

Annual Return for the year ended 31st August, 2009



The **Methodist** Church Wigton Road Carlisle



Address: Wigton Road Methodist Church
Wigton Road
Carlisle
Cumbria

Correspondence
Address: The Minister
104 Wigton Road
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA2 7ES

Telephone: 01228 525540

www.carlislewigtonroadmethodistchurch.org.uk

e-mail: admin@carlislewigtonroadmethodistchurch.org.uk

Table of Contents

Address & Contact details for the Church	page 1
Table of Contents	page 2
Managing Trustees & Membership	page 3
Aims and organisation of the Church	page 4-5
Summary review and progress of the Church	page 6-9
Financial Information	available on request

Managing Trustees

Trustee Name	Office (If Any)	Dates if < 1Year
Rev'd John Mason	Chair	
Christine Wharton	Secretary	
Mary Caddle	Treasurer	
Janice Gray	Senior Steward	
Patricia Staley	Steward/Junior Church Leader	
John Gallop	Steward	
Brian Masterson	Steward	From 11 th March 2009
Pamela Attwood	Pastoral Secretary	
Robin Attwood	Chair of Mission & Outreach	
Harry Gill	Chair of Property & Finance	
David Caddle	Property Steward	
Moira Wilson	Publicity Officer	
Marion Arnott		To January 2009
Doreen Fairless		
James Gray		
Gretchan Graham		From 11 th March 2009
John Huggon		
Sheila Jackson		From 11 th March 2009
Edouard Letieve		
Andrew Mason		To June 2009
Susan Mason		
Kathleen Moore		
Wayne Pedlar		From 11 th March, 2009
Marion Proudfoot		
Ian Richardson		
Lilian Shewen		
Ann Smith		
Ailsa Twedde		
Alan Wharton		

Membership as at 31st August, 2009 **159**

AIMS & ORGANISATION OF THE CHURCH

As a Family Friendly Church we aim to be a community of people willing to explore and develop Christian Discipleship through Worship, through Learning and Care for one another and through Mission and Outreach.

The local church is organized through a number of key teams that try to ensure the spiritual, physical and emotional needs of its people are well cared for. These key teams pick up the basis of Our Calling, the national Methodist Church's aim.

Worship Team (Café Worship)

Mission & Outreach Team (Evangelism & Service)

Pastoral Team (Learning & Caring)

Property and Finance Team

The Presbyter oversees the work of the Church and works with the appointed church stewards, taking direction from the trustees (Church Council).

As a basis all our work is founded on 'Our Calling' this being focused through worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism. We here at Wigton Road Methodist Church claim as part of the wider national Church to work with the priorities set.

Priorities of the Methodist Church

To proclaim and affirm its conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world; and renew confidence in God's presence and action in the world and in the Church

- Underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer
- Supporting community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor - in Britain and worldwide
- Developing confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to all involved
- Encouraging fresh ways of being Church
- Nurturing a culture in the Church which is people-centred and flexible

REVIEW AND PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH

(Minister's Report)

The past twelve months has seen the development of our annual Mission Project and the link with the Circuit for this coming year.

Mission & Outreach

The past year has seen the Church support the *Reach 2 Rumania* Circuit Project. It culminated with a Circuit act of worship which allowed £5200 to be handed over to the project. This coming year will see a number of events planned for the benefit of the new project, "*Move to Improve*" based on Carlisle Cerebral Palsy and Watchtree Wheelers.

A regular table continues to appear in the hall after Family Services for the purpose of promoting fairly traded goods. This has proved popular and has enabled us to heighten the awareness of the congregation regarding goods now available that are fairly traded. A special thanks goes to Christine Pritchard who has diligently picked up stock from the One World Centre. Our commission on sale is ploughed into the annual project.

In this past year we have continued to open the Church doors midweek, to allow people to come and have a chat and a cup of tea. In partnership with agencies to be appointed we hope to reach out more into the local community. Grateful thanks to Mr Wayne Pedlar for continuing this venture. I hope and pray that in the years ahead this will continue to be a resource used by the local community – its name, "*Contact 4U*"

This next year promises to be a challenging year as we continue our ecumenical dialogue with St George's United Reformed Church and explore the employment of a Children's Family Worker.

Our Church based work with young people and children continues, with our numbers in the uniformed organisations fluctuating up and down, as is expected. The introduction in September 2006 of a 'Kids' club' has reached up to forty children, with average attendance on Friday evenings being around 15. Thank you to all who have supported this over the past couple of years. It is sometimes hard work with those who have no connection with the Church. Yet the rewards can be great as you see them develop and listen to some of the biblical stories told. It

may be that this is the current day Sunday School as our numbers are clearly falling in Junior Church.

We once again held a Holiday club with some twenty five children attending each morning of half term week.

A Circuit Youth Group has been launched within this past year and continues to support anything from 6 -12 young people. A grateful thanks goes to the leaders that turn up on a regular fortnightly basis. A good time is had by all.

Our development into the area of children and young peoples work should be one of the priorities we set ourselves as a church if we are serious about looking for our church to grow. However we do desperately need resources to achieve this, especially people who are committed to the long term development of working with these children and their families. Our priority will be to advance the funding required to support a children / Family worker.

Learning & Caring

We have had an addition of two pastoral visitors who attended our annual meeting in October to discuss the current membership and make any changes deemed necessary. These people are at the forefront of maintaining contact with church members and need to be equipped with the skills necessary to provide adequate care.

During the past twelve months we have held a specific training sessions for bereavement care and visiting which was held at St Anthony's Priory Durham. Training will continue this next year as we look at further areas of our pastoral care and evaluate some of the new material offered by the Church, 'Encircled in Care'.

There has been, during this year, learning through the 'Come as you are' course material. This has seen one person take up membership of the Methodist Church. Our business of Church is above everything else; to seek out and make known the work of Christ's salvation. This is where growth can come from. Our priority as a Christian community is to offer Christ, hoping that the Holy Spirit will convict and turn them to Christ's ways. We play our part in this and should constantly hold courses that may lead to a deeper conviction of faith and possible membership in the

Methodist Church. It has been agreed by the pastoral committee we run the course again to allow people to grow in faith and be developed in membership.

We are encouraged by those who attend our house groups and come along to these courses for the building up in our faith. We do hope that the wider church congregation can find the enthusiasm to give some of these courses a try, as it always appears that people get a lot out of them.

Worship

Our Sunday service at 10.30 remains traditional in style. This particularly suits an ageing congregation. Experiencing change in worship can prove a positive step of encounter with our Lord for those wishing to embrace a closer communion with Him. Development within family worship and encounter with our Lord in fresh ways needs to be pursued as a priority, hoping it will not only re-engage our lost members over the years but attract those who are of younger years thereby ensuring the continuation of the society here at Wigton Road. It would be good to explore this with a number of people so a variety of worship backgrounds may forge a way ahead for our Sunday Worship.

We look forward to exploring Messy Church this coming year as we seek to engage with children and their family members. We anticipate this may begin in early 2010.

Café Style Worship continues, meeting fortnightly on Thursdays. It is now well established and supports around 30 people on a regular basis. Café Worship has twice now been present in different premises as it took this informal worship style to Bishops Close. Around twelve members joined with us as we sang our praises to God and heard from his word.

Summary

The past twelve months has seen new work undertaken in the area of Fire protection and health and safety matters within the premises. A big thanks is expressed to our property team for overseeing this.

Children's work, mission and outreach continue and we are open to the Holy Spirit's leading. These are key areas that the Church as a whole should engage with if we are to reverse the trend of an ageing church.

I believe the following pointers should be addressed by this community of faith in the next twelve months:

- Develop further Ecumenical ways of working with St Georges URC
- Secure funding for the employment of a Children's Family Worker
- Embrace the annual Circuit project
- Explore fresh ways of being Church – Messy Church
- Maintain contact with church members and people in the community, particularly family units.
- Explore further Bible Study and House groups
- Update the Church Building to meet current requirements

Together we move forward on our journey, exploring Christ to the full potential he has in each of us, as we allow ourselves to be open to the working of His Spirit.

John Mason