

Central Methodist Church Launceston
ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
5th February 2017
CHURCH REPORTS

Minister's covering letter

Dear Friends

Church life has moved at quite a pace since our last AGM, and the opening of the Bridge Church in June did have a direct effect on morning worship and 245, as the band moved to enable the worship there. An average of over 50 people has been meeting there weekly and exciting developments are planned. At Central we have realised that we need to work out what we offer in our church life that continues to make a difference in the town and the area.

I would like to praise the efforts of the small band of people who were determined to keep 245 going, and this has morphed from Celebration Praise to the meeting we now call 245 Revive.

Morning Worship is blessed by the skills of our organists and we have also utilised the ISingWorship facility which has provided many of the contemporary songs we already knew and sometimes new arrangements for more traditional ones. The 30 people who came to the worship consultation had a fruitful discussion which was reported in November, but I think there is more to be said and to be done in this area.

The Circuit's Autumn Consultation at Central used material from the Arthur Rank Centre called Germinate to lead the discussions and there is more to look at here too.

Don't forget that from this meeting we do elect people to the church council so that all parts of the church are represented. Perhaps you could think about what skills you could offer? Life in the church never stands still and we must seek the will of God in our vision for the future.

We also recommend up to two church stewards for duties starting next May.

If you would like to be part of what this church can become, then please come to the Church Annual General Meeting

God Bless
Malcolm

Church Stewards

2017 will be a significant year for us at Central as we face the challenge of continuing to build a worshipping community which can reach out to serve the needs of the people of our town.

The Prayer Triplet initiative has already resulted in several groups meeting regularly to pray and seek God's guidance for the future particularly with regard to our work with children and families and the need for more musicians and worship leaders.

We have been encouraged by the numbers attending our Christmas services including several visitors and also by the 245 Revive evening services which involve people from other chapels in the Circuit.

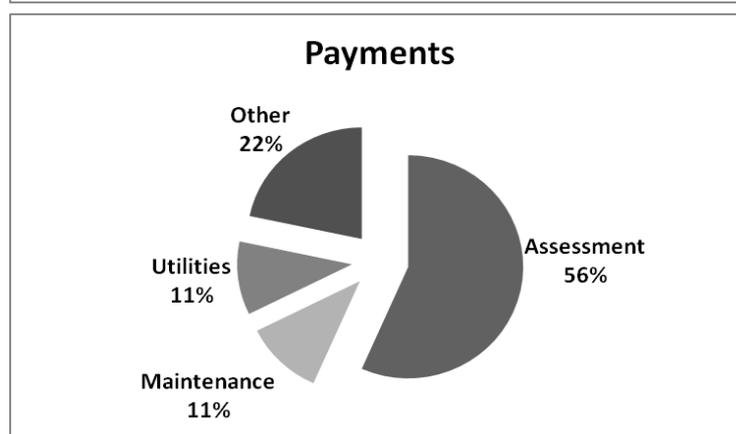
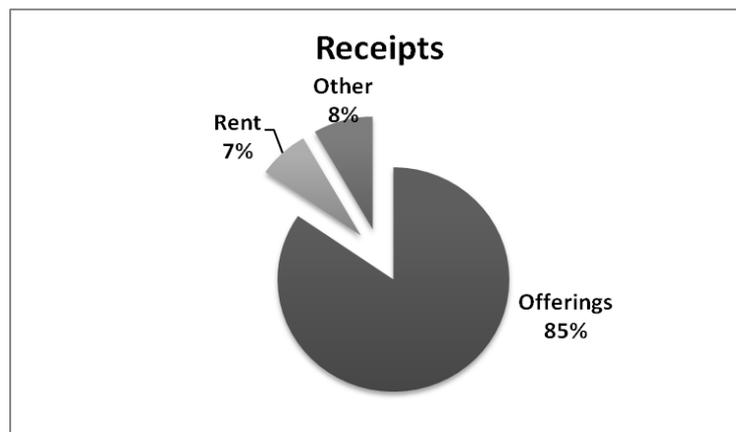
All suggestions and ideas for taking our church forward will be welcomed and we ask you to share your thoughts with any of the seven stewards or Malcolm so that Central will continue to be a beacon of light and hope in our town and Circuit.

Graham Chester
Senior Steward

Treasurer's Report for the Financial Year September 2015 to August 2016

The Church accounts for the financial year ending 31st August 2016 have been audited and accepted as correct and are on the board in the Church Porch. From the accounts it can be seen that income exceeded expenditure by £16,000. However the gift day in October 2015 raised an amazing £20,382 plus approximately £4000 from gift aid so without this we would again find that expenditure exceeded income.

Thank you to all who give so generously throughout the year and at gift day; from the graphs we can see that our giving is 85% of our income. We ask you to continue to give as much as you can so we can continue to serve God and the community in Central.



Pastoral Report

I wish to thank the pastoral visitors for their visiting and care. They take on this important work on behalf of our Church. We need more visitors so if this is something you feel able to do please let me know. If you know anyone in the Church who is ill or would like a visit please contact me or our Minister.

Our thanks to Joan Cottrell who does great pastoral work when she takes our Church flowers on Mondays to people who are sick or unable to attend our services. I know this is greatly appreciated by the people who receive them.

Thanks are due to David Rogerson for keeping our photo album up to date which is displayed in the Church porch. Do use this to recognise the people in our Church. Please let me know if we have new people attending our services. Give them a warm welcome and if they have moved into our area please let me know.

Summary of Membership for October 2015 - 2016

Transfer In

Miss Alison Bunkum 1

Transfer Out

Mr John Ware
Mrs Liz Ware
Mrs Jenny Parnell
Mr Phil Barnes
Mrs Angela Barnes
Mr Alan Robbins 6

Ceased To Meet

Mrs Betty Davey
Mrs Grace Wickett
Mrs Margaret Wickett
Mr Anthony Down
Mrs Elizabeth Harrison
Mr Barry Elms
Mrs Jo Elms
Mrs Alison Edgecombe 8

Members To Adherents

Mrs Pam Kernick
Mrs Vivienne Crowshaw 2

Out By Death - Members

Mesdames Elsie Cavey, Renee Sandercock, Doris Sleep, Pam Mills 4

Out By Death - Adherent

Mr Melvyn Symons 1

Membership at November 2015 203

Member transferred 1

204

Out By Death etc 20

Total Membership October 2016 184

Jacqueline Robbins

Action Group Report to AGM

The annual Barn Dance was held at the White Hart Hotel this year and, whilst not an ideal venue, it was well attended and much enjoyed by both dancers and musicians. With a small increase in ticket price a profit of 200 was made for Church funds.

The Puddings and Promises evening was held at the Bridge in May. Attendance was down slightly but bidding was lively for the many promises and a good amount made for Church funds.

Nibbles and Knowledge evening due to be held last November had to be re-scheduled due to double booking of the Hall. A new date will be confirmed shortly.

Harvest Festival services were led last October by John Bailey. To give people the opportunity to chat with John and Sandra, it was decided to hold the Harvest tea on Sunday afternoon instead of Monday. Also, with the majority of gifts being given to the Food Bank, the gifts of fruit, vegetables and flowers were placed on tables following the evening service and donations were accepted for these items which raised a good amount thanks to the generosity of those attending the service.

There have been requests for the reinstatement of the tea/evening service and sale for this year's Harvest.

Maggie Macoun

Projectionists for Sunday Morning Worship - 2016

The Duty Projectionists role at Central is to liaise with the worship co-ordinator and/or preacher for any given Sunday morning (and some evening) services to discuss the details and requirements for their service.

This detail is used to create a 'schedule file' in the Easy-Worship program for the computer. It is of note that we have recently had to upgrade the Easy-Worship program on the computer and it is hoped that the upgrade will make the system more robust. Whilst the program is in many ways similar to the old system, I must take this opportunity to thank the projection team for their patience in meeting the ongoing challenge of the changes.

The team for the reporting period was as follows:

- Jenny Cook
- Steve Dolley
- John Fitzpatrick
- Joan Helme
- Janet / David Rogerson
- Pat White
- John Couser (John has recently moved away)
- Maggie Macoun (pm services)

We are always on the lookout for new helpers of all ages for the team, so if you feel you could help you would be most welcome. This important job may seem a little daunting at first, but anyone with a basic knowledge of computers and with some simple training is able to undertake the task. It is not too onerous and is a real contribution to the life of the churches worship.

If you have any questions please speak to David Rogerson (01579) 370412 or david@lamc.org.uk
David Rogerson

Sound System Operators for Worship/Church Activities - 2016

The Duty Sound System Operators role at Central is to liaise with the worship co-ordinator, musicians and/or preacher for any given Sunday morning (and some evening) services to discuss the details and requirements for their service.

Currently the team is as follows:

- Barry Greenaway
- David Allen
- Eric Rowland

We are always on the lookout for new helpers of all ages for the team, so if you feel you could help you would be most welcome. This responsible job is really important but not too onerous and is a real contribution to the life of the churches worship.

If you have any questions please speak to Barry Greenaway or a member of the team.
David Rogerson

The Launceston Central Family Album 2016

The Central Family Photograph album has been kept up to date over the year thanks to the hard work and diligence of Jacqueline Robbins who coordinates church member's photos for the album. The final artwork and printing is done by David Rogerson.

As well as containing photographs of the church family, there is also information and the names of the current church council representatives.

The 'In Memoriam' section at the back of the album is a source of comfort for many church members. If you have a photo of a family member or friend who you would wish to be included in the 'In Memoriam' section of those who died prior to 2012, please do speak to Jacqueline Robbins (contact details below).

This album is a living and sensitive document and every effort is being made to ensure that it is kept correct and up to date. To help in this process please do not hesitate to report any errors, omissions or photographs that require changing to Jacqueline Robbins (01566 772446), David Rogerson (01579 370412) or any of the church stewards.

David Rogerson & Jacqueline Robbins

The Worship Band / Musical Support 2016

Regrettably the Worship Band has now moved to the Bridge Church and no longer provides any musical support for services at Central. The 245 service has been replaced with a new contemporary worship service called '245 Revive'.

The Family Service on the first Sunday of the month, as with other services uses audio tracks (as required) and the organ for musical support.

The '245 Revive' service uses tracks from the iPad based iSingWorship application. We are grateful for the use of the iPad which was donated to the church by Jason Thornes. We have also been grateful for the occasional support of some visiting musical worship groups that have provided support for these services.

David Rogerson also provides iPad based iSingWorship tracks for the third Sunday in the month at the evening 'Praise & Learning' (PAL) service, as well as other morning services as and when required. Opportunities are always taken to explore new songs and, in consultation with the preacher, decisions are then made on the music to fit the service theme and readings.

David Rogerson

Central's Presence on the Internet 2016

The Central and Circuit web sites -

www.central-methodist.org.uk

www.lamc.org.uk

The Central and Circuit web sites continue to provide a modern, informative presence on the Internet, enabling people in the local community and indeed across the world to be aware of our work and fellowship. The sites are hosted and run at a very low cost and have proved to be very useful in keeping people informed about what is on at the church, our work and worship.

A daily diary of Central's events, the weekly bulletin, a quarterly list of the preachers, organists, readers, coffee rota, flower rota and Coordinators at Central together with the circuit 'Spotlight' magazine are always available. The site is also a 'goldmine' of what is on at Central with news of forthcoming events as far ahead as the summer holiday club. You can also catch up on most recent sermons at Central which are now available online.

The full circuit plan can also be accessed on both sites with all documents being in an easily printable format. There are also a number of links to other sites including the Methodist Church web site.

The greatest challenge is to keep the sites vibrant and up to date with the news of what is happening. Indeed it is hoped that it truly reflects everything about what happens at Central, so if you have any information, articles or photographs for inclusion on the web sites please don't hesitate to contact David Rogerson on 01579 370412 or by email at david@lamc.org.uk

David Rogerson

Worship Co-ordinators for Sunday Morning Worship - 2016

The Worship Co-ordinator's role at Central is to liaise with the preacher for the Sunday morning service to discuss worship, music, facilities and other requirements for their service. This specific role is very similar to that undertaken by a steward in other Methodist churches and has successfully been in place since 1997 when the specific need for continuity was identified due to the differing styles of Central's worship.

The current Worship Co-ordinators are, Maggie Macoun, Pat White and David Rogerson. Graham Chester helps Malcolm with his services.

The co-ordinators for the quarter are listed in the worship contacts collated by John Beare and available on line at www.central-methodist.org.uk. The list is also promulgated on the notice board in the vestry. If you would like a personal copy please speak to a steward or David Rogerson. Please note the online version is always the most up to date version as, inevitably changes do happen.

We are always on the lookout for new helpers, so if you feel you could help you would be most welcome as, currently with just three co-ordinators, the team is often stretched to fulfil all the needs. The job is important but not onerous, requiring a little time on the phone during the week to contact the preacher, organist or musicians and the readers to ensure they are all aware of the details of the service.

If you have any questions please speak to David Rogerson (01579) 370412 or david@lamc.org.uk
David Rogerson

Cedar Grange Monthly Service

The regular monthly services at Cedar Grange Care Home have continued for another year. A programme has been prepared for the year, with Rev Malcolm Jones offering communion once every three months.

We have found the services to be well-received by residents and staff and believe that our brief time together each month presenting a simple Christian service is a help to those residents who have been used to attending church or chapel during their more active years.

It has been sad at times as during the last twelve months several of our long-term friends have passed away - even when we only see residents for two hours each month they become part of our Christian family and they have been missed.

We have been pleased to meet the families of some of the residents and offer them our friendship and they, in turn, express their appreciation of the church's interest. You too will be very welcome to share the service with us and our friends at Cedar Grange on the second Thursday afternoon of each month.

Chattabox Report to AGM

Chattabox sessions, based in the Epworth Room, run from 9am to 12 noon each Wednesday during term time with up to 30 under 5's attending, together with mums/carers.

Each session is split into activity time, snack time, play, TV and music which seems to work well in the space available.

At the end of our final session before Christmas, we spent a short time in our beautifully decorated Church. The children enjoyed a treasure hunt for a small Christmas gift, we sang and Rev. Malcolm told the Christmas story.

If you feel able to offer your time to help in any way, please see Rosemary, Tamsin or Maggie.

Christian Aid News 2016

Looking back over the past year I want to express on behalf of our Launceston Area Action, group many thanks to all of you whose generosity in various ways enabled us to help some of the world's poorest people. We have met most recently, to make arrangements for the visit of Foteini Keosothodorou on February 1st and share her experiences as humanitarian coordinator for refugee services on the Greek Island of Samos, a position she has carried out since Oct 2015.

This is a very important part of Christian Aid's work in ensuring that we are able to hear how our Partners have responded to the crisis work and the help they have been giving. For this means we are then given the opportunity to share that information with our family, friends, and acquaintances, particularly important when work in a foreign land when news about refugees has gone off the radar of TV News bulletins.

Since its inception in September, some members of our group have supported the recently set up LE Film Group (Launceston Environmental Films) which meets monthly on a Friday evening in the Liberty Suite at Jericho's Restaurant. The group was set up by Roger Creagh-Osborne to raise awareness on environmental issues.

Website www.lefilm.uk and/or Facebook www.facebook.com/lefilm
Christian Aid Week 2016 Total £1846.

We meet to plan for Christian Aid Week on March 15th 2017 at 7pm in the Church Porch at Central Methodist Church Launceston.

Trevor Cook

Churches Together in the Launceston Area

- The Chairman is now Revd. Malcolm Jones.
- Tony Carter has retired as chairman and is now the secretary.
- The former secretary, Revd. Anne Brown, and her husband, Chris, who was the treasurer, have moved to Perranporth area.
- The Revd Mary Williamson has moved to Abingdon
- Dawn McGarvey and Linda Purdey from the Salvation Army, Launceston, have now moved to Wilts and retired.
- Kevin Pickup replaced by Alan as Assistant Pastor of Gateway 2 New Life Church.

- Mary Butler continues as a tireless worker for the Salvation Army.
- Churches Together in the Launceston Area urgently needs a new Treasurer to replace Chris Brown. The new treasurer does not necessarily have to be a church representative and would not need to attend meetings.
- There were many visitors and helpers at the Churches Together stand at Launceston Show in July 2016, with some of the best weather and largest numbers for many years.
- Churches Together Christmas card, giving details of Christmas services in the town and Tregadillett, were delivered to about 6000 homes. Many thanks to David and Janet Rogerson and Sam and Mandee Beasley for taking on production of the card.
- The Christmas Day lunch for about 55 guests and helpers from the churches took place here at Central.
- There was United ecumenical service at Central on Sunday, 22nd January 2017, to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
- The Launceston Foodbank, Money Advice Centre, Street Pastors, and Christian Aid are run independently but are supported in various ways by members of Churches Together in the Launceston Area.
- Street Pastors and Prayer Pastors to pray for their work are urgently needed.

Tony Carter

Cradle Roll

At present there are 3 boys and 1 girl on the Cradle Roll. (These are children who have been christened at Central and are currently up to and including the age of 3). I send each of them a card for their birthday from the Church.

During 2016 we have had two Christenings at Central

Jean Cavey

Cradle Roll Secretary

Report on Crèche – January 2017

Crèche facilities continue to be available each week for the 10:30am service, although recently there have been very few young children needing this service. There are usually more young children present during the Family Services when older children join in and use the facilities during the service.

For the Family Service the crèche continues to be set up at the front of the church; and toys are set up along with drawing and colouring equipment for the older children. A few items are being stored in the cupboard in the corridor to avoid toys having to be carried up and down stairs on the family services. Small tables are being stored outside the vestry office to use on the family service weeks.

Even though the need for crèche has declined it is important to have facilities in place in case things change, so a new rota has been drawn up for 2017, with most people taking a turn once every 3 or 4 weeks.

Many thanks to all who are continuing to be on the rota; and who do a very good job in caring for the youngest members of the church.

Those on crèche duty continue to meet and greet people in the church lobby before the service; to be able to invite visitors with young children to use the crèche facilities.

Val Carpenter

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David Rogerson & Jacqueline Robbins

Flower Report

This last year we have again seen many lovely decorations in the church, especially over Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We hope you take time to look at the various displays and ideas that are represented at the front of the church, on the window ledges, in the porch and other areas of the church.

Marion Cole very kindly offered to decorate a Christmas tree on behalf of Central in St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival. The tree was beautiful and in a prime position. Thank you Marion.

We are now using silk flower arrangements once a month as there are fewer people able to do them each week. If anyone feels they would like to go on the flower arranging rota please speak to Elaine Wright or Sue Hindley.

Elaine Wright

JMA (Junior Mission for All)

As we have, regrettably, lost nearly all our children it is very difficult to keep up any interest in JMA with them, except by holding the collection box in Church services. This is sad because JMA is really meant to teach young people about giving to help those working with children, to help the poor and to spread the gospel. Coad's Green and Lifton still also continue to be active in their interest and their giving.

At the end of the JMA financial year (August 31st) 2016, the Circuit raised £861.23 of which £738.44 was from Central. Gifts to date for this year so far, including the Christmas card offerings, amount to £190.82

I am grateful to all the adults who faithfully give in support of this valuable work. Thank you.

Sue Hindley

Milltown Farm House Group

We have continued to enjoy times of fellowship, study, discussion and prayer and have benefitted by sharing and growing together in our faith. We still meet fortnightly during term time, depending sometimes on when most of us are free, and are grateful to Jacqueline for her hospitality at her home.

This year we have studied characters from the New Testament, using the LifeBuilder Bible Study guide to help us. These have included people in the gospels who met Jesus, and then several who came into contact with the apostle Paul. Through these studies we learnt not only about their lives and how they responded to the claims of the gospel, but also how that relates to our situations today.

Currently we are working through the epistle to the Ephesians, which deals with the whole spectrum of God's plan, from before creation up to the time when everything and everyone will come under Christ's rule. It has meant we have discussed issues such as predestination and free will; God's amazing grace; prayer and the unity of Christians.

Numbers attending have remained steady and we are always happy to welcome any one who would like to join us. Please contact Jacqueline Robbins (772446) or Pat White (777826) if you are interested.

Property Report to Central AGM on 5th Feb 2017

The project to refurbish the gents' toilets which is now completed was the major property item carried out last year, and has been much appreciated by members and others using our church.

The Property stewards have spent time to improve the heating in the chapel.

We are grateful to David Rogerson for setting up WiFi in the Epworth room, and installing new projection methods and updates to our computer. We also thank Eric Rowland for helping with sound and projection for evening 245 services.

Thanks to David Allen for painting the whole passage way to the toilets, and for putting up the exterior Christmas lights.

We appreciate everyone who freely give their time in many ways, for example arranging flowers and displays.

We are concerned about the amount of cleaning required in the premises and volunteers have been helping in this respect, some on a continual basis, for which we are very grateful,.

We are arranging to have a display board fitted outside, indicating rooms which are in use.

We have ordered a redecoration of the main hall, and decoration to parts of the chapel.

Thanks to Glenn for the work he does.

Barry Greenaway

Thursday Drop In Group

The Thursday group thanks the Chapel for the continued use of the schoolroom. We meet regularly from 10am to noon. There are between twelve and fifteen who meet for company, coffee and games. We also enjoy decorating the Church and schoolroom for Christmas and Easter.

It would be nice to see some new faces, and we are told that loneliness is one of the biggest killers in today's society, so if you know anyone who would enjoy some caring company please bring them along.

Irene Stanbury

Wednesday Fellowship

The Wednesday Fellowship has continued to run successfully for another year. When we asked members what we should include in this year's report they gave a list of items to mention including: the great speakers who give up their time so willingly to lead our afternoons, the happy times spent over tea with 'good chat', the successful Christmas lunch at Trethorne, our outings in the summer months, the opportunity to meet with friends on one afternoon mid-week.

Members also emphasised their thanks to all those who took us on our summer trips. This past summer we visited Wadebridge where we were given a tour of the John Betjeman Centre at the old Wadebridge Railway Station and enjoyed afternoon tea. On another occasion we took a trip to Crackington Haven and then on to Boscastle Farm Shop for cream teas and sticky buns.

From our funds we have made donations to Central Methodist Church, Shelter Box, children's and adults Hospices, Air Ambulance and the Salvation Army.

If you would like to join us please come along or let us know and we will arrange transport – a warm welcome awaits.

Jenny Worth and Angela Noakes

Roydon Rd House Group

We have been meeting for a number of years on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm. At the moment we are part way through an interesting and stimulating study on the second coming. As you can imagine there have been lots of fascinating discussion and we realise that we know so little and want to increase our understanding.

There is always a time of prayer for the church, the local area and people we know who need it, before ending with tea and biscuits. We'd love to welcome new members. Please phone 775901 for details.

Rosemary Paxman

Report on Sunday School

The children stay in the church for the family service on the first Sunday of each month with drawing / colouring activities available on a table at the front of the church.

On the other weeks there is a rota of leaders to take the children out for a lesson, although numbers have been very low recently with no regular attenders which makes it difficult to achieve any sense of continuity, but we still feel it is important to

maintain the service to encourage the children who do attend and with the aim of drawing in more families.

Val Carpenter

Messy Church

This has been disappointing in that only one child attended. He seemed to enjoy having the full attention of 6 adults and tucking into pizza and cake!

We kept it going for 3 months, thinking it might grow, but despite a lot of enthusiasm from those who prepared craft, food, Bible stories and computer input, it didn't happen.

We would value your prayers for the way ahead, whether we need to change the day, the time or wait and start again after the next holiday club, or forget the idea altogether. We plan to have a meeting soon to discuss and pray about these issues.

Rosemary Paxman

Open the Book

I can't believe our "Open the Book " group has been working together since January- nearly a year! In that time we've been to St. Catherine's school every Wednesday morning and for the first few months, Egloskerry once a fortnight. Now we visit both schools every week, 9am Wed. morning at St. Catherine's, 10am at Egloskerry, then back to practise for the next week. It's a thoroughly enjoyable and satisfying experience and we have lots of fun. One of our members said Wednesday morning was the highlight of her week!

There are 9 of us in the group from 4 different churches. The schools are very supportive and tell us the children really look forward to our visit. The children especially enjoy being given a small part in the action- recently we told the story of the prodigal son and had 6 little 4 and 5 year olds being pigs! We have also re-enacted the story of Hezekiah and Isaiah- something that most of us were unfamiliar with.

We introduce the story, then act it out, using Bob Hartman's Children's Bible. Then there is a conclusion, giving the children something to think about, and we finish by asking the children to pray with us.

We thank God for the wonderful opportunity of telling children all the wonderful Bible stories, especially as they may not hear them anywhere else.

Rosemary Paxman