

GREASBY METHODIST CHURCH



Annual Report

April 2022 - March 2023

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Dear sisters and brothers in Christ.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

I started going to a gym about two months ago. I tried to ease the stiffness of my muscles from the hot sauna which stimulates blood flow to my muscles. The longest time that I have ever stayed there was about twenty minutes. At the stage when I felt it is too hot to stay there, then I went to a family pool in which the depth and temperature of the water are suited to me for stretching and practicing swimming. I can float for a few minutes but cannot properly swim. I found that being relaxed while swimming is the hardest bit for me. The more I resisted not falling into the water the more I filled my body with full of strength.

While I was struggling to give up my strength to be relaxed, I realised, perhaps, we who say we are the followers of Christ also need to rely on Christ for our strengthen, so that Christ can live in and through us. The more we give ourselves to Jesus, the more he can be seen. Ultimately, we will reach the point that it is no longer 'we' who live, but 'Christ' lives in us. And this echoes Paul's letter to the church in Galatians.

"It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;
and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by
faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave
Himself up for me" (Gal. 2:20).

So we who remember Jesus' suffering, crucifixion, and resurrection, will let Christ navigate us safely through 2023 and beyond.

May the Lord bless you all.

Yangsun Yi

AGENDA
GENERAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 30th APRIL 2023

1. Welcome and devotions
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the General Church Meeting held on 8th July 2022 (not available)
4. Matters arising
5. The election of church stewards
6. The election of church representatives to the Church Council
7. Annual Report on the life and mission of the church
8. Mission Plan 2023-25 (see below)
9. AOB
10. DoNM

8. Mission Plan 2023-25

The Church Council met in February and referred the following discussion to General Church Meeting. Please come with your thoughts prayers

1. To what extent are we fulfilling our Vision Statement...
'An Evangelical Church which offers a warm welcome to all, preaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ, serves the community of Greasby and reflects the love of God through Jesus Christ'.

2. Who do you see as our main groups for mission and outreach?
(Currently these are a) Outreach to Elderly and Lonely and b)
Welcome to Families)
3. In what ways would you wish to see growth and development
under the Methodist Church Core Principles
 - i. Worship
 - ii. Learning and Caring
 - iii. Service
 - iv. Evangelism
4. What should be the key priorities in the Mission Plan 2023-25?
(and as individuals, what is it you feel God is calling you to do in
service to Him)

MINUTES OF GENERAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 24TH APRIL 2022

Not available



The Methodist Church

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission

It does this through



Worship

Increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love



Learning and Caring

Help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care



Service

Be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice



Evangelism

Make more followers of Jesus Christ

GREASBY METHODIST CHURCH

Our Vision

To be an Evangelical Church which offers a warm welcome to all, preaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ, serves the community of Greasby and reflects the love of God through Jesus Christ.



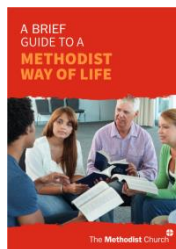
We aim to

Share the good news of Jesus Christ and draw others into a personal relationship with our Lord and Saviour.

To demonstrate God's love for all through our personal witness and in the work we do for others.

Our **key values**

1. Spirit led Bible based worship
2. Growing our faith and sharing it with others
3. Pastoral care and support
4. A friendly and welcoming church serving the community and reflecting the love of God.



THE METHODIST WAY OF LIFE

The Methodist Way of Life encourages us, as far as we are able, with God's help to:

WORSHIP

- ❖ We will pray daily.
- ❖ We will worship with others regularly.
- ❖ We will look and listen for God in Scripture, and the world.

LEARNING AND CARING

- ❖ We will care for ourselves and those around us.
- ❖ We will learn more about our faith.
- ❖ We will practise hospitality and generosity.

SERVICE

- ❖ We will help people in our communities and beyond.
- ❖ We will care for creation and all God's gifts.
- ❖ We will challenge injustice.

EVANGELISM

- ❖ We will speak of the love of God.
- ❖ We will live in a way that draws others to Jesus.
- ❖ We will share our faith with others

May we be a blessing within and beyond God's Church, for the transformation of the world.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership team consists of the Minister Rev Yangsun Yi, four stewards appointed by the General Church Meeting (Sue Elliott, Paula Dewhirst, Sue Farrelly and Lyn Jackson-Eves), the Treasurer (Alan Chamberlain) and a Local Preacher (Judith Stelfox). The team meets regularly to pray for, and to discern, Gods guidance and wisdom in leading the church and this year has been a very busy year as we continue to seek new opportunities for mission and ministry, all of which is reported on in detail within the Annual Report

The major focus this year has been the delivery of the Mission Plan 2021-23, written to reflect The Methodist Church Our Calling. We were struggling to find way(s) of fulfilling Mission Plan priority C2, provision for elderly and/or lonely, but have been inspired by the national Warm Spaces initiative to set up a Friendship Cafe on Friday afternoons (see report). In addition we were blessed to be able to work in partnership with all four local schools to offer a Community Pantry for eligible families during the Christmas break. In furtherance of Priority D1 to increase outreach to young families, we have entered into an exciting new partnership with Wirral Methodist Children and Youth team to offer extended mission opportunities later this year. Church Council has approved 3 priorities

1. Trial family worship on Sunday mornings (last Sunday each month)
2. Provision to enable children to develop faith, possibly school holidays or mid-week activity
3. Summer Holiday Club

Together with the longer-term priority

4. To connect with adults to facilitate exploration of faith issues

Regular progress reports and updates are presented to each meeting of the Managing Trustees (Church Council).

We do, of course, look forward to welcoming you to the General Church Meeting on 30th April (following morning worship and a Bring your Own Lunch) and we are really pleased to be able to devote some time to think about our Mission Plan for the next 2 years

The General Church Meeting meets annually, but can meet more frequently. It has a responsibility to consider the whole ministry of the church. This includes its financial affairs, the election of church stewards and representatives, and any other purposes – which may have been directed by Conference. For the General Church Meeting to

*work well, it requires a proper representation of everyone in the local church, including those who are newcomers. **Church Stewards handbook 2022***

Please do take time to read the detailed reports herewith. As a leadership team, we praise and thank our Lord for His inspiration, His strength and the resources to develop all we have in the past year. It has been amazing to see God working in fresh ways in our endeavours to grow the Kingdom, here on earth, and we thank all for journeying with us. We pray for Gods wisdom and guidance as we continue to explore His vision for the future of our church, as we are asked to explore different model(s) of being church and a sustainable Circuit structure for the future

On a personal level I do thank all those who have supported me during my appointment as Steward and Senior Steward and I look forward to journeying with you as we trust our Lord for all that is to come

They met together praising God and the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. Acts 3 vv 46-47

**Sue Elliott
Senior Steward**

NEW WEBSITE

<https://greasbymethodistchurch.org.uk>

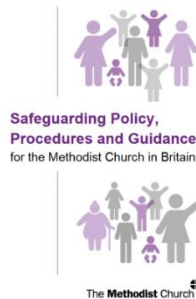
Members will be aware that we launched a refreshed website early in 2021. We hope you will agree the new website looks modern, utilises enhanced facilities, is easier to navigate and more user-friendly to manage. We do try to update the news pages, publish letters/news to the membership, maintain the calendar for upcoming events, publicise worship services and upload past services to listen to at any time, upload the weekly newssheet for access from home, share good news stories with the community and, most importantly, share the gospel through thoughts, reflections and prayers. We would welcome your feedback and your contributions at any time

Say One for Me requests can now be received electronically and confidentially. There is a new email address (sayoneforme@greasbymethodistchurch.org.uk) which only the prayer co-ordinator can access, as with the Say One for Me cards.

**Sue Elliott
Senior Steward
Website Management Team**

SAFEGUARDING

There has been no report of any safeguarding issues in any of the activities held within the premises at Greasby Methodist Church this year.



The Methodist Church requires the following to attend the **Foundation course training** (list as applicable to Greasby Methodist Church):

- Presbyters with an active preaching or pastoral ministry
- Pastoral visitors
- Lay employees and volunteer workers with pastoral responsibility (pastoral links)
- Anyone working with children in the name of the church
- Anyone working in activities targeted at adults who are vulnerable (OASIS, Friendship café)
- Church stewards
- Local Preachers (and those in training)
- Worship leaders (and those in training)

In addition, the following are required to attend subsequent **Advanced training**:

- Church Safeguarding Officer
- Presbyters with an active preaching or pastoral ministry
- Those who are in paid employment or a voluntary role including leadership within the Methodist Church, which involves direct work with children, youth or vulnerable adults.
- Local Preachers
- Worship Leaders

Training

Foundation training is available

Saturday 13th May 9.30-12.30 at Trinity Methodist Church, Ellesmere Port

Monday 12th June 11.00-2.00pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Ellesmere Port

Advanced training is available

Saturday 29th April 9.30-12.30 via Zoom

Wednesday 5th July 9.30-3.30 at Wirral Methodist Centre, Thingwall (please take a packed lunch)

Please contact me for further details and booking

Please be aware that if someone comes into our church offering to help and being overly helpful, or if you are approached by someone on church premises who asks for money, please politely decline, and contact me or Jack Watson on 0746 239 8260 as a matter of urgency. While we want people to come into our churches and be helpful, we just have to be safe about this. It doesn't mean that people can't attend a church if they want to, we must put safeguards in place for them and for the people that come into our buildings.

If you require renewal of your DBS certificate, please continue to contact Jack Watson or Rev Yangsun Yi.

Paul Boardman
Safeguarding Officer



Wirral Methodist Churches

WIRRAL METHODIST CHURCHES

Greasby Methodist Church continues to be represented at the Circuit Meeting by Sue Elliott (Senior Steward) and Alan Chamberlain (Treasurer). In addition Paula Dewhirst has attended recently as a representative from Greasby Methodist Church. There are usually 5-6 meetings/year and we report back to the Leadership Team and Church Council, as appropriate. In addition, a Circuit Steward attends Church Council wherever possible

In March 2022, after extensive work by and with the churches, the Circuit Meeting adopted a Wirral Circuit Mission Plan. The Plan contained four areas for immediate action:

1. Carry out a review of church mission plans and dialogue with the churches about how they see their future post-COVID; help them develop compelling, clear and realistic goals, and consider resourcing needs.
2. Decide how best to restructure Circuit financing/assessments in order to reduce costs, maximise church engagement and promote joint working.
3. Develop lay leadership across the churches.
4. Address governance and church council structures across the Circuit to lessen the burden on ministers.

This year discussions have focussed on

- Budget deficit reduction, budgets and Assessment (most meetings)
- Annual Appointments and District restructuring (June 2022)
- FUSS and Strategy for Circuit goals (September 2022)
- Warm Spaces, Circuit staffing, Asset Management Group business including the future of the Circuit Centre and strategy for Circuit Mission Policy (November 2022)
- Stationing, Approval of 2021/22 Annual Accounts and trustee report, 2023/24 Budget, Mandatory EDI and Unconscious Bias training and Conference report *The Covenant Relationship between the Church and its Ministers: Commitments and Expectations* (January 2023)
- Models of being church and sustainable Circuit structure (Away Day March 2023)
- Methodist Council consultation on merging districts, Safeguarding report and policy, establishment of a Public Issues group, reports from Local Preachers meeting and Asset Management Group (March 2023)

The focus now must be on sustainable models one being church, which needs to be a priority for leadership team and Church Council this year. I would ask for your continued prayers for the Rev Heather Cooper (Superintendent), all the Presbyters and Deacon, Lay staff and Circuit Leadership Team as they continue to manage not insignificant challenges in staffing and resourcing the Methodist Circuit here in Wirral

Sue Elliott
Senior Steward



WORSHIP

- ❖ We will pray daily.
- ❖ We will worship with others regularly.
- ❖ We will look and listen for God in Scripture, and the world.



Our Mission Plan priorities for 2021-23

Our Calling	Priority	Activity
A WORSHIP Increase awareness of God's presence and celebrate God's love	A1 To increase opportunities for family friendly worship – target audience Cradle Roll families and Toddler parents	Monthly Teddy Bear Services (second Sunday afternoon each month) and Breakfast with Santa in December
	A2 To be more pro-active in ensuring that worship is appropriate for our congregation and user friendly!	Consult with the congregation as to what they find helpful (or not) in worship Work with preachers to maybe trial a variety of worship patterns.
	A3 To hold a memorial service to give thanks for and to celebrate the lives of those who have died during the pandemic both within the church and in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with Church Council to agree a date and time • Publicise in Greasby area inviting all who have lost loved ones to join with us. • Format to be agreed with Minister and Worship Consultation Group
	A4 To open the church for private prayer on a regular basis	Monthly Prayer mornings (1 st Saturday of every month 10.00-12.00), widely publicised and open to worshippers and the community
	A5 To improve learning and praying together	Annual Prayer Day (possibly speakers and prayer stations for reflection), widely publicised and open to the community

FAMILY WORSHIP

MISSION PLAN PRIORITY A1

Following several months of trialling different forms of Family Friendly Worship we felt led to offer regular Lego Church as well as family events for special occasions, on the second Sunday of each month at 2.30pm



We continue to praise and thank God for the amazing response to the launch of **regular Lego Church (8th May, 8th July, 9th September, Remembrance Lego Church 13th November, 6th January, 12th February and 12th March)**. Each month starts with a time of free play with Lego and Duplo until 3.00ish, following which we join together in the sanctuary for our monthly bible stories, singing praise to God and prayers. This is followed by a special Lego Challenge each month, when we do award certificates to the best Lego Master Builders before joining together for teatime treats – pizza, chicken nuggets, toast, crisps, cake, fruit etc. Our numbers continue to increase each month and it has been a real joy to welcome baptismal families, Church Mice families and other regular attendees.

Let's Party for the Jubilee held Sunday 12th June was a very special afternoon of fun for all the family, with a variety of craft and activities including Queen's Corgi's crown; Water into wine; Queen toilet roll model; Union Jack with handprints; Water into wine puzzle sheets and colouring sheets as well as the very popular Lego and Duplo model building. We held games and races in the main hall (eg giant Jenga; hook-a-duck; ten pin bowling; parachute; races (sack, egg'n'spoon); crown on the princess (tail on the donkey); velcro darts; skipping; giant beetle and hopscotch). Our bible story for the day was Jesus turns Water into Wine at the wedding at Cana, followed by singing loud praises to God and prayers, before party snacks served in the atrium.



Sunday 14th August saw another Toasty Church – not dissimilar to previous Messy Church events - with a variety of craft and activities for families to complete in the atrium before story telling (the Prodigal Son) using video clips in the sanctuary, action songs and prayers followed by toasty treats for tea

We were overwhelmed by the response to the invitations to ***Breakfast with Santa on Saturday 17th December***, when Santa managed to pop in to join us for breakfast. Despite a rather busy schedule, he arrived by 9.30am and listened carefully to all the hopes of the children as we ate a hearty breakfast – it was not only the adults who enjoyed the bacon butties! To our surprise Santa did not know what we are ***really*** celebrating at Christmas so the families gathered together in church as we told the *Sweet Christmas* story, retelling the story of how and where Jesus was born, the shepherds who called to visit Him first as well as the wise men who brought their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We shared the Good News that Jesus was born to be King of the World. We enjoyed singing ‘Come and Join the celebration’ which reinforced Jesus as the best gift that anyone could ever receive. Following prayers, Santa shared some lovely presents for each of the children and it was sad when he had to go on his way. But we hope to see him again next year



Following the extremely popular Easter Eggstravaganza in 2002, we praise and thank God for such a successful ***Easter On the Car Park held on Palm Sunday 2nd April*** when we welcomed 250 visitors aged 2 months–80+ years, to learn more about Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the last Supper, the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. ***Jesus is***



Alive! Visitors enjoyed a range of crafts, little ones enjoyed a ride on Ant and Dec (the donkeys) and face painting, we all laughed with and appreciated the puppet shows sharing their Easter songs and enjoyed Easter cakes and hot cross buns in the atrium.



It is amazing to see God working in new and refreshing ways to share the Good News here in Greasby. Please join us in prayer that families will continue to join us to learn more about Gods love for us all.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.....

Matthew 28 v19

Sue Elliott

Schools and Families co-ordinator

WORSHIP REPORT

MISSION PLAN PRIORITY A2 AND A3

Thankfully the restrictions imposed during Covid three years ago have long since disappeared and our worship has returned to normal for the past year apart from some sensible precautions during communion. It has been good to sit together and to share the peace and to sing. Our minister Rev Yangsun was away for 5 months during this period for a sabbatical and holiday. During that time she returned to South Korea to be with her family. Sadly her mother died just before she was due to return so this turned into a slightly longer absence. We are grateful to Rev Charles New for keeping us in order during her absence.

On the last Sunday of each month the worship leaders have led our morning services and they have been well received by all, inspiring us and giving us food for thought. We are very blessed to have such a talented group and are very grateful for all they do.

During Lent last year we had liturgy relating to the Lectionary readings and placed symbols on the Cross, and our Easter Sunday service was led by Rev John Barnett. We had the usual open air Ecumenical Service in the village on Good Friday morning followed by hot cross buns at St Nicholas's church.

Harvest Service was held on the 18th September and the day of prayer was led by Rev George Palmer on the 25th September (see separate reports). We held a memorial service for those who had died during the past year on the 23rd October which was welcomed by all who came. Shoe Box service took place on the 6th November with over 200 boxes sent enroute to Romania and Ukraine. Thanks go to Lyn Jackson-Eves and husband Martin for all their hard work making it happen.

Advent Liturgy was prepared by the worship leaders who also led the family nativity and Christingle service on 18th December. The Carol Service was led by Judith Stelfox.

Family Worship has taken place on every second Sunday in the month at 2.30pm (see separate report) and Café church every 3rd Sunday in the month at 6.30pm (see separate report). The World Day of Prayer took place 2.00pm Friday 3rd March (see separate report).

Being able to worship freely is something we take for granted but in many places around the world this is not the case. To worship in public can mean

persecution and even death so please “do not let us neglect meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but may we encourage one another”
(Hebrews 10 v25)

Judith Stelfox
(on behalf of the Worship Consultation Group)

CAFÉ CHURCH

We have enjoyed meeting throughout the past year with the exception of August. The worship has continued in the atrium with a variety of speakers and self-led services for the remembrance and thanksgiving of our late Queen Elizabeth II in September. In October we invited my nephew Jacob Topping to share on his faith journey and travels with Rev Canon Mike Pilavachi one of the co founders of Soul survivor a large Christian Youth festival to South Africa. This opportunity gave him the experience of sharing with other Christians but seeing the diversity of wealth and poverty in a small area in which he travelled. In November we welcomed Stephen Blair from the Lighthouse church in Heswall to share their vision for the redesign and build of a new multi – functional place of worship. We look forward to seeing how God is going to work through the church reaching the community of Heswall. December brought us around to our annual carol service led by Judith in recalling old and new carols and readings. It is always well received and draws in visitors , family and friends.

In January Martin shared his faith journey and the impact several people and life’s calling had shaped him to the present day. February’s café church was re named café praise and the newly formed worship group led the time of praise allowing church family to offer their favourite hymns and worship songs with short reflections. Finally March has brought us round to the warm welcome of an old member who has now been ordained and is serving in Liverpool as Rev Lee Jennings. Lee has also served with Youth for Christ and many of us remember his work with the young people in our local churches and schools including the local Flame radio station. The evening was a wonderful time of fellowship and we look forward to welcoming him back to a morning service when he is available in the future.

Do continue to support Café church, the third Sunday of the month over a coffee and cake, 6:15 for a 6:30 start.

Paula Dewhirst
Worship Leader

PRAYER MISSION PLAN PRIORITY A4

This year we have moved the focus from our monthly prayer meeting held on the second Saturday of the month which allowed people to either participate in quiet meditative prayer and /or corporate prayer. From Saturday 18th March we have been concentrating on different prayer themes including the Lord's prayer, Lectio divina and prayer of Francis of Assisi. We encourage you as a church family to meet together to explore our prayer life and grow richer and stronger as we seek our calling and mission for the church in Greasby. Our plan is to continue to meet weekly from 10 -11am every Saturday morning , please join us when you can and let's build a church based on prayer, allowing Jesus to draw us together with him as a sure foundation and cornerstone.

Amen

**Paula Dewhirst
Prayer Leader**

DAY OF PRAYER MISSION PLAN PRIORITY A5

Last September we held our day of Prayer with Rev George Palmer taking morning worship alongside the worship leaders and speaking and sharing on prayer ministry using oil to anoint those who felt called to be prayed over. It was a beautiful day led by the Holy spirit which we shared a packed lunch and refreshments after morning worship and the church hall was open throughout the day and into Monday to allow time of quiet reflection through prayer stations. These reflected themes of water for cleansing , living water with a water fall feature, light through the ignition of tealight candles , contemplating the world and writing on the prayer wall. The cross stood in the centre of the hall to allow a time of quiet reflection on forgiveness and repentance. Several words of scripture were visible throughout the hall allowing a time of meditation .

Look out for plans for another day of Prayer and commit to being a part of it with the church family. Prayer really can move mountains, lets be a church who is known for a faith that is active, moving forward in the power of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus name, Amen

**Paul Dewhirst
Prayer Leader**

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A women led, global, ecumenical movement MISSION PLAN PRIORITY A5



It was a great privilege to share in the World Day of Prayer, hosted by St Nicholas' Church on Friday 3rd March

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. This year the theme was ***I have heard about your faith.*** Our sisters in Taiwan sent us blessings with the service they had prepared for the Day of Prayer. Taiwan is an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. The women of Taiwan shared the issues faced geographically, politically and socially and also their hopes for the future. We gave thanks for the beautiful island and people of Taiwan, and encouraged each other in our faith just as Apostle Paul did in his letters. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later

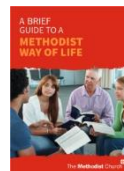
We look forward to the 2024 service, which has been written by women in Palestine. The theme is '*I beg you bear with one another*' and we will share with our ecumenical friends on **Friday 1st March 2024** (time to be confirmed) at Our Lady of Pity RC church. It will include a time of worship, stories of hope, hymns and prayers, reflection and responsive action, and dedication of the WDP offering. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Sue Elliott
World Day of Prayer rep



LEARNING AND CARING

- ❖ We will care for ourselves and those around us.
- ❖ We will learn more about our faith.
- ❖ We will practise hospitality and generosity.



Our Mission Plan priorities for 2021-23

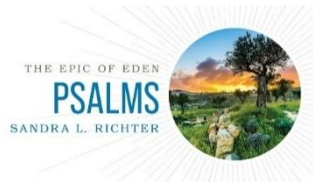
Our Calling	Priority	Activity
B LEARNING AND CARING Help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care	B1 To increase learning and nurturing the Christian faith (by building relationships, enhanced fellowship and support for one another)	Increase the number of house group/bible study groups available and/or numbers attending. (Develop opportunities to share our faith and inspire one another)
	B2 To improve nurturing the Christian faith and fellowship within the church family	Arrange Discipleship and Fellowship Day(s) for whole church family
	B3 To increase opportunities for fellowship	Arrange annual shared meal (eg at Christmas)

MONDAY EVENING HOUSE GROUP / BIBLE STUDY MISSION PLAN PRIORITY B1

I am happy to report that the Monday evening house group continues to meet fortnightly at the home of Mrs Vel Kelly. Currently 7 people attend. The house group starts at 7.45 pm with tea/coffee and a short time of fellowship followed by a discussion based informal Bible study. We are currently looking at the Gospel of Luke in the "For Everyone Bible Study Guides" by Tom Wright. This comprises 26 different studies and generally each study looks at a different chapter of the Gospel of Luke although there are a couple of exceptions when a chapter is covered by two studies. May I take this opportunity to thank Vel for her faithfulness in continuing to open her home for this ministry and also for being willing to use her organisational skills to aid the smooth running of the house group. We are thankful that God has been faithful and blessed and enriched us as we have met together to study His word during the past year. **Janis Nuttall** House group leader

THURSDAY MORNING HOUSE GROUP / BIBLE STUDY

MISSION PLAN PRIORITY B1



This group is made up of 8 people who meet every 2 weeks on a Thursday morning to study the Bible together. During this last year we studied the book of Psalms using a study guide and accompanying videos by Sandra Richter. During the 8 sessions we looked at various aspects of the book which was the Hymnbook of Ancient Israel. Did you know there are 5 books within the Book of Psalms? Sessions included such topics as:-Who wrote the Psalms and why – How to interpret the psalms – The Power of poetry – The anatomy of a lament and Jesus in the Psalms. There was a lot of study involved which we had to do between meetings and the videos were very informative and interesting. I know we all learned a great deal from spending time in the Psalms.

After that we tackled “The New Testament you never knew” by N.T.Wright and Michael Bird. This also involved a study guide and a video teaching session. The two Bible Scholars took us on a tour of the story behind the explosive story of the New Testament. The videos were filmed in the places where the events occurred so it was good to be where Jesus and his disciples went, and where Paul and the early missionaries travelled. We discovered things we never knew about Jesus’ baptism and journey into the wilderness, the meaning behind his parables and miracles, the significance of his death and resurrection, the incredible expansion of the early church and how the transforming mission of Jesus can still turn the world upside down today.

Just recently we have looks at some of the characters involved in the Reformation Martin Luther and William Tyndale via a book and videos entitled “Ideas that changed the World” by Dominic Steel.

It has been fascinating stuff and we are looking forward to tackling a new course soon which is being produce by the Bible Society on the book of Romans which uses a similar format of study book and videos. These men and many others gave their lives so that we could read the Bible in our own language so please do not neglect to read the word of God for yourself.

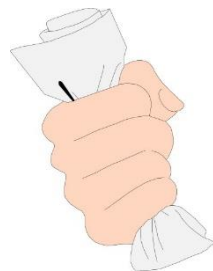
Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3 v16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Judith Stelfox
House group leader

DISCIPLESHIP AND FELLOWSHIP DAY

MISSION PLAN PRIORITY B2



We held a very successful Discipleship Day on Saturday 21st May 2022 when Mark Thomas led an interesting, informative and challenging day of discussion and fellowship on the theme 'Grasping the Gospel'. The aim was to equip us as disciples to further our mission here at Greasby Methodist Church by re-crystallising the gospel in our own minds (essentially a framework for being a disciple!!)

We thought about

1. What the gospel is and isn't
2. How to present the gospel
3. An understanding of society and the challenges we face today

And considered

- The 3 Rs Ruin, Redemption and Regeneration
- The 3 Ps Penalty of sin, Power of sin, Presence of sin, linking to Justification, Sanctification and Glorification
- Why we are where we are (an overview of cultural changes in the last 50 years and the challenges it presents to the mission of Greasby Methodist Church today)

We do thank Mark for leading such an inspirational day of learning

Sadly our Discipleship and Fellowship day planned for Saturday 29th October was postponed due to ill health and has been rescheduled for **Saturday 20th May 2023**. Paul Boardman will lead the day '*Don't make history change the future*' which aims to equip us as disciples to run our race well as followers of Jesus Christ. A full programme for the day (including booking forms) will be available soon but please note the date and commit to join us, as we support each other in developing our own faith and equipping ourselves to share the gospel and grow the Kingdom for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Sue Elliott
Senior Steward

PASTORAL REPORT

Pastoral care has always been at the very heart of Christian ministry. We at Greasby have a wonderful dedicated and caring team of Pastoral Links, who each care and look after the people in their group. This is usually about 6-8 people. We meet together every 3 months as a group, to discuss all in our care, and sadly this past year, we have lost 2 of our family to our Lord, where we know they are safe and at peace with Him.



It has been a blessing to see a few new younger people joining our congregation in the past few weeks. We pray that they will become regular worshippers with us.

Following the Warm Spaces idea we welcomed the launch of a Friendship Café on Friday afternoon (see leadership team report and detailed report p28)

So much of pastoral care is unseen. Allowing people to feel heard and care for is both a gift and a privilege. Providing a safe place to explore and discuss remains at the very heart of our mission. We are all getting older, and various health problems are facing many of us. We pray Lord that we can continue to do your work in every way possible for our church family and the community of Greasby as we seek fresh ways to grow the Kingdom.

Jesus said, My commandment is this: Love one another, just as I love you. The greatest love a person can have for his friends, is to give his life for them. You are my friends, if you do what I ask of you. John 16 v12-14

**Lyn Jackson-Eves
Pastoral Secretary**

CRADLE ROLL AND BAPTISMS

The Cradle Roll register has been reviewed and I continue to hand deliver birthday cards to each child up to their 6th birthday wherever possible. However there has been a decrease in the number of families on the register largely as a result of lack of baptisms, also as children have moved address or out of targeted age range. Sadly there have been no baptisms since the last General Church Meeting. However I am delighted that we have



welcomed so many of our baptismal families to Breakfast with Santa, Family Worship eg Lego Church and special events eg Lets Celebrate Jubilee and our recent Easter On The Car Park.

Please pray that all our baptismal families will grow in their own faith as they have made their commitment to the Christian upbringing of these precious babies and children.

Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it' Luke 18 v16-17

**Sue Elliott
Cradle Roll Secretary**

FLOWER MINISTRY

The congregation offer flowers to enhance our worship and mark an important date. These flowers are then distributed to those who may benefit from this ministry. At Easter and Harvest the congregation make donations to decorate the church for these celebrations, also at Easter the congregation bring flowers to decorate the Lenten cross which we crown with a floral diadem.



Sue Farrelly

SERVICE



- ❖ We will help people in our communities and beyond.
- ❖ We will care for creation and all God's gifts.
- ❖ We will challenge injustice.



Our Mission Plan priorities for 2021-23

Our Calling	Priority	Activity
C SERVICE Be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice	C1 To develop our service and outreach to a target group of elderly and lonely	To build on the current successful ecumenical Oasis by offering a monthly afternoon tea and cake, with a Christian message and reflection (specific target group via Health Centre) (1 st Wednesday afternoon of the month)
	C2 To explore provision for target group of elderly and lonely (of any age) in order to build on existing connections and build relationships within the community	Consult and explore possibilities to meet the needs of elderly and lonely (Working with the Health Centre, discuss purpose, consider and plan programme/provision)
	C3 To get alongside the adults who bring children to Toddler group	Review current working practice (purpose, visitors, numbers, concerns) of Toddler Group Explore feasibility of re-opening Toddler Group (in particular staffing). Consider re-branding Discuss potential leadership of Toddler Group in the future

OASIS

MISSION PLAN PRIORITY C1

OASIS - a meal with a message has been able to return to our monthly lunches. Homemade soup, sandwiches, cake and fruit is served on the last Wednesday of each month followed by a short Christian talk given by invited speakers. During the six weeks of Lent we met weekly and followed a themed Lenten course titled 'The Unexpected Journey' which follows Jesus through the events of Holy Week. Everyone is welcome to come and share food and fellowship.



Sue Farrelly
OASIS co-ordinator

FRIENDSHIP CAFÉ

MISSION PLAN PRIORITY C2

Following the government and Methodist Church appeal for churches to open the doors and offer Warm Spaces in the light of the ever increasing cost of living, it was a joy that Church Council approved the launch of a Friendship Café in January 2023. An open meeting resulted in several volunteers, and the subsequent Risk Assessment and Safeguarding policies were approved, so that the café could be launched on Friday 13th January. We continue to offer a drop-in café every Friday 2.00-4.00pm, sharing free tea, coffee, biscuits and cake, with the purpose of providing fun, friendship and company and it open to anyone in the community who wishes to join us.



The café is hosted by two welcome hosts each week, together with one person to prepare and serve refreshments in the kitchen. It was intended to offer newspapers, magazines, games, board games etc – however recently there has been a group of regulars attenders who organise a quiz, which has been very interesting.

It has been a privilege to welcome some church members and several new faces and to open up conversations, inviting participation in (eg) OASIS, forthcoming family worship eg Easter On The Car Park, the Ukulele concert, prayers for Ukraine and worship on a Sunday morning. I do want to thank our volunteers for your commitment to support our *Warm Space*, please pray that members of the community will continue to find a warm welcome here at Greasby Methodist Church on Friday afternoons

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13 34-35

**Sue Elliott
Senior Steward**

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

The MWiB committee has continued to meet to plan fundraising events in support of the MWiB District Project



Thank you to everyone who came to support the ***Afternoon Tea on Friday 17th June***, to all those who donated scones and cakes, to the Sing Me Merseyside choir and to the team who worked so hard to make it a very successful afternoon. The event raised funds for The Whitechapel Centre, a leading homeless and housing charity for the Liverpool region. The centre works with people

who are sleeping rough, living in hostels or struggling to manage their accommodation. They are committed to helping people find and maintain a home, and learn the life skills essential for independent living. Following a wonderful afternoon of entertainment by the Sing Me Merseyside choir, there was a very enjoyable afternoon tea including a variety of sandwiches, scones, delicious cakes and numerous cups of tea! We are delighted to have raised £700 for the project to support the work with some of the most needy and vulnerable neighbours in Liverpool



Since September the District project has been AGLIT (Adolescent Girls Literacy project) in Malawi. This project aims to train out-of-school adolescent girls with foundational skills that allow them to develop problem-solving capabilities and also successfully engage in income generating activities in order to break the cycle of poverty and provide a secure future for their children and families.

We thank everyone who supported ***the Mini Mart on Wednesday 16th November***. We were grateful for the very generous donations towards all the

stalls – cakes, books, ‘Good as new’, Bits’n’pieces, Christmas cards and Christmas novelties and thank those who came to support the event with prayers, purchases and enjoying the tea, coffee and fellowship. The total sum raised was 445.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to hosting the **Heswall Ukulele Band at 7.00pm on Saturday 22nd April**, in support of AGLIT. The service of dedication for the **Easter Offering** collection will take place at 6.00pm on **Sunday 23rd May at Irby Methodist Church** and the committee are planning another **Mini Mart on morning Wednesday 15th November**. Please do come and support these events

METHODIST WOMEN in BRITAIN (MWiB)
For women, for justice, for Christ

Sue Elliott
Chair/Secretary MWiB

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

‘We protect and support children and young people. We do this by providing practical and emotional care and support. We make sure their voices are heard. And we campaign to bring lasting improvements to their lives’.



Thank you for your tremendous support for Action For Children. Following the opening of boxes on Sunday 9th April, I am pleased to advise the sum of £54.27 was forwarded to Action for Children. This brings the total collection this year to £593.37 (including all the box collections, the envelope appeal July 2022 and Christmas Day collection)

We are looking forward to hearing more about the work on Action for Children Sunday 9th July 2023 when there will be an opportunity to donate through the envelopes again and I do thank you for your continuing generosity. We know how much this is appreciated by Action For Children who continue to work with increasing numbers of the most needy and vulnerable children and young people in our society.

Sue Elliott
Action For Children Rep

COMPASSION

It is such a privilege to support our two young boys from Uganda and Tanzania. We have been involved in their sponsorship for over 7 yrs. Amos from Uganda was 3yrs old when we started to support him and his family. He is now 10 yrs old and it is a complete thrill to receive his letters often thanking us for our love and support and so grateful for the help we have been able to offer him. What a joy to know through our support he has been rescued from poverty and is growing and being nurtured within one of the Projects, providing him with an education, food and medical support as well as encouraging him to take a step of faith in his belief of a loving heavenly Father. Joseph from Tanzania is looking so grown up, already 17 yrs old and continues to thrive within the project. Please continue to pray for both children for their health and decisions they will need to make in their future education and work life. Pray also for their families and they may be encouraged and supported in their faith. Amen



Paula Dewhirst

FORUM

It's all about you



Forum Housing has a Christian foundation and has provided supported housing for 16-25 year olds who are, or who are at risk of, homelessness. God has been our refuge and our strength for over 50 years and since March 2020 we have expanded and now extend homes to many rough sleepers over 25 years of age, which has been a blessing to all. Our aim is to equip and empower residents to make and sustain positive lifestyle choices and move on, and into, independent living.

Greasby Methodist Church continues to support Forum with Christmas gifts bags and financial contributions towards gifts, thus enabling 334 residents to receive a small gift at Christmas, very often the only gift they receive. We also appreciated the harvest goods and financial contributions, thus enabling residents to develop cooking skills as a next step towards independence. In addition our church has been extremely generous with donations of goods eg bedding, towels, kitchen utensils/crockery, tea towels etc which has enabled those who are ready to move on and settle into independent living in a new home.

Just as importantly, we have appreciated your ongoing prayerful support for our precious, vulnerable members of our society. Quarterly SHOUT newsletters are shared electronically and printed copies are available in the atrium. Please do take time to read the stories of some of our residents. We thank Greasby Methodist Church for all your support in the past year

I tell you, whenever you refused to help one of these important ones, you refused to help me. Matthew 25 v45

**Sue Elliott
Chair Forum Housing Association**



EVANGELISM

- ❖ We will speak of the love of God.
- ❖ We will live in a way that draws others to Jesus.
- ❖ We will share our faith with others

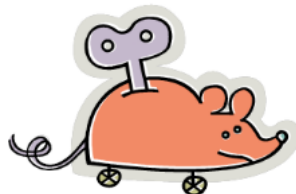


Our Mission Plan priorities for 2021-23

Our Calling	Priority	Activity
D EVANGELISM Make more followers of Jesus Christ	D1 To increase outreach to young families	Explore the feasibility and offer Preschool worship (eg Church Mice) on a regular basis
	D2 To reach out to the community of Greasby	Building on previous success, participate in the 2022 Celebrate Greasby Day by offering tailor made activities designed to share the gospel message with children/families Build on and increase ecumenical working across the churches in Greasby through events eg carol singing in the village, Good Friday witness in the village, World Day of Prayer, other possibilities in consultation with St Johns and St Nicks.
	D3 To continue membership of Ecumenical Assemblies Team	Ecumenical assemblies for each of the three Greasby schools on alternate weeks in term time
	D4 To continue the Hope Journey annual programme	Explore the feasibility and offer (an amended) HJ programme to all three schools in 2020-21

CHURCH MICE

MISSION PLAN PRIORITY C3 and D1



We praise God for another extremely successful year at Church Mice. We continue to welcome many regulars in addition to some new faces each week. The children love singing the welcome songs, each sharing Gods love with each other (including making a loud, joyful noise on our musical instruments!). Following the Mouse Hunt we share a different bible story each week and complete an exciting craft to take home. We finish with prayers and a blessing before a short Tots Play time with refreshments. We thank God for the amazing response to this wonderful opportunity to share the gospel with Greasby families. Please do have a look at the display of photos and crafts in the Family Zone in the sanctuary. We have been truly blessed to see God working in different ways as we develop relationships with new families, several of whom return for Family Worship on Sunday afternoons. We do ask for your continuing prayers for this special mission again this year and sing with us....

God our Father (God our Father)

Once again (Once again)

Thank you for our Church Mice (Thank you for our Church Mice)

Amen, Amen

Sue Elliott

Schools and Families co-ordinator

CELEBRATE GREASBY DAY

MISSION PLAN PRIORITY D2



What a joy to be able to participate again in the annual Celebrate Greasby Day which took place on the village green on Saturday 11th June 2022

Our stall was very, very busy! This time we offered a variety of children's activities including the very popular Rainbow biscuits (made using coloured icings, depicting *Gods Keeps His Promises*), Badgemaker (to make personalised *God Loves Me!* badges), Fridge magnets (sharing a number of different bible verses), Prayer bracelets, Jelly Bean prayer cards and bookmarks with verses of scripture. A number of families asked 'how much?' We are able to declare that Gods love is free to all. These activities are a wonderful opportunity to share the gospel with our community, as well as invite families to join us for our monthly family worship here at church.

Thanks be to Godwho always.....uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him everywhere. 2 Corinthians 2 v14 NIV

**Sue Elliott
Schools and Families co-ordinator**

ASSEMBLIES MISSION PLAN PRIORITY D3



The Ecumenical Assemblies Team (Danny, Sue, 2 volunteers from St Johns and myself) have continued to deliver assemblies at our three local schools – Greasby Infant School, Greasby Junior School and Brookdale Primary School, on alternate weeks throughout the year. This year the children have been learning from the Old Testament including Gods chosen leaders (Joshua, Gideon, Samuel and David) and Prophets (Elijah, Elisha, Jonah and Daniel). The children enjoy the stories told through drama; a message; an action song and prayers. They often tell me they love ‘our’ assemblies and can always recall what they have been learning

We welcomed all three schools into St Johns for Christmas services, and we welcomed Greasby Junior School (240 children plus staff and parents) into our sanctuary for an Easter Celebration on Tuesday 28th March. Brookdale also attended St Johns on Thursday 30th March for our special Easter assembly. We continue to pray that the children and staff will reflect on the messages and come to know Jesus as a personal friend and saviour for themselves

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations

Matthew 28 v19

**Sue Elliott
Schools and Families co-ordinator
Ecumenical Assemblies Team**

HOPE JOURNEY MISSION PLAN PRIORITY D4



Hope Journey is an exciting, interactive and engaging way of partnering with local schools to deliver some areas of the Religious Education syllabus. Through a multiple workshop format, children participate in up to six workshops, each incorporating a different learning style which allows every child to engage in some way with the session. Whilst children hear the Christian believer’s view, the purpose is to deepen understanding, not convert. This has been another

very exciting year for our Hope Journeys, as we continue to offer a different Hope Journey to each year group, so that every child in three of the local schools has the opportunity to come to Greasby Methodist Church at least one day each year

SHARING PARABLES (F2)



We were able to deliver Sharing Parables to 60+ children at Greasby Infant School on Thursday 16th June and again for all F2 at Brookdale Primary School on 7th July. We shared the Parable of the Lost Son (the Prodigal Son). We read the story of The Lost Son from the bible and explained a parable is a story Jesus told to explain his teaching to us. The puppets shared a modern-day version of the story and we included a monologue by the dad. The children made various crafts to take home and we all enjoyed learning about how God loves us, takes care of us and we can trust

Him to be our superstar and very special friend forever.

CRE-8 (Year 4)

We had a wonderful day on Thursday 29th September 2022 when we were able to welcome 61 children from Greasby Junior School and 28 children from Brookdale Primary School back into church. We were able to share stories from the Bible and explore Images of God. The children enjoyed workshops exploring



- Jesus calms the storm through Music (including the preparation and use of musical instruments to retell the story)
- The Parable of the Good Samaritan through Poetry. Children wrote a reflection based on the word 'Neighbour'.
- The Parable of the Sower through Drama to retell the story through actions and mine.
- The Parable of the Wise and Foolish builders through Dance
- The Feeding of the 5000 (thinking about something to share with others whilst enjoying refreshments)

In addition, we shared Images of God workshop and the children drew what God is like on jigsaw pieces. A copy of the jigsaw is currently displayed in the atrium. Children also received a take home leaflet to share the stories with families at home and a memory verse ***The wise man built his house upon a rock (Matthew chapter 7 v24-27)***, which happened to be attached to a chocolate Rocky Bar!

REMEMBERING (Year 6)

We welcomed nearly 100 from Greasby Junior School (in the morning) and Brookdale Primary School (in the afternoon) to the annual Hope Journey Remembering on Thursday 10th November 2022. We shared six workshops

- The **Anne Frank story** – we considered the traumatic experiences of Anne Frank; thought about what Christians are remembering through the sharing of bread and wine at Holy Communion and wrote beautiful prayers which were offered at worship on Remembrance Sunday.
- **A Wartime Experience** delivered whilst sitting in an 'Anderson shelter'. We thought about the different types of shelters, listened to experiences of those who survived WW2 and thought about how we would feel in such conditions



- In the **craft** workshop we prepared a wreath of hope – hopes and dreams for ourselves, in our community and the world around us. We talked about the hope Christians have in our Lord Jesus Christ as we shared refreshments. The schools displayed the wreaths in their classrooms

- **What and Why we remember** on Armistice Day 11th November and on Remembrance Sunday. Following a DVD clip we talked about WW1; Silent Night and a game of football on Christmas Day 1914; WW2, other conflicts which have taken place and are ongoing today; the symbolism of different coloured poppies and thought about the poem *Flanders Field*

- **Untold Stories** – following an introductory piecing together of a jigsaw, we understood the importance of piecing together stories to understand life during wartime. Children read a number of stories written by local members who shared their experiences of living in WW2 and discussed what we can learn from them
- **Rationing and Evacuation** – the children learnt about rationing; food shortages; ration books; weekly shortages and the points system, before considering evacuation – why? where? how? and how people must have felt at that time

The children received the usual take home gift bags including a replica WW1 St Johns gospel issued to all men in active service as well as the Jelly Babies and Jesus story and a weekly ration of sweets (equivalent to 5 jelly babies) to share between the entire family of 7 for one week – that is, if you could even get hold of some sweets!

MEET THE CHARACTERS (YEAR 2)

We welcomed both Greasby Infant School (morning session) and Brookdale Primary School (afternoon session) to Meet The Characters on Thursday 8th December.

Following our welcome and introduction, we shared the Christmas story, highlighting reinforcing the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The children went to meet each of the characters in the story including



- The Angel Gabriel – God’s messenger to fulfil God’s plan. The appearance and message ‘Do not be afraid....’ to Mary and then Joseph, also the shepherds and Magi.
- Mary’s experience – from the message from the Angel Gabriel, the census, travelling to Bethlehem, arriving at the Inn where there was no space, the arrival of Jesus and the amazing visitors – the shepherds and three Magi - who recognised Jesus as the King of Kings
- The shepherd(s) – who were chosen to be the first to hear about the birth and hurried down to Bethlehem to see him
- The Magi – bringing their gifts and travelling back a different way to avoid Herod and why
- The Innkeeper and his donkey – who explained his job as an innkeeper, why Bethlehem was so busy due to the census, the arrival of Mary and Joseph followed by the birth of a baby. The children engaged enthusiastically in waking the donkey up so that the donkey could tell them his story, carrying Mary to Bethlehem and all the commotion in the stable!

The children also enjoyed a break for refreshments during which they created Fridge magnet(s) of the nativity scene

During the plenary the children shared who their favourite character was and why, before singing ‘*Happy Birthday to Jesus*’ and receiving a gift bag with take home gifts

EPIPHANY – JOURNEY WITH THE KINGS (Year 1)

We shared the Journey with the Kings with over 90 children from Greasby Infant School (morning) and Brookdale Primary School (afternoon) on Thursday 12th January 2023. Following our welcome and introduction

- The children completed a Journey to School map, drawing all the things they had noticed as they walked to church. This created the context of journeying
- We introduced our three 'very special friends' who had travelled a long, long way to share their story and we watched the puppet sketch of the three magi retelling their experiences of travelling and meeting the baby Jesus
- We talked about the significance of gold, frankincense and myrrh as gifts for a future King and about gifts which would be suitable to give to a baby and what we can give Jesus as our gift (being kind, looking after each other eg helping someone who falls over, sharing toys and sweets, even helping parents by keeping our bedroom tidy!)
- We sang Our God is a Great Big God – with gusto!
- The children then completed three workshop activities which included writing or drawing our gift(s) to Jesus on a star which was glued onto their journey map; playing the 'Build a Magi' game (bit like a beetle drive) whilst enjoying refreshments and a 'Three Kings' craft activity

During the plenary we talked about how the magi changed their direction, before we committed ourselves to being the kind of people God wants us to be.

CROSS FACTOR (Year 5)



It was a joy to welcome over 100 children and staff to our annual Hope Journey Cross Factor Thursday 23rd March 2023. Following the welcome and introduction, the children participated in 6 workshops

- The **Easter Story using a jig saw puzzle**, which puts Jesus at the heart of the cross. We discussed the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, The garden of Gethsemane, how Jesus was arrested and taken to the high priest's house, before being taken to Pilate who 'washed his hands of the affair', Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We also looked at some **Crosses from around the world** (Roman, Crucifix, Palm, Celtic, Salvadorian) and why we share Palm crosses on Palm Sunday and the children started to design their own cross
- **What is Easter?** – during which the children explored the significance of Palm Sunday (acting out the triumphant entry into Jerusalem), Maundy Thursday/The Last Supper; the meaning of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples and the symbolism of bread and wine at communion. This provoked many questions about our Christian faith, who Jesus really was and why he had to die on the cross
- **I was there!** - a Roman Soldier telling us his experience of being in Jerusalem during Holy Week and how he felt when being told to go and

arrest Jesus – whom he believed to be a good man who had performed miracles and healed people. He thought Pontius Pilate would do the right thing and free Jesus - but he did not. And he was shocked and delighted to meet an angel at the tomb who said Jesus was alive. The children discussed how that Centurion felt during the events of that week

- **Death to life** - We thought about how some things can look dead – but are brought back to life – like a bulb before it grows into a beautiful flower and a chrysalis before it becomes a pretty butterfly. As Christians, we believe that Jesus rose again and is alive and with us today and every day in our lives. We discussed what we may like to change in our own lives, in our community and in the world and the children wrote their thoughts on leaves which are displayed in the communion table

In addition the children enjoyed designing an Easter card whilst sharing in some refreshments

This year our gift bags contained a number of items including



1. The Journey through Holy Week as a take home leaflet (see above) so that the children could colour the images whilst they shared the story with families

2. The Awesome Easter Surprise – Easter story from the Bible society

3. A Palm Cross – with an explanation of the significance of these crosses for Christians

4. A small chocolate easter egg to remind us of the stone which had been rolled away because Jesus is Alive
5. An invitation to Easter On The Car Park and Easter services and a Say One for Me prayer card



It has been refreshing to see God at work in new and different ways this year. As I write, there are plans in place for

1. **Explore** (Year 3) Thursday 18th May 2023
2. **Sharing The Parables** (F2) Thursday 15th June 2023

in order to achieve our ambition to share Hope Journey with over 700 members of the Greasby community this year. Please thank God for these innovative opportunities to serve Him and pray for future success as we review and plan a programme in preparation for 2022-23

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age Matthew 28 v19-20 (NIV)

Sue Elliott
Schools and Families/Hope Journey co-ordinator

CHRISTMAS ANGELS

This year it was a joy to share 300+ angels which we distributed around the church, the village, the local parks and pathways including Frankby, Saughall Massie and Upton and the three local schools in preparation for Christmas. In addition angels were



shared with families at Church Mice, those who came to Breakfast with Santa and attendees at the Lawtons Lunch Club. The new laminated label read

'I bring Good News'....For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given Isaiah 9v6

This angel is a Christmas gift from Greasby Methodist Church.

We hope you can join us this Christmas

Recipients were invited to add photos and comments to our Facebook page and the QR code takes you straight to our website for details of our services. We received many messages...

We have collected an angel this morning from the park. Thank you for brightening up Christmas with this lovely idea. It's the first Christmas in our house in Greasby. Merry Christmas to you all.

I do want to thank all the knitters and those who helped to distribute, we hope to continue with the special mission again this year

Sue Elliott
Schools and Families co-ordinator

RAMBLERS

Once again this year we have had many interesting and varied walks, the majority have taken place on Wirral of approximately 5/6 miles. We are ever grateful to all our volunteer leaders and a special thanks to Sonia for co-ordinating and communicating. As ramblers we are a very friendly and sociable group with many different interests who enjoy the outdoors in all the different seasons. Our numbers have been 10/15 each month. New members and friends are always welcome.

Marion Maher.

RESOURCES

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The church property is generally in good condition. The one area of concern is the damp on the front wall of the church. We now have a surveyor's report which has identified the problem and an estimate for its rectification at a cost of approximately £15000. This should be starting soon.

Last summer we had a full electrical inspection of the total premises (which has to be done every five years) and which proved satisfactory with a few minor updates. On the contractor's suggestion we modernised the atrium lighting with LED units which has been a great improvement and will be more economical in their use.

This coming year we will have to consider replacing some of the fascia boards which are deteriorating and the exterior of the premises will also require painting. It is eight years since it was last done.

Routine maintenance continues and all annual legal checks and compliances have been adhered to.

Alan Chamberlain
Property Steward.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the financial year

1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022

This year we received a gift of £60,000 from the estate of Pat Garrett. As we all know, Pat was a long and loyal member of this church and she has left us this wonderful legacy for us to use for the Lord's work in this place. We have started to use this in supporting our work with children and young families. We have entered into a contract with the Circuit's Children and Youth team for our work here at Greasby at a cost of £7000/annum for the next two/three years. Pat had worked all her life with young people and I am sure she would very much approve.



Our regular Income and Expenditure account is in a healthy position, as you can see from the attached accounts. Our regular income from the offertory remains very steady and is sufficient to meet our circuit assessment. The income from the hiring of the premises for the use of the community is very substantial and very necessary. We would be in real trouble without it. However this is mutually beneficial both to the community and ourselves, financially and in building relationships.

Alan Chamberlain.
Treasurer

LINE MANAGER'S REPORT

I would like to offer our very grateful thanks to Caroline and Lynne for their very valuable contribution to the viability of the church and all the activities that go on here. The premises are very extensively used, which is mutually beneficial both to the community and to the church finances. However this is heavily dependent on the organisational skills of Caroline and the maintenance of the cleanliness of the premises by Lynne. So thank you both very much.

Alan Chamberlain
Line Manager

GIFT AID AND GIVING 2021/2022

giftaid it

For the tax year April 2021 / March 2022 the church received a total gift aid refund of £9100. This comprised £7,210 from those donors who give regular offerings by direct debit (and pay income tax) and £1890 via GASDS (gift aid small donation scheme).

	2020/2021	2021/2022
Direct Debits	35303	33082
GASDS Cash *	6895	7580
TOTAL	41532	40662
Gift Aid	7590	7210

GASDS	1717	1890
TOTAL	9283	9100
G.A. as % of Offerings	22.35%	22.38%

*Plate Offerings + Sunday coffee + Oasis + others.

For the Methodist financial year 2022 - 2023 we are expecting approximately £7230 from Gift Aid on Direct Debit giving, and £1690 from GASDS slightly less than the previous year. GASDS will cover Gift Aid refunds on Plate offerings, Sunday coffee, Oasis, Church Mice, Lego Church and others.

Many thanks must go to those of you who donate to the church by bank direct debit. This reliable source of income enables the church to make plans for the future. Together with income from rental the church needs your offerings to cover such expenses as power, water, council tax, salaries and mandatory contribution to Circuit funds.

If anyone else would like to join the scheme I would be delighted to advise them. Please keep in mind that if you wish the church to claim gift aid on your donations you must pay enough income tax for the government to refund 25% of your church donation out of the tax you have paid. If you don't pay income tax, or do not wish the church to claim gift aid on your giving, this still does not bar you from giving to the church by direct debit. God Bless

Joyce Scoffield
Gift Aid Secretary.

APPENDICES

GREASBY METHODIST CHURCH CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2021/ 2022

2020-21	2021-22	Totals		
£		£	£	£
<u>GENERAL ACCOUNT</u>				
<i><u>Income</u></i>				
37,472.95	Offerings	36513.45		
18,490.00	Lettings	28153.50		
9,373.26	Gift Aid Refund	7,134.60		
0.00	Church Mice	289.67		
0.00	Oasis	424.91		
0.00	Tea/Coffee	176.21		
1,355.00	Church Donations	282.29		
35.21	Interest	91.83		
0.00	Printing Income	0.00		
0.00	Pat's Legacy	59969.63		
524.00	Furlough Scheme	0.00		
67,250.42	<i>TOTAL</i>		133,036.09	
<i><u>Expenditure</u></i>				
45,211.00	Circuit Assessment	30764.00		
193.50	Mission	728.66		
52.1	Stationery, Books etc	63.81		
415.17	Printer	525.22		
4,137.00	Cleaner	5173.09		
6,692.00	Clerical	7279.00		
90.60	Apprenticeship Levy	70.42		
100.00	Circuit Administration	120.00		
	Fee			
2,450.35	Gas	2880.71		
1,564.71	Electricity	2424.09		
897.63	Water	998.40		
50.15	Cleaning Materials	286.14		
747.31	Telephone	759.39		
3,024.12	Insurance	3,111.23		

739.98	Music and Worship	676.66	
2,421.22	Maintenance	3375.29	
336.00	Maintenance - Special	2060.00	
65	Tea/Coffee	106.26	
121.00	Donations	95.00	
550.00	Miscellaneous Payments	447.94	
0.00	Gift Aid to Charities	535.29	
69,858.84	<i>TOTAL</i>	62,480.60	
-2,608.42	SURPLUS/DEFICIT		70,555.49

2020-2021		2021-2022	Totals	Surplus/Deficit
£		£	£	t £
	<u>CHARITIES</u>			
	<u>Income</u>			
1,161.02	Income received	3833.36		
	Gift Aid	535.29		
230.00	Miscellaneous	0.00		
1,391.02	<i>TOTAL</i>		4368.65	
	<u>Expenditure</u>			
917.81	For Charities	4,384.36		
230.00	Miscellaneous	0.00		
1,147.81	<i>TOTAL</i>		4,384.36	
243.21	SURPLUS/DEFICIT			-15.71

	<u>BENEVOLENT FUND</u>			
	<u>Income</u>			
0.00	Donations in	0.00		
0.00	<i>TOTAL</i>		0.00	
	<u>Expenditure</u>			
30.00	Donation out			
30.00	<i>TOTAL</i>		0.00	
-30.00	SURPLUS/DEFICIT			0.00

COMPASSION FUND

Income

775.90	Donations & Cake Sales	1,048.40	
0.00	Gift Aid		
775.90	<i>TOTAL</i>		1,048.40

Expenditure

1,160.00	Sponsor & donations - 2 boys	907.00	
	<i>TOTAL</i>		907.00

775.90	SURPLUS/DEFICIT		141.40
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69,417.34	TOTAL INCOME	138,453.14	
71,036.65	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	67,771.96	
-1,619.31	TOTAL SURPLUS/DEFICIT		70681.18

GREASBY METHODIST CHURCH

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

31st August 2022

	£	£
<u>General Account</u>		
Balance brought forward	26,734.26	
Surplus/Deficit for year 2021-22	70,555.49	
Balance		97,289.75
<u>Charities</u>		
Balance brought forward	253.21	
Surplus/Deficit for year 2021-22	-15.71	
Balance		237.50
<u>Benevolent Fund</u>		
Balance brought forward	554.90	
Surplus/Deficit for year 2021-22	0.00	
Balance		554.90
<u>Compassion Fund</u>		
Balance brought forward	354.35	
Surplus/Deficit for year 2021-22	141.40	

	Balance	495.75
ACCUMULATED FUND BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	27,896.72	
PLUS ACCUMULATED SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR 2019-20	70,681.18	
TOTAL BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	98,577.90	98,577.90
Represented by:		
Discreet Account	3,758.00	
Current Account	34,449.28	
CFB Account	20,370.62	
TMCP Account	40,000.00	
Total	98,577.90	
Less Uncleared Cheques/Transfers		
Plus Undeposited Cheques		
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS		98,577.90

Signed _____
(Treasurer)

Dated _____

Examined and found to be correct by me from the information submitted to me

Signed _____ (Examine
r)

Dated _____