

9. Financial Summary

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Offerings & Tax Recovered	7464	Circuit Assessment	3860
Fundraising & Gifts	6707	Donations ²	1068
Bank Interest	628	Repairs & Maintenance	279
Grants ¹	8037	Utilities	2430
		Building Works ³	8811
		Loan repayment ⁴	2000
		Other	116
Total	22836	Total	18564

Funds held at end of year 31-Aug-09

¹ Grants have been received from Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust and Methodist Trustees.

² Donations were allocated to the Methodist Church Property Fund, Action for Children, MHA, LPWT, World Mission, Home Mission, MRDF, Auxiliary Fund and Joycare. An additional £185 was donated to the Garden House Hospice that was raised from the Village Carol Service.

³ Building Works include £8581 for roof over vestries and £230 for repositioning the organ blower.

⁴ £4000 remains to be repaid from the from the initial loan made to Pirton Methodist Church from the North Herts Circuit of £10,000

Annual Report 2008/09

Pirton Methodist Church



Location: High Street, Pirton, Herts. SG5 3PS
www.pirton.org.uk/methodistchurch

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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. Philip Turner (Minister), Ann Wilshere (Senior Church Steward), Barbara Bruce (Steward), Diane Bailey (Church Council Secretary), Ian Brakenbury (Treasurer), Vera Thrussell, Jane French 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 the priority of the Methodist Church in Great Britain: 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.

Review of progress and achievements

1. Worship and Membership

Membership is 15. There is between 9 and 20 in the congregation each week. This Chapel continues to enjoy the variety of worship led by preachers planned by the North Herts Methodist Circuit, with the occasional guest preacher and home grown Songs of Praise. During 2008/09 there was one funeral and one service which included a baptism.

2. Participation in Village life

The chapel continues to be represented at all major Village events, for example, May Day celebrations, open gardens and summer fair. As well as building friendships funds are sometimes also raised for the development. The Christmas Tree Festival and Carol Service continues to attract large numbers to the chapel building. The Minister continues to lead assembles regularly at Pirton School and during the year two classes came within the chapel premises for a tour and explanation of its use. Jam making and selling continues to succeed to reach people in the village and bring in additional funds for premises development.

3. The Ladies' Friendship Group

The group continues to provide support for its members and a forum for ideas for the developing chapel community life.

4. 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. Covenant services are shared along with Lent discussion groups that are well attended. The two churches also shared in a joint Passover meal of Maundy Thursday and a Harvest supper. Gena Edwards, an Anglican Reader, leads a service every three months, and is a valuable link between the St Mary's and Pirton Methodist Churches. Raymond Webb, a retired Presbyterian Minister within the Church of Wales, also occasionally leads worship.

5. Use of Property

The Managing Trustees continues to be open for a practical use for the Church Hall. Informal conversations with village agencies continue. There is currently great enthusiasm for using the Church Hall for young people within the village.

6. Development of the Chapel building

The following funding for the chapel redevelopment has been confirmed:

Beds & Herts Historic Churches	7,000
Circuit Advance Fund	20,000
District advance Fund	1,000

Landfill WREN Repair Fund	8,000
Greater London Mission Fund	2,500
Connexional Priority Fund	6,000
Listed Building Fund	2,000
Joseph Rank Trust	8,000
Pirton Chapel's own funds (immediately available)	25,750
TOTAL	80,250
Less expenditure on roof	8,581
Less expenditure on organ	400
TOTAL AVAILABLE	71,269

The Architect, Pamela Ward, has produced specifications and is now awaiting tenders from a list of contractors. The Church Council will only arrange for work to be carried out that can be met from funds currently available.

7. Property Maintenance

The year the roof above the organ and side vestries has been resealed and retiled. Christchurch's Mens' Breakfast group offered immense encouragement through removing the platform near the choir vestry. The plaster work in the Choir vestry will be dealt with when work on the disabled facilities takes place. The electrical installation and appliances are inspected and certificated annually.

8. Maintenance & Risk Assessment

On behalf of Pirton Methodist Church Brian Burgess has provided a General and Fire Risk Assessment free of charge. Action points raised include:

- applying external white paint strip on leading edge and top of stone front entrance steps to chapel and install handrail.
- Fix and make safe manholes and gullies
- Clear vegetation from roof area, guttering and gullies
- Test all portable electrical equipment
- Display mains electricity current installation inspection certificate.
- Position fire extinguisher signage
- Position escape route signage over internal chapel doors
- Position first aid sign near to first aid box
- Arrange first aid training for at least two Members
- Purchase approved accident book.
- Display current Employers Liability Insurance certificate prominently in front entrance.

A Property Maintenance Committee will address these issues.