

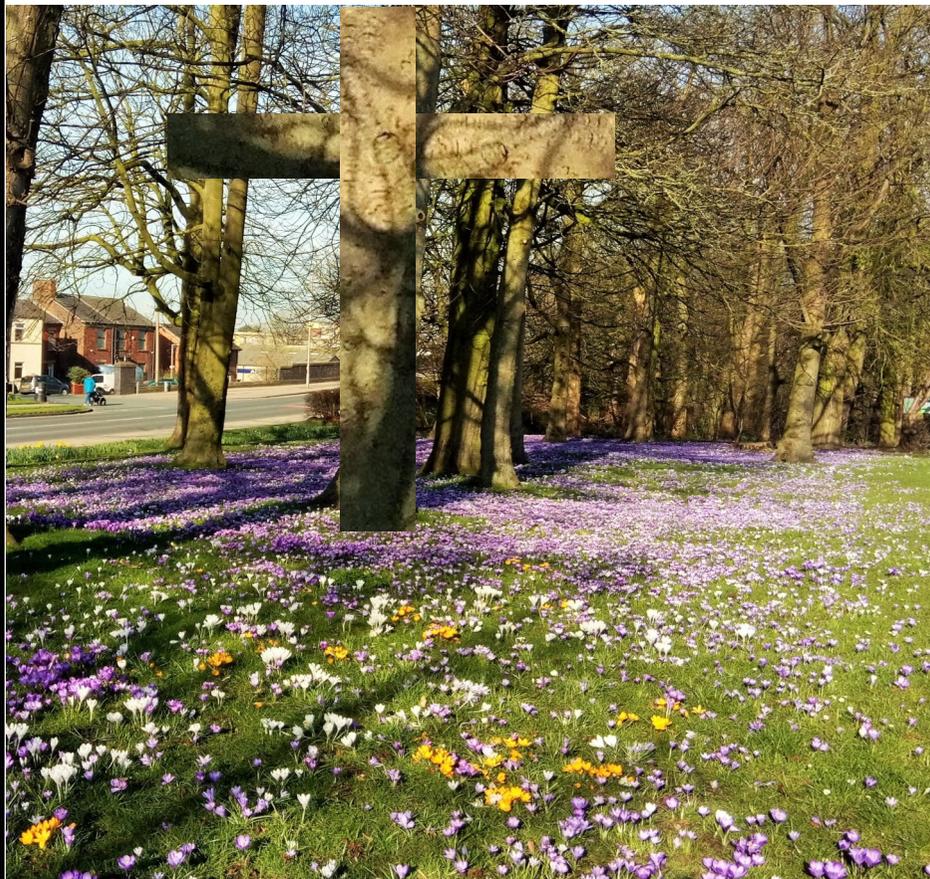


KIRKHAM METHODIST CHURCH



www.kirkhammethodist.org.uk

South Fylde Circuit—Lancashire District



February 2021

Dear Friends,

We live in strange times and although I have been minister of Kirkham Methodist since September, there are a good number of you that I have not yet met either in person or via zoom or the phone and so first a word of introduction. South Fylde is my sixth circuit as a methodist minister. Up till summer I was stationed in Farnworth and Worsley circuit. My wife Jane is the Superintendent of Preston Ribble circuit (hence the address) and so at least this summer we did not move house. We have three daughters, Grace who should be in France but is working for Iceland; Verity who is studying maths at York; and Hope who would be taking GCSEs in summer but...

One of the hymns I often choose is Father hear the prayer we offer. More than ever since lockdown I have felt its power as a prayer

“not for ease that prayer shall be but for strength that we may ever live our lives courageously.”

It was written by Love Maria Willis, a Unitarian. It reflects the tension present before the outbreak of the American Civil War. There does not seem to be much written about her. In fact her entry in the Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology says more about her husband than her (and he wasn't particularly interesting).

We need courage at present. Faith is challenged by the pandemic and its impact. We need courage to believe God is present; God is active; and God is loving. When you feel challenged, maybe the last verse of this hymn will help you pray:

*Be our strength in hours of weakness, in our wanderings be our guide:
Through endeavour, failure, danger, Father be thou at our side.*

God bless you

Stuart Wild

85 Victoria Road
Preston
PR2 8NL
February 2021

The Methodist Church Kirkham



Minister:
Revd Stuart Wild
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Senior Steward:
Mrs Katharine Davies

Website— www.kirkhammethodist.org.uk

Our Calling

Vision statement:

That every person has a relationship with God through Christ.

Mission statement:

To live as a people of **faith**, to share **God's love**, and to be a **voice of hope**.

Missional Goals:

To encourage every person through the missional activities of our church to develop their relationship with God.

To encourage and enable every person to develop their faith through Christian interaction and the study of the bible .

Used Postage Stamps

Please continue saving postage stamps for Huntington's Disease (HD) and pass onto Gillian Womersley.

This is a simple but effective fundraising activity.

(**Huntington's disease (HD)** is a neurodegenerative genetic disorder that affects muscle coordination and leads to cognitive decline and dementia. It typically becomes noticeable in middle age.)



I've been working for the Methodist Church Connexional team for two and a half years now and there's lots that I'm proud of that comes out from the wider team. For the last year we've been working from home and many great resources have come out in that time. Maybe it's been a little while since you looked at the [website](#), or maybe you've never looked at it - I'd encourage you to take some time to have a browse around it as there may be things that would interest you, especially in this time when it's not so easy to be together locally, but are finding it much easier to get together virtually. To whet your appetite here are some clickable links (the words in colour) that will take you straight to particular pages.

There's a page listing all the [many options](#) for joining with other Methodists to pray or worship, such as the Tuesday lunchtime prayers you can join via zoom or facebook. Or maybe you are not a fan of online things and would prefer to use the free phonelines that have been popular to phone to listen to weekly prayers (0808 281 2514) or the President/Vice president (0808 281 2695).

Perhaps you'd like to attend a [webinar](#) and think about aspects of our faith, or being church in a new way? Or spot something that appeals to you on the [calendar](#) of local online events? And with 3Generate not being able to meet in person this year, there are now year-round opportunities for young people to be involved, with [365](#).

If there's anything you'd like to know more about, do get in touch with me as there's so much going on!

Kristie (leggk@methodistchurch.org.uk)

Take and Make – free food table

This initiative working in Partnership with Wesley's Larder at Church Road Methodist Church, started in December. The supermarkets donate food which they have cleared from their shelves and would normally be thrown away, but it is still usable and good to eat. Food is also collected from the food charity Fare Share.

On a Thursday morning, we go and collect boxes containing a wide variety of food from Wesley's larder. We usually get lots of bread and pastries, also pasta, chocolate, crisps, cereals, mince pies and biscuits. We also get potatoes, carrots, onions, parsnips tomatoes, apples, bananas and even water melon! Its pot luck what we get each week.

The table is open every Thursday from 2:30pm until all the food is gone. We set up outside which, in the current climate, is a lot safer but also because we need to keep the crush hall Covid secure for the pre-school. We have considered using the church porch in case of extreme weather but actually it all works out much better being outside as



we are much more visible. We have been very fortunate to receive two grants, from Methodist Women in Britain and Fylde Borough Council, which allowed us to purchase a proper all-weather foldable Gazebo.

Originally we put all the food out on the tables and people were invited to come and look at what was available. They were asked to bring their own bags and then point to what they wanted so that the volunteers, wearing protective gloves, could fill these up. However due to the increased risk from the new variant of the virus, we decided to make up our own 'goody' bags with a selection of the food, which were easier to give out and avoided people gathering around the tables. We also discovered that people were more willing to accept a pre-packed bag rather than choose something from the table. Continued over.....

There are two aims for this initiative. Firstly we can offer free food to anyone who needs it and secondly we are encouraging people to take and use food that would otherwise just go into landfill.



We need volunteers to collect the food from Church Road, set up the gazebo and tables, pack up the goody bags from the food available and help with the distribution of the food and bags.

If you would be interested in getting involved, please get in touch with Gillian or Ian.

Reports from February Church Council Meeting:-

Christian Aid report

Christian Aid Week is May 10-16th.

I'm going to attend some of the online Christian Aid conference this month with the hope of being inspired as to how we can collect this year, maybe fundraising virtually rather than the house to house. If anyone else would like to attend any of the sessions the info is all here:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/events/changemakers-conference-programme>

I'll put into the notices whatever we decide about raising money this year.
Kristie

LMG Report

We have had 2 successful meetings via zoom (thanks to Jennifer). One was a Candlelight Service with everyone taking part and the other was a chat meeting to catch up on each other's news. Both were really enjoyed and another meeting will take place in February. Our new Deacon, Kim, took part and it was good to meet her.

Irene Pugmire (Secretary)

Stewards report

Not much to report since the last meeting. We are now shut again and as yet no indication of when we might open. We need to wait until Lancashire County Council decide we can. As soon as this is possible, we will open and let everyone know.

The free food table is continuing though – many thanks to Gillian and Ian who sort this out.

Gillian has now left the Leadership Team. Due to other commitments, she decided to step down as Church council secretary as soon as a replacement is found, but decided to step down from the Leadership Team. We'd like to thank her for her time in the Leadership Team when she was a very valued contributor and I certainly appreciated her contributions. We will be looking for another steward to come onto the Leadership Team, so if anyone would like to do this, or has any suggestions, please let one of us know.

Kath Davies Senior Steward

Young people

Since Christmas we haven't done much with the young people but there are a few things in the pipeline now.

- We will be having a games night on 17th Feb to tie in with the start of Lent – thanks to Lisa and Stuart who will be doing games
- We'll send round links for Lent to parents
<https://www.tath.co.uk/easter-resources?fbclid=IwAR1G7VQZtuzBjTmqZr40OpreMJNjEtdohIG4OTGsXdsmv4ZVHWC8spCGAk>
- Gillian is going to sort out a trail like the one done at Christmas with QR codes – same link as above
- Jennifer and Kim will be sorting out Messy Church for Easter Week
- We'll be buying small Easter Eggs and Easter books to take round to the young people

Some of the Sunday School teachers will take these out to families. Thanks to all who are helping with the young people.

Kath Davies Sunday School Leader

Pastoral Report

There is no alteration to the numbers of members from the last report. The Pastoral Committee held a virtual meeting in December.

The membership cards for 2020/21 were distributed to each pastoral visitor to be given out

Pastoral visitors have been active in keeping in touch with those members under their care during the lockdown.

Stuart and I have communicated regularly and any concerns have been addressed.

Jennifer Jones. Pastoral Secretary

A new British Saint

On 13 October 2019, Pope Francis named John Henry Newman a saint, before some 50,000 spectators gathered in St Peter's Square, Rome. Newman was the first Briton to be proclaimed saint since 1976, when a Scottish martyr, John Ogilvie, who was hanged in 1615, was canonised. Newman thus became the first British saint to have lived later than the 17th Century.

Born in London in 1801, Newman took Holy Orders and became a Church of England vicar in 1828 at the university church of St Mary the Virgin, Oxford. It caused something of a stir when, in 1845, he was received into the Roman Catholic church, working mainly in Birmingham. He was a preacher, scholar, influential theologian, essayist and writer. He produced more than 20,000 letters and 2 novels. His words helped overcome the hostility to Catholicism dating back to the Reformation in the 16th Century. He was created a Cardinal in 1879.

Newman was also a poet but wrote only a few hymns. For Methodists, he is perhaps best remembered for two of them: the first is "Praise to the holiest in the height" – "Singing the Faith" No. 334. The set tune "Gerontius" related to Newman's poem "The Dream of Gerontius" a work made famous by Sir Edward Elgar's setting to music. A second Newman hymn, "Lead, kindly light" has not been including in "Singing the Faith" but was in the 1933 "Methodist Hymn Book" and as No. 67 in "Hymns and Psalms" 1983. Interestingly, this hymn was written before Newman's conversion to the Catholic church, but it is the one quoted by Pope Francis in his public address at Newman's proclamation in October 2019, urging that we should ask to be like "kindly lights, amid the encircling gloom", trusting in God's patience and guidance.

The Pope also quoted Newman's claim that "the Christian has a deep, silent, hidden peace, which the world sees not. The Christian is cheerful, easy, kind, gentle, courteous, candid, unassuming; has no pretence" – not far from Paul's description of love in his letter to the church at Corinth (I Corinthians, Chapter 13).

(I note that four women were also canonised that same October day, but so far, I've not been able to find out more about them).

Newman's name lives on in Preston, where the Catholic Sixth Form College is named after him. The college has become the choice of many local students for their post-16 studies and several young people associated with our church have benefited from the courses provided there.

Eric Wolstenholme

White Van Man

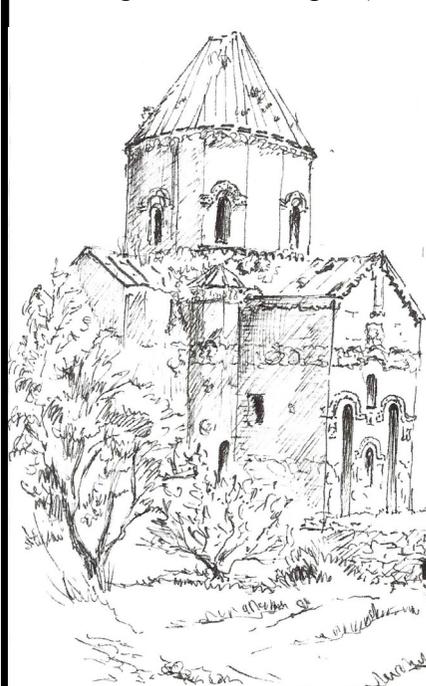
I hadn't heard of Professor Abdullah Kaya until I read an article in a recent edition of the "Sunday Times". I had, though, heard of Van cats because in the 1980s, Barbara and I visited the far East of Turkey, close to the border with the (then) USSR, Syria and Iran. One of our stopping places was Van, a remote mountainous region with a great blue lake.

This was the place of origin of Van cats, a pure white breed with remarkably, one blue eye and one amber and which enjoy, of all activities, swimming. Apparently, Van cats were face with extinction by the 1990s, with only a handful left. But today, thanks to the work at a small research institute on the shore of Lake Van, where Professor Kaya is based, the breed has been revived and is thriving. Export restrictions prevent them being sent abroad, so they are a source of Turkish national pride.



A Van cat enjoys a pool reserved for the breed

Our visit included a short stay in the town of Van and a swim in the lake. We bought a small carpet (a bargain, naturally!) but which was given close



Church of the Holy Cross
Aklamar, E. Van
Turkey 20.8.88

scrutiny by HM Customs in the "Goods to Declare" channel at Gatwick Airport on our return. I also recall seeing tiny wild tortoises in the scrubby, hot roadside verges and at one point a distant hazy view of Mount Ararat, the supposed resting place of Noah's Ark. On our way home, some tight scheduling meant that all we had to eat was a bagful of pistachio nuts, bought at a street stall in Diyarbakir and finished on the train from Euston to Preston.

It was rather sad to see so many desecrated Orthodox Christian churches in that part of Turkey, abandoned since Kemal Ataturk, President from 1923 to 1938, created a secular state. When we visited, a tiny number of Syrian Orthodox Christians were still hanging on to keep their faith alive, but only just.

Eric Wolstenholme



Methodist Women in Britain

Lancashire District

As we look back over the last twelve months and reflect on life with restrictions due to the global pandemic Coronavirus, it is remarkable how we

have all adapted our work, social and worshipping behaviour. Our last district gathering for Methodist Women in Britain with invited delegates from Liverpool district took place at The Glendower Hotel in 2020. Departing with hugs, and a promise to see each other either at district day in March or next year at the hotel, little did we know what was ahead.

However as life in lockdown began so did our shift in technology, we who had never heard of Zoom began a great learning curve. Jane Harper our then District President came to the forefront and set up a virtual coffee morning with opening Devotions each Saturday at 11am for an hour, and that has run and been enjoyed by women around the district.

District Executive meetings have taken place, and in September Julia Robinson from Banks moved from being Vice President into the role of President. Unfortunately there was no way we could have her Commissioning Service at her home church, and promote her project raising money for 'Medecins Sans Frontiers', although Julia did set up a 'Just giving' page, personal contact and information is always so much better when promoting a charity.

As a president, it is usual to visit groups and speak about the project you have chosen, as this has not been possible, and hopefully with churches opening up later in the year we as a Committee have asked that Julia's two year office be extended to three years. This was agreed, so we are looking forward to the next two years, when hopefully we can hold Julia's Commissioning service in September, and circuits can welcome her to their meetings to speak.

Our District Conference for 2021 was obviously cancelled, Jill Baker our invited speaker has agreed to come in 2022 which we are delighted about.

2021 also marks the tenth anniversary of MWiB becoming an independent Methodist charity, yet part of the whole British Methodist Church. Again we were to celebrate this event at the Swanwick Conference in April. As we are unable to be there in person, a virtual conference has been set up 'Together, with Hope on the Way' with keynote speaker Sister Imelda Poole joining virtually from

Albania to talk about her work educating and training young people to help prevent them from being trafficked.

Continued over.....

Districts have been asked to make A4 panels depicting projects and issues raised during the past ten years, these will be joined together to make bunting. To date three panels have been sent from our district.

It came through from MWiB that during the pandemic a grant of £200 was being offered for special projects helping people during this time. Gillian applied and was successful in gaining the grant, which helped to purchase a Gazebo for the Take and Make food table which is set up in the grounds of Kirkham Methodist Church each Thursday afternoon.

Jennifer.

LMG

Unfortunately all our booked speakers for 2020 onwards from our March meeting had to be cancelled due to the outbreak of Coronavirus. Little did we know then that twelve months later we would still be in a lockdown situation and unable to meet.

However as we all became more IT literate and Zoom became normal for church meetings, seeing and keeping in touch with family and friends I decided that since we couldn't meet personally for our Christmas LMG party and Candlelit Epilogue we would do it virtually.

This proved to be a great success, and it was good to see friends we hadn't seen or spoken to for months. Since then we have successfully had a Zoom meeting in both January and February, hopefully this will continue until we can all meet again on our church premises or maybe celebrate with a garden party in the summer.

We shall look forward with renewed hope to a healthier 2021
Stay safe, God bless.

Jennifer

Glimmers of Hope—Article on page below



Glimmers of Hope!

Nearly a year has passed and Covid has changed much of what I enjoyed as a volunteer.

No RSPB at Fairhaven Lake on a Wednesday assisting with school visits, chatting to holiday makers, selling binoculars & telescopes or working in the shop. No conservation at Brockholes, laying dry hedges, pulling out ragwort before raking hay, making habitats piles with fallen trees etc. etc. But most of all missing seeing the wildlife through the seasons and being unable to be with friends with similar views and aims.

Over winter I have had very few birds in the garden What! No birds I hear you say. Yes! No birds, well that is not completely true, I have had a Male & Female Sparrow Hawk and a Kestrel. The Sparrowhawks fly through the garden at speed without the beat of a wing and heads straight for anything that is on my bird feeders. The Kestrel sits on the fence in wait.

So drastic action had to be taken—I stopped feeding the birds altogether over winter, so that stopped all the birds coming into my garden, even the birds of prey Ha! Ha! I then moved one of my bird feeders so that it is high up and half surrounded by trees and bushes. This now seems to be working a treat.

I have three bird boxes in the garden and I wondered whether I would get anything nesting this spring. Oh Ye of little faith!

Great Tits are looking at one, Tree Sparrows are actually building a nest in another and the third box is still vacant waiting for Robins or Dunnocks.

During lockdown the RSPB Ribble Discovery Centre at Fairhaven has been having a drastic facelift and will be turned into a small Heritage Centre and RSPB shop with one of the boat houses being turned into an Education Centre. Whilst there is still a lot of work to do to get everything ready for the grand opening there is a great air of excitement.

At Brockholes there is much work to be done to catch up on lost time and to try and recover areas where Willow and overgrowth drown the life out of so many important plant species. However, the good news is that the wildlife is flourishing due to the reduction in visitor numbers.

So the hope is that all the wildlife, plants and trees in all our gardens, at Fairhaven Lake and Brockholes bursts into life and that Covid becomes insignificant to us all.

Ian Womersley— Pictures of Tree Sparrows on above pages.

My last few months (well, not quite, I hope!)

I didn't go on 2 short breaks, speculatively booked but necessarily called off when the first lock-down was imposed. I like being on level-ish ground these days, so a few days in Lincolnshire would have been just fine. Then I almost made it to a flat with a sea view on the Cumbrian coast, but the start date coincided with the start date of the second lock down. However, thanks to Jo and John, we did manage 2 lovely days out, to Upper Ribblesdale - Settle, Stainforth, Ribblehead, Ingleton - and to Silverdale and Arnside, during that brief period of softening of the stay-at-home rules. It was so nice to revisit places from my youth hosting, cycling and motor-cycling days. What a splendid part of the country is this!

I've taken plenty of short, local walks and noted a distinct explosion in the dog population - often in multiples, mostly small and quite a few huskies (not house-pets, surely?). Stopping to chat with a neighbour plus a fierce-looking best friend, it was a good thing we were socially-distanced, as I got growled at quite pointedly. It's the walking stick that upset the animal, I was told.

At home, I admit having watched rather more TV than previously, though not much daytime. I must have missed many of Michael Palin's travel programmes first time round, so it has been good, though sometimes poignant, to be reminded of some of the places Barbara and I travelled to - the "Sahara" and "Himalaya" series, especially.

It hasn't all been passive though and after a couple of years when I did very little in the way of painting, I've had a bit of a spurt recently, some in response to personal requests, reminders of holidays at home and abroad, and a few animals - stag, owl, dogs. I didn't plant sweet peas last year, but Rebecca brought me some from her garden, so I did 2 studies, along with some nice pink Cosmos. As I write, I have a vase of daffodils and a vase of Alstroemeria just about to open enough to copy.

I'm not much into street parties, but I did join in the Myrtle Drive hand-clap for the NHS. I decided to add some musical accompaniment on birch-horn (a wooden trumpet), ukulele and xylophone. If it had gone on much longer, I may have had to get out the double bass.

I was initially astonished at the government's decision that churches should close. Of all things, this seemed especially timid, but of course it had to be, and it felt very strange not to sing, to see so many "no entry" pews, initially not to use the church, such small congregations, absence of children. So, heartfelt thanks to the people who were determined to make all the complicated arrangements which were required to make worship possible again. It has been good to have the opportunity to sit and enjoy the peace, concentrate on the words of hymns, listen to the music and just be where we like best to be on Sunday mornings, whatever else is being provided by the church. It will be good, though, when it becomes OK again to share some social time around our worship.

What else have I done? Oh, yes, I have become a great-grandfather, on 24th November, to little Gilbert, on the other side of the world, son of Charlotte, Jo and John's daughter, and husband James.

Quite a year!

Eric Wolstenholme

Treasurer's report for Church Council February 2021

Item 1: Financial position at end January 2021 - no major issues to report, see detail below with some specific comments where appropriate:

KIRKHAM METHODIST CHURCH

Actual 19/20		Actual to end Jan'21	Full Year Budget	Budget to end Jan'21	19/20 to end Jan'20	
£67,821	Balance b/f	£64,089	£4,089			
	INCOME					Significant (>£300) comments for Church Council Feb21
15811	Weekly Offerings	£8,136	13,414	£5,589	£7,445	Above budget currently, likely to remain ahead of budget by up to £2,000
9528	Rents	£4,587	11,715	£4,881	£5,374	Below budget currently, COVID-19 may result in being on budget at year end
314	Sunday School	£30	100	£42	£257	
56	Organ Fund	£1	5	£2	£56	
0	Gift Day	£0	-	-	-	
460	CFB Interest	£84	250	£104	£200	
748	Special Collections	£189	-	-	£515	
133	Building Fund including gift	-	-	-	£19	
107	Holiday Club/Messy Church	£0	20	-	£72	
2042	Miscellaneous	£9,963	-	£9,963	£1,379	Includes boiler replacement (Insured) likely to be on budget at year end
5569	Gift Aid (general fund)	£0	3,555	-	£993	Likely to be around budget at year end
£34,767		£22,991	29,059	£20,581	£16,309	
	EXPENDITURE					
7174	Repairs	£238	6,500	£2,708	£3,082	Below budget, underspend will be carried forward
3489	Organ & Piano repairs	£55	55	£55	£3,489	
220	Sunday School	£111	250	£104	£172	
160	Printing & Stationery	£0	165	£69	£47	
749	Cleaning	£311	1,400	£583	£430	
317	CCL	£356	327	£327	£317	
0	Building Fund outgoings	-	-	-	-	
2307	Miscellaneous	£10,272	2,660	£11,071	£777	Includes boiler replacement (Insured) likely to be on budget at year end
32	Holiday Club/Messy Church	£30	400	£167	£32	
18788	Connexional & Assessment	£5,300	20,271	£5,300	£4,816	
4513	Utilities and Insurance	£2,318	5,150	£2,146	£2,941	Likely to be below budget at year end - less gas consumed by fewer rentals
748	Special Collections	£189	-	-	£515	
£38,498.38		£19,179	37,178	22,530	£16,620	
-£3,732	Surplus for the year	£3,812	- 8,119	- 1,949		Likely to be better than budget at year end
-£3,825	Surplus for the yr exc Bldg	3,812	- 8,119	- 1,949		
£64,088.77	Balance c/f	£67,901	£55,970			
£30,423	Balance c/f exc Bldg fund	£34,234	£22,304			Likely to be better than budget at year end

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

	Collected	Paid
JMA	£51.71	£51.71
All we can	£64.00	£64.00
Action for Children	£17.02	£17.02
Christian Aid	£56.00	£56.00
	£188.73	£188.73

Building Fund		In	out	transferred from church funds	nett	
Collected Y/e 31/08/14	£291	£291	£0		£291	easyfundraising
Collected Y/e 31/08/15	£6,570	£7,620	£1,050		£6,570	£57
Collected Y/e 31/08/16	£6,265	£8,780	£2,515		£6,265	£230
Collected Y/e 31/08/17	£1,032	£6,117	£5,085		£1,032	£340
Collected Y/e 31/08/18	£18,887	£10,180	£1,292	£10,000	£18,887	£404
Collected Y/e 31/08/19	£490	£490	£0	£0	£490	£195
Collected Y/e 31/08/20	£133	£133	£0	£0	£133	£133
Collected to date 2020/21	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
	£33,666	£33,476	£9,943	£10,000	£33,666	£1,358

Item 2: Appointment of Treasurer - I have now been treasurer for 6 years; if I am reappointed this year I am prepared to continue for one more year until Feb 2022, but no longer. This should give sufficient time to find a willing volunteer and to train him/her in the role.