

# Broad Street Methodist Church

## Annual Reports 2021



## MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS

A unique year in the life of this church and in my own ministry. A never before experience of adapting to a pandemic and adjusting and being creative to achieve mission and ministry through technology. A new language emerged 'mute or unmute', 'screen share', 'zoom or teams' as we began to function and have fellowship, with the grateful help of those talented in the art of computer science. Where would we have been without Phil, ably helped by Kevin, for our Sunday worship and Keith being the host for our Bible Space. A big thankyou that at the right time and right place we had the right people!

We are also delighted that the building project could be undertaken during this year and we celebrate that with a thanksgiving weekend this July. It was hard not to be able to have Coffee mornings, Midweekers, Four Seasons and the Luncheon Club, but they were not permitted within Covid guidelines, so we cleared our diaries and we hope now for possible restarts when it is safe to do so.

It has been a great joy to see how we have all encouraged each other via other communications, the emails, letters and phone calls, so many occasions where we have been able to show care for one another. A great emphasis on that 'one another' ministry. The connectiveness that conveys God's love to each other and beyond into our families. For all the pastoral ministry, unknown and unrewarded at a human level, but so necessary and important through this past year.

It has certainly been a year that will be in our memories, a story to relate to newer generations, of resilience, of uncertainties, of kindness, of sadness, of adaptability, of courage and of finding ways to keep faith strong, based from home. What a challenge to remember that we were still Church, we are the Church, each one of us as individuals, making a difference in our own neighbourhoods.

Gathering together again, in and out of lockdown, was a real joy as we worshipped together and saw each other in real life after being apart for so long.

There are going to be more changes as this year finishes. Both Rev Alan and myself are leaving this circuit ministry, which then offers new possibilities and challenges for you all as Rev Luke takes up the mantle of your Superintendent.

May the love and the peace of Christ enfold and embrace you with His Touch as we all move into our next year of service for Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Rev Frances

## **JUNIOR CHURCH**

This year we have been unable to meet as a Junior Church. However, I have kept in contact with the children and their families via email. Each week I have sent them a challenge.

Angelina deserves a very special mention because she has done all of the challenges. Her artwork is amazing, not only are her pictures beautiful and created with a lot of thought, there is a real spiritual maturity to them. I know that every week I receive a great deal of joy looking at them and there is always more in the picture than first appears. Angelina is both a very talented artist and a very clever one. Well done Angelina and thank you for all the happiness that you bring to the Church each week.

It is likely that Junior Church will not be able to meet in its current format until late summer/early autumn. Please keep the children in your prayers until then and we will look forward to meeting up together when the circumstances allow.

*Jackie Wood*

## **PRAYER GROUP**

We have continued our monthly prayer meeting via Zoom, until 1<sup>st</sup> May when we moved back to the church. A faithful few meet, praying for our church, our town and our world! John Wesley said “God does nothing on earth save in answer to believing prayer.”

So please join us if you can, 6-7pm on the first of the month, although if that is a Sunday we meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Cards are available with dates on as a reminder.

*Patricia Gooding*

## **SHOPPERS' SERVICE**

We were able to resume in October last year, no coffee but good fellowship, then Lock Down! We are planning to start again on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

*Patricia Gooding*

## **WORLD MISSION**

Last year we raised £102.29, including JMA. This money goes to help people like Fasil. He is 10, and lives with his mother and sisters on a small farm in Ethiopia. Due to climate change they were struggling to grow food, and so often going hungry. All We Can (our Methodist agency) helped Fasil's family grow a Super Spud that can survive even in bad weather. The family now have enough to eat and Fasil and his sisters can concentrate better at school.

If anyone would like a Mission box to help support this work, I can supply one.

*Patricia Gooding*

## **PRAYER CHAIN**

In spite of Covid-19 we have fortunately been able to continue with requests for prayer. Obviously our monthly meetings ceased but we have been very busy with 'phone calls, texts etc.

Several appropriate cards have been delivered far and wide. We are delighted that Roz from London has been able to join our Sunday Worship and tells us she has benefitted from it.

We thank God for enabling us to carry on with this valuable service (confidentiality respected) and look forward to soon being able to offer practical help.

*Pat Barnett*

## **PASTORAL REPORT**

The last year has been so hard for everyone. We have all felt that sense of isolation and detachment to varying degrees. As time has gone on it has become harder for many of us. Thanks to the team of Pastoral Visitors here who have tried as best they could to keep in touch with people, maintaining friendship and care.

All of us have certainly missed being able to meet our church family at various events and we look forward to catching up with everyone as life begins to open up again.

It has been sad to lose some dear Broad Street friends during the past year, which was particularly hard for families with the restrictions imposed. On a happier note, we were very pleased to welcome Patricia P into membership here at Broad Street.

Many thanks to all of the pastoral team, which currently consists of Jane B, Pat B, Dorothy B, Gill B, Norma E, Pat G, Diana J, Rose R, Dot S and

myself, for their support of the Broad Street family over a very difficult time.

*Heather Howman, Pastoral Secretary*

## **KNITTING GROUP**

During lockdown some knitting has been going on – some of which has been brought to me and some I have recently collected. We have produced 31 blankets and 664 other items – i.e. jumpers, cardigans, hats, gloves, mittens and scarves.

Around 200 angels were also knitted but due to Covid they were not placed around the town but are sitting in the ‘knitting cupboard’ waiting for Christmas when hopefully we will be able to distribute them around the shops / businesses (plus any more that are knitted in the meantime!)

When we are able to get back to our usual Friday mornings we would be pleased to see you. Even if you don’t want to knit you can join us for cup of tea/coffee and biscuits and a natter!

Any donations of double knitting wool would be gratefully received as stocks are getting low, and as we have not been meeting we have not had the tea and coffee money to buy any.

We ask that you hold the group in your prayers and hope that we may soon be able to meet again to carry on with our ‘knitting and nattering’!

*Yvonne Achurch*

## **SAFEGUARDING**

As we (hopefully) begin to open up again, I would like to remind everyone that, as a caring and loving Church, each and every one of us is responsible for the care and protection of all in our midst be they children, vulnerable adults or anyone else. If you have any concerns about safeguarding issues, please talk to me in confidence or see the

information on the Safeguarding board in the foyer and follow the guidelines there.

*Diana Jefferson*

## **PRESERVES**

Although we have not been able to display anything during Lockdown, preserves are still available and if you would like to purchase any, you only have to ask.

*Diana Jefferson*

## **STEWARDS' REPORT**

When we were compiling the reports last year we all felt our lives had been severely disrupted for those months following the first lockdown in March 2020. Little did we know for how long our lives would continue to be disrupted during the pandemic.

Difficult times bring their own challenges, and the life of the church here at Broad Street has been faced with many challenges in the past year. I feel proud that as a church we have met many of these challenges. We have been blessed with having some amazing people who have made it possible to continue with worship throughout the past year, albeit at differing times and in differing formats. The digital service has continued throughout, enabling people to safely worship at home, which was inestimably beneficial.

Apart from four weeks in November and six weeks in January and February, we have been able to safely open for worship at Broad Street, which has been very important for many of us. This has been due to our having such a wonderful building and some wonderful people ensuring that we were all safe whilst following Covid guidelines.

Despite the social distancing, wearing masks and other restrictions we have come through positively. During this time the refurbishment has been completed and the new foyer is being used, and looking good.

We were sorry to lose Dorothy and Joan from the stewards team last year, and also Lynn more recently, but thank them for their devotion during their stewardship at Broad |Street. We would welcome anyone who feels called to join the team of Stewards.

We look forward to the gradual unfolding of life again here at Broad Street. We are sorry to be saying goodbye to Rev Frances and David as they leave for the Mid Cheshire Circuit this summer, but thank them for their ministry with us and wish them every happiness in the future. We look forward to welcoming our new minister, Rev Luke Smith, in September as we all adapt to the challenges of being a one minister Circuit.

*Heather, Yvonne, Gill and Clare*

## **TREASURER'S REPORT Year end 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020**

This has been a significant year for us. Apart from the major building contract we have also had unprecedented disruption to Church activities caused by the Covid19 outbreak. The Church closure in March following the nationwide lockdown had a negative affect on our income resulting in a full year revenue account loss of £12,278.37. Although thankfully many members found ways to continue with their offerings the closure meant no income from Tuesday coffee, lettings or special events. But receipt of a £56,785.00 legacy currently held by TMCP means that our balances are a healthy £91,129 as of year end. This will reduce as some reserves will be needed to meet the final Foyer costs and the security installations we have just approved. With Covid19 still

impacting everyone our budget for the year is showing a deficit and will again require regular monitoring.

There has been an unavoidable delay in completing the Foyer contract but with payments of £247,953 paid out during the year only £5,023 remains in V21 account. It has been agreed to use £20,000 from current account balances to help meet outstanding items from the Foyer contract. Under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme almost all VAT costs have been recovered (98.9% to be precise) so far amounting to £31,382.00.

Despite considerable efforts, two permanent endowment trusts held by St Thomas's Rd. have not yet been transferred to Broad St. With support of both Circuit and District I hope this saga will reach a successful conclusion soon. One of them, The Alice Wilson trust (£3,200) is mainly for the upkeep of the memorial windows which are now proudly displayed at Broad St.

The increasing use of online banking has improved the day to day running of the finances despite the Covid impositions. Many thanks to the increasing number of members who now pay by Standing Order, with cash handling becoming more difficult, this safe, easy and effective payment method has helped considerably.

It is now 12 years since we first mooted what became Vision21 to make our buildings fit for mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I am sure we are all delighted with the result. It was agreed from the outset that the project would be phased and nothing embarked upon until the money was available to meet the cost. Although not quite completed the project will meet that important goal. At times it was a long and winding road but our prayers were always answered and our strength renewed to carry on.

Finally my thanks once again to Jacqui Marr for her tremendous 'behind the scenes' work. I could not do this job without her

monthly “number crunching”. Perhaps it is only the Church Treasurer who knows just how much time she devotes freely and willingly to our Church.

*Bryn Chappell*

## **PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

The last year has been an interesting and challenging one. While we have endured lockdowns and not been able to use our premises, we have still had to maintain them. Thanks to all those who have contributed to the maintenance work over the past months.

We have sought to maintain Covid-19 security and so open our premises in line with Government guidelines as soon as we were able to do so. It has been encouraging to have so many people coming to share in our worship and breathing life into our buildings once more. The lockdowns have reinforced the understanding that the Church is the worshipping and serving people and not the premises. It is so good that our worship and fellowship has been able to extend beyond the physical walls of the church through the digital services that have been so important in the last twelve months. Thanks to all those involved in running and participating in them. (Too many to mention by name). As we move forward, it is hoped to develop the digital element of our worship, fellowship and service in new and exciting ways. (Watch this space!)

The work on the new foyer was completed (finally!) and was ‘handed over’ to us in September. It is sad that we have not yet been able to use it as fully as possible but as ‘opening up’ continues it will come into its own. The foyer is a wonderful space to show ourselves to Spalding and has already been used for Christmas and Easter displays in order to project our message. At present, we are looking at ‘furnishing’ it with displays, posters etc. to make it both welcoming and informative. A screen has been put in place to advertise our events and message, a prayer area is being set up and we have thankfully received a stained glass window, designed by Doff Pollard, donated to the church by the

Pollard family in memory of their mother Isobel. It has been put in place and lit by David Ballantyne and Brian Pearson and we express our thanks to them. Comments have been most complimentary and the window will be a wonderful focal point in the foyer.

As part of our building work, toilets have been renovated and the hall refurbished – including some windows now able to be opened. We have also had a large screen put up.

Because of the break-ins we suffered last year, both an intruder alarm and CCTV cameras were installed. It is sad that we had to do this but the step was necessary and their positioning does not detract from the welcoming tone our premises have.

Boilers will also be replaced to ensure that all parts of the premises remain warm and welcoming.

A lot of work has been completed.

We are also thankful for the work done by Andrew, Petra and the boys in caring for the flower tubs outside the church, and to Spalding in Bloom for the Hanging Baskets. The flowers are often commented on and do make our premises look alive, cared for and welcoming.

We have spent a lot of time and money on our buildings and thanks to all those who have generously contributed to the successful completion of the work. But now is the time to move forward to ensure that we begin to use our premises in the most effective way to fulfil Our Calling as Methodists.

*David Baldwin*

## **Church Council Members** July 2020 to June 2021

Superintendent Minister	Rev Alan Barker
Broad Street Minister	Rev Frances Ballantyne
Church Council Secretary	Mrs Jane Baldwin
Church Treasurer	Mr. Bryn Chappell
Church Stewards	Mrs Heather Howman, Miss Jackie Wood, Mrs Lynn Roberts, Mrs Yvonne Achurch, Mrs Gill Brooks, Mrs Clare Ketteringham
Junior Church Co-ordinator	Miss Jackie Wood
Committee Secretaries	
Pastoral	Mrs Heather Howman
Property & Finance	Miss Diana Jefferson
Congregational Reps	Mrs Pat Barnett, Mrs Judith Dodd, Miss Diana Jefferson, Mrs Rose Robinson, Mrs Ann Caress, Mr Kevin Ekins, Mrs Gill Nottingham, Mrs Gwen Baslington
Pastoral Visitors	Miss Patricia Gooding, Mrs Gill Brooks, Mrs Jane Baldwin, Mrs Pat Barnett Mrs Dorothy Basford, Mrs Norma East, Miss Diana Jefferson, Mrs Rose Robinson & Mrs Dorothy Smith
Property & Finance	Mr David Baldwin
World Mission	Mrs Pat Gooding
Reps to Circuit Meeting	Mrs Jane Baldwin & Mr Bryn Chappell (Reserve Mrs C. Ketteringham)
Circuit Steward	Mr Barry Richardson
Safeguarding Officer	Miss Diana Jefferson
CTSD Representatives	Mr David Baldwin, Mrs Lu Chappell & Mrs Gwen Baslington

[www.broadstreetmethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.broadstreetmethodistchurch.co.uk)