

EMMANUEL METHODIST CHURCH

448, Oxford Road,

Reading.

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www.emmanuelmethodistchurch.org.uk

Report for the year 1st September 2005 to
31st August 2006

MISSION STATEMENT

To worship God and to live out the Good News of his love for all as shown by Jesus Christ by :

- 1) **encouraging** each other to grow as a whole person through worship and prayer, activities and meetings on or off the premises.
- 2) **providing** welcoming premises and resources to serve the local community, using our talents and time to meet needs which are not being met by other groups.
- 3) **enabling** all to be involved in every area of the church's life and work with other Christians.

In this way, our hope and prayer is that God will not only be with us, as our name implies, but also with the people who live in the wider community round about, whom we aim to serve and witness to.

Church services and meetings.

- Sundays** 8.30am Monthly service of Holy Communion.
10.30am Morning service.
12.45pm Polish Lutheran Church (3rd Sunday).
3.00pm Intercessors Church of Great Britain.
6.30pm Evening service.
- Mondays** 7.00pm Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Tuesdays** 2.30pm Women's Network alternating with the
Craft Group.
- Wednesdays** 10.00am Baby & Toddler Group. (Alternate
Wednesdays).
10.00am Kingsley Organisation.
- Thursdays** 10.00am Shooting stars Line Dancing Group.
7.30pm Prayer Group. (Alternate Thursdays)
- Fridays** 10.00am Kingsley Group.
6.00pm Boys' and Girls' Brigades.
- Saturday** 10.00am Coffee morning alternating with Brunch.
(2nd Saturday).

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Following the much documented problems of our new building, it was with a spirit of great rejoicing that we moved the furniture from our temporary premises on the Battle Hospital site to our new Church on Monday 10th October. Many members came to lend a hand and we particularly thank David Barton who besides driving the CCA van for us helped to load and unload at each end of the journey. By pure coincidence the new Makin organ was also delivered and installed on that day.

Our first Sunday worshipping in our new church was 16th October, when those that were able, processed from our temporary home to the new building. Revd David Ellis led the large congregation in a very joyful service. Like most new buildings it took a while to find out where things were and from that first week we had to concentrate on the official opening on 12th November. The various church groups soon made themselves at home in their new surroundings.

The Church was filled to capacity for the official opening on Saturday 12th November when Revd Tom Stuckey, President of the Methodist Conference and former Superintendent Minister, performed the opening ceremony and preached the sermon. The Mayor of Reading, Local Councillors, Methodist and local clergy and representatives from other Methodist Churches also attended. Various members of the Church took part in the service after which tea was provided.

On Sunday 13th November we invited former members and friends, many of whom had contributed to the New Church Fund, to the morning service and this was followed by lunch. After the service, there was time to socialise and catch up on the news and explore the premises. The evening service was a circuit service with all the other circuit churches joining us.

It had been decided that during the coming year we would invite former Ministers and Deacons back to lead services. The first such occasion was Sunday 29th January when Deacon Glenda Siding led our morning

service. Glenda had worked in the community and had developed relationships with schools, other churches and organisations in the neighbourhood, which our current Deacon Maggie is continuing.

On the evening of Saturday 18th February the Revd the Lord Griffiths (a former Minister in this circuit) spoke to a crowded Church. The Star Rhapsody Steel Band and Benjamin White (a local Gospel singer) also took part. The following day Lord Griffiths led our morning worship.

Revd Adam Carlill, vicar of St. George's and St. Mary Magdalene's churches preached at our evening service on Sunday 23rd April..

The Revd Derek Shaw led both services on Sunday 21st May and it was a pleasure to welcome him and Molly. Derek was instrumental in bringing both the Oxford Road and West Reading Societies together to form the new Emmanuel Church.

On Trinity Sunday, 11th June, Deacon Margaret Matta led our morning worship. Margaret was Deacon at West Reading when talks about the future of Methodism in the centre of Reading were started and we rejoice that she was able to preach in our new building.

Our final guest preacher of this Methodist year was Revd Jim Booth who led our morning service on 6th August. We were pleased to welcome him and Carole to see our new building. Jim was the Superintendent Minister and was actively involved with our move from Elm Park Hall to our temporary building and sorted out several of our legal problems. Jim and Carole were not able to be with us for the official opening.

We have held several social and fund raising events :-

Saturday 26th November - Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 10th December - Christmas celebration.

Tuesday 28th February - Pancake evening followed by a short service.

Saturday 11th March - Visit of the Internationally known Phoenix choir.

- Saturday 8th April - An illustrated talk 'Curiosities in the Cotswolds' given by Alan Copeland.
- Saturday 6th May - Spring Fayre.
- Saturday 3rd June - Tai Chi evening.
- Saturday 5th August - Coffee evening.

The following Church organisations have been meeting regularly :-

Junior Church (all departments), Crèche, Women's Network, Craft Group, Baby & Toddler Group, Prayer Group, Boys' and Girls' Brigade and the monthly Saturday coffee mornings. In addition the various Church committees have met to ensure the smooth running of the Church continues. The Publicity and Promotions Group which met to make the arrangements for the opening service of our New church and the Resources Group which dealt with the problems arising from the actual building of the Church have been disbanded.

The Church Life & Management committee has been formed and all Church groups are represented and give reports on their progress.

We are supporting Regenerate which is sponsored by Churches Together in Reading, for Mission Reading 2007. The Lent Groups arranged by the Churches Together in West Reading were supported by some of our members as were other events organised by CTWR. Our Deacon Maggie ran a 5 week course 'Time to talk of God'.

On Saturday 22nd April, 14 members (including several Brigades Officers) took and passed the basic Food Hygiene Course and received their certificates during a Sunday morning service.

A Youth Group started meeting on Sunday 23rd April. A number of friends have attended confirmation classes.

On Monday 19th June we supported the Connexional initiative of Prayer without ceasing. Our Church was open from 8.00am to 8.00pm for continuous pray.

Walks were organised for Saturday and Monday 26th and 28th August.

Members and friends have contributed very generously to :- Churches Together In Reading Drop In Centre (CIRDIC), the Samaritans Purse appeal, Deptford Mission, Toys for Parents and Children Together (PACT), Cycle, Run or Walk (CRoW), the Thanksgiving jars and the Asian Earthquake Appeal. Several members have taken part in the Christian Aid Week house to house collection. Many have supported the Jubilee debt campaign by sending letters to the Prime Minister and MP's. The Women's Network has financially supported The Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust and the Fund for World Mission.

The sale of Traidcraft goods, home made marmalade, greetings cards and items from the Webb Ivory catalogue have all helped the New Church Fund.

Since January several organisations have started using our premises :-

On the third Sunday of the month the Polish Lutheran Church continue to hold their service in our church. The Intercessors Ministries of Great Britain hold their service every Sunday afternoon. Alcoholics Anonymous use a room on Monday evenings and a Line Dancing Group use our lounge on Thursday mornings. The Kingsley Organisation, who help adults with learning difficulties, use our premises on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The notices which give details of the events of the church are published every Sunday and the newsletter which contains reports of events, lists forthcoming events and contains articles of interest is published every other month.

INCOME	2005/6 £	2004/05 £
Balance b/f	5,846	10,433
Offering	29,027	24,159
Donations	3,349	540
Gift Aid	10,224	3,891
Coffee Mornings	748	490
Webb Ivory	1,231	1,304
Rents	2,781	
New Church Fund	362	2,713
Other Income	1,381	3,228
Total	54,949	46,758
EXPENDITURE		
Circuit Assessment	27,388	27,324
Webb Ivory	1,267	1,327
New Church Fund	6,368	3,912
Photocopying	1,013	649
Gas/Electricity/Phones	3,409	172
Insurance	2,867	244
Cleaner	2,720	2,590
Cleaning materials	421	132
Property	3,842	55
Sundries	3,485	4,505
Balance c/f	2,171	5,846
Total	54,951	46,756

Finance Report.

The accounts are presented subject to audit.

Income.

The balance brought forward includes money in the flower fund, benevolent fund and Webb Ivory accounts.

Offerings show an increase of about £5,000 over last year.

Donations are up by £2,800 which includes an interest free loan, the residue of a legacy (£67) and the termination of 2 trust funds (£301 & £113). The Kidlington Methodist Church book shop has a fund for book purchases which has given us £124 towards the Junior Church teaching material and the cost of the orders of service for the opening.

Gift Aid is considerably up on last year, although one of last year's payments is included in this year's accounts. This also includes money gift aided to the New Church Fund.

Rents of £2,781 is the income received from the use of our premises. The first group started in January, and others have started since.

Expenditure

The circuit assessment is the same as last year. This year will be less owing to the changes in the circuit staffing, but if the circuit is fully staffed next year we will face an increase.

The amount given to the New Church Fund is mostly gift aid which is sent to the general account for distribution.

We now lease the photocopier and pay a quarterly rate plus 0.6p per copy.

The amount for Gas/Electricity/phones £3,409 is additional, as we paid virtually nothing whilst we were at the chapel.

The insurance includes temporary cover for 450, Oxford Road, 8 months for the new building from October to June plus the annual insurance from June.

The amount shown for property is considerably more than last year and includes pruning the preserved trees, the blinds for the ground floor windows, the external notice boards, fire equipment and the cost of moving from the Chapel.

The balance carried forward includes £35 in the flower fund £117 in the Benevolent fund and £38 balance in the Webb Ivory account.

New Church Fund.

The following are the outstanding amounts that we have to pay to clear the debt on our New Church :-

	£
Interest Free Loans	33,000
Chapel Aid loan repayment	64, 618*
Architect	25,000+
Builders	<u>22,558</u>
	145,176

*This amount does NOT include the interest on the loan.

+This is an estimated amount.

We currently have £25,051 in the New Church Fund account.