.

Our other major source of income is from room hire – approximately £8,200 in the 2017-18 year.

Our total expenditure in the 2017-18 year was approximately £61,200. The main spending categories were:

50% to the Circuit – to pay for Ministers and a contribution towards District & National activities.

12% on utilities and insurance

5% on cleaning

4% on maintenance (more in most years)

13% on giving (see separate report)

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All these figures exclude Annexe and Athenaeum activities which are 'ring-fenced'. We will have a better idea of our financial situation when the Annexe is paid for, but at the moment, a substantial amount will have to be taken from general reserves to pay the final builder's invoice. We maintain confidence that we can meet all demands on our finances in the years to come because our congregation will respond when special needs arise.

### *Charitable Giving*

Many years ago the Church decided to give 10% of all its income to charities. The only income excluded from the calculation was that given to the church for a specific purpose such as the Annexe Fund or the Harvest Appeal.

Decisions about which charities to support have been made at Church General Meetings – everybody attending has been given 10 coins to allocate as they wish to charities nominated for support before the meeting. The Charities with the highest total number of coins are then supported in the following years, until the process is repeated.

In the current year each of the following charities has been given £627 by following this method

- Care For The Family
- Pinetown Trust (Phakamisa)
- Christian Aid
- Toilet Twinning (via Tearfund)
- Church Action Against Poverty
- XLP
- Medical Aid For Palestinians
- Compassion (including sponsoring a child)
- Mission Aviation Fellowship
- Methodist Funds (includes amounts for Home & World Mission, and for Methodist Homes)

In addition we give extra amounts during the course of the year, including Harvest and Christmas Appeals - in 2017-18 this extra giving totalled approximately £2,000.

God has given us so much and there are so many people in the world who have so little!

### *Our Carbon Footprint*

At the end of 2017 we changed our energy suppliers to 'green' options. Our Wesley Hall noticeboard displays a certificate showing the gas supply to be carbon neutral, and our electricity comes from renewable sources.

## 6. Our Church – in Melbourne

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Many members of our church family are involved in a wide range of groups and events in Melbourne and the surrounding area.

As a church our involvement includes

- Being part of the Melbourne Churches Together group.
- Taking part in Melbourne Carnival.
- Giving display space to artists during Melbourne Festival and opening both the Athenaeum and our church to visitors.
- Making Wesley Hall available for various groups to use.

Reports about each of these follow.

### *Churches Together*

Melbourne Churches Together Committee continues to meet four times a year to discuss the lives of the individual churches and to plan Churches Together events. Over this year Churches Together have run a stall at the carnival, given out Mince pies at Carol singing round the tree, organised a Fairtrade Breakfast and held services for World Prayer Day and Christian Aid week.

This Autumn, Churches Together plan to start a new initiative to reach out to young people in Melbourne.

Please pray for the other Churches in Melbourne, some of which are facing challenging times.

Situations vacant: We continue to need a second Methodist representative on the Churches Together Committee. We also need a member of our Church to join the Churches Together working with Young people committee. Please prayerfully consider if either of these people could be you!

### *Melbourne Carnival*

Our church has been involved with the Carnival in various ways over the years. Members of the church provide the stewarding for the carnival processions. Last year people from our church, along with friends from other churches, ran the tea tent at the Carnival. As there were more food outlets at the carnival than in previous years, it was felt that the income generated did not justify the significant effort required to run the tent. While we will continue to provide the stewarding, we have decided to no longer run the tea tent.

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*Melbourne Festival*

In September each year our church is open for the whole weekend of Melbourne Festival. As a church we support this community event by offering Wesley Hall to the Festival Committee as a venue for artists to exhibit their paintings, textiles, pottery and other creative works. The Church is also open all weekend. We encourage people to wander in and warmly welcome them. In the church this year we had Mark Dale, Bob Harris and Lol Robinson, all are artists and members of our church family who were there for the weekend demonstrating their skills and selling their work.

*Wesley Hall*

Wesley Hall is used regularly during the week. The charges that are made to hire the rooms provide welcome additional income for the church. Clearly no charges are made for our own church activities!

Mondays – Tiddlywinks in the morning.

Tuesdays – Nine Months group in the morning.

Wednesdays – Splash in the morning (fortnightly) and Kangaroos playgroup in the afternoon.

Thursdays – Kangaroos playgroup all day. Salsa dance class in the evening.

Fridays – Kangaroos playgroup all day.

Saturdays – Coffee mornings on the first Saturday of the month. Oakdene dance school on other Saturdays.

Wesley Hall is also used for church meetings and hired out for children's parties and all sorts of other occasional events.

Pam Worrall keeps the diary for the use of Wesley Hall. Please contact her (01332 864478) if you would like to use Wesley Hall for an event.

## 7. Our Church – Contacts

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If you have any offers of help, questions or concerns about anything involving our church please contact:

### *Our Minister*

Rev. John Hartley 01332 405286

### *Useful Websites*

Melbourne Methodist Church

[www.melbournmethodistchurch.com](http://www.melbournmethodistchurch.com)

The Nottingham and Derby District of the Methodist Church

[www.methodist-nd.org.uk](http://www.methodist-nd.org.uk)

The Methodist Church of Great Britain

[www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk)