

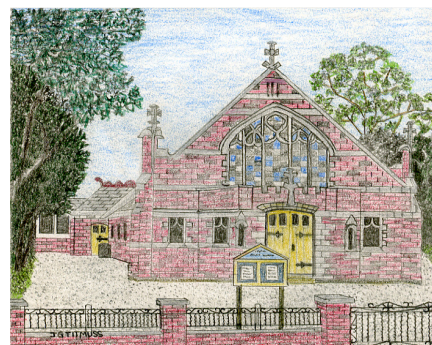
# Annual Report 2011/12

## Pirton Methodist Church

**Location:** High Street, Pirton, Herts.SG5 3PS  
[www.pirton.org.uk/methodistchurch](http://www.pirton.org.uk/methodistchurch)

### **Address for correspondence:**

Crabtree House, 2 Crabtree Lane, Pirton, Herts. SG5 3QE  
Tel: 01462 712340 Email: [dianebailey222@btinternet.com](mailto:dianebailey222@btinternet.com)



**Charitable Status:** Pirton Methodist Church is not a registered charity, however it does have charitable status. It is excepted from registration by Statutory Instrument 2002 number 1598.

**Managing Trustees:** Rev Malcolm Peacock (Minister), Janet Tackley (Senior Church Steward), Barbara Bruce (Steward), Diane Bailey (Church Council Secretary), Ian Brakenbury (Treasurer), Vera Thrussell, Jane French, Ann Wilshere and Matthew Pearson (Circuit Steward).

### **Aims**

The Church exists to exercise the whole ministry of Christ. It does this through its Membership and larger church community, working closely with the North Hertfordshire Methodist Circuit and the Parish Church of St Mary's, Pirton.

### **Priorities**

Pirton Methodist Church is committed to proclaim and affirm its conviction of God's love in Christ, for us and for all the world; and renew confidence in God's presence and action in the World and in the Church. Pirton Methodist Church's Mission is to celebrate God's love for the world through worship and involvement in the local community, in particular enabling our listed building to be a place of inspiration for all.

### **Organisation**

The Church Council has authority and oversight over the whole area of the ministry of the church, including the management of its property. It is constituted to unite those who hold responsibility in the church into one working community. All Managing Trustees are members of the Church Council and they welcome the contribution of Members and non-Members at meetings.

### **Safeguarding**

Self-disclosure forms have been completed by all keyholders and by everyone appointed to an office, duty and responsibility within the church. Consistent with health and safety good practice, we encourage no one to be on church premises alone. The Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually and has recently been updated. Janet Tackley has undertaken Safeguarding training in line with new safeguarding procedures.

# Review of Progress and Achievements

## **1. Membership and Methodism**

The Church has 18 Members. Between 9 and 20 people gather for worship most weeks. The church continues to benefit from the variety of worship planned by the North Herts Methodist Circuit.

## **2. Ecumenism**

The Pirton Methodist/St. Mary's Liaison Group continues to meet to foster good relationships and promote joint activities by the two village churches. The two churches join together to celebrate Covenant Sunday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Worship on the Bury, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Advent. In addition Gena Edwards and Margaret Johnson (Anglican Readers) lead worship at the chapel once a quarter. To deepen discipleship there were three joint study groups during Lent. The two churches collaborate in outreach by sending joint Christmas and Easter cards. The 'informal covenant' signed by members of both churches continues to flourish.

## **3. Participation in Village Life**

The chapel is represented at all major village events including May Day celebrations, Open Gardens, Summer Fair and the Pumpkin Show. As well as building friendships, funds have been raised for the development of the chapel premises. The Minister has regularly led assemblies at Pirton School and also assisted with RE lessons. The Village Carol Service held at the chapel continues to draw many people. Jam making and selling reaches people in the village and brings in additional funds for premises development. The Friendship Circle continues to provide support for its members and a forum for ideas for the developing links with the village community. The monthly coffee mornings continue to attract a large number of people who enjoy the opportunity for friendship and fellowship in our lovely building.

## **4. Methodist Church Hall Refurbishment Project**

The Pirton Partnership continues to seek grant funding to refurbish the Hall building for use by various community groups. The Partnership includes representatives from the Methodist Church (Craig Cameron, Matthew Pearson and Brian Burgess), Pirton School and Pirton Parish Council.

As well as seeking grants from various organisations, the Partnership and Pirton Youth Council have raised funds for the project by holding a Car Wash, serving refreshments at the Summer Fair and organising a concert by Vauxhall Male Voice Choir.

Successful grant applications to date have been confirmed from the following organisations:

NHDC	£ 4,000
Pirton Methodist Church	£ 1,000
Pirton Parish Council	£ 2,955
Gibbs Charitable Trust	£ 500
Allchurches Trust	£ 1,750
Local fundraising	£ 1,337
Pirton Youth Drama	<u>£ 220</u>

**Total** £11,762

Methodist Circuit 10% of total funds raised up to a maximum of £15,000

Since the Planning Department have confirmed that a new build would not be permitted, the refurbishment proposal is the only viable option for the church hall except for demolition which would cost in the region of £10,000.

## **5. Premises**

The dry rot infestation in the utility area has been successfully treated and the reinstatement works are nearing completion. We are grateful to the Herts & Beds Historic Churches Trust who have promised a grant which enabled these repair works to be completed. The Quinquennial Inspection was carried out at the end of the summer and highlighted a number of issues which will need to be undertaken in the next five years.

## **6. Change of Minister**

We were sorry to say goodbye to Andrew Maguire and his wife as they moved to Norfolk, but delighted to welcome Malcolm Peacock and his family as our new Minister and Superintendent of the Circuit. We look forward to them becoming part of our church family and village community.

## **7. Link with Christchurch**

Since the appointment of a URC Minister at Christchurch we no longer share a Minister with them. However our links remain strong with visits from organists and local preachers, attendance at our monthly coffee mornings and the sale of Chapel Preserves at Christchurch once a month.

## 8. Financial Summary

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£</b>
Offerings and Tax Recovered	6201	Circuit Assessment	3850
Bank Interest	1	Donations	965
Hall Fund	4041	Repairs and Building Work	2274
Other Receipts	9609	Utilities	1972
		Loan repayment <sup>1</sup>	2000
		Other payments	3539
<b>Total</b>	<b>19852</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>12600</b>

<sup>1</sup> Final repayment made to North Herts Methodist Circuit loan.

**General fund at end of year 31-Aug-12:** £5,865

**Hall refurbishment fund at end of year 31-Aug-12:** £4,041

### **Known financial commitments for 2012/13:**

- Dry rot treatment reinstatement works £5334 (now paid)
- Altar rail modification £576 (now paid)
- Insurance due Dec 2012 (estimate £1,000)
- Circuit assessment: £1,000 due each quarter

During 2011/12 donations were made to:

Methodist World Mission  
NCH  
Methodist Church Property Fund  
MHA  
Methodist Auxiliary Fund  
Methodist Relief & Development Fund  
Hope & Homes