

Annual Report of the Trustees for Year ending 31st August 2021

Hove Methodist Church, Portland Road. Hove. BN3 5DR

Registered Charity: 1127826

Contacts:

Email: office@hovemethodistchurch.co.uk

Tel: 01273 324600

Correspondence to: The Administrator, Hove Methodist Church, Portland Road, Hove. BN3 5DR

Minister: Rev Andy Lowe.

Managing Trustees:

Church Members: There are 77 members of the church.

Organisation

The Church Council, comprising the Managing Trustees, oversees all aspects of Church activities, expenditure and income. The Church is part of the Brighton and Hove Methodist Circuit within the Methodist Connexion. There are two Committees which report to the Trustees in respect of Finance/Property and the regular Worship Consultation committee feedbacks issues relating to the management and development of the worship life of the church. The Minister and the church leadership team, comprising of senior stewards, stewards and the treasurer meet regularly.

Communications

Website www.hovemethodistchurch.co.uk

Weekly 'Newsnotes' provide information about current activities and forthcoming events.

Quarterly Focus magazine from Brighton & Hove Methodist Circuit.

Mission Statement:

'To share the love of God, as revealed by Christ, through the Holy Spirit'

Worship

Usual Church services are held each Sunday morning at 10:30am

Holy Communion is celebrated on the second Sunday at 10.30am and weekly on Thursdays at 10.30am

During this year there have been times when we have been able to be open for worship and other times when we have been closed due to the Virus.

Online services have continued for those who choose to worship from home.

Thinking Aloud (or Allowed) services provide opportunity for engaging in conversations about faith, doubt and rediscovering alternative orthodoxies. These continue to be online.

Our joint venture with our URC friends at Central continues to engage us in a different style of worship. These services were moved online in March 2020 and continue to be there.

Baptisms, weddings and funerals are conducted at the church by arrangement.

Children and Families

Our young people join us in our Sunday worship and the ages range between 3 and 17.

Fellowship and Community outreach

'Polka Tots', mother and toddler group, closed for a while but opened with small, booked sessions as per Government guidance at the time.

We have continued to deliver lunches during this period in Partnership with the charity Food & Friendship (formerly known as Hove Lunch Club). This means we are involved with feeding around 90 people every Tuesday (mainly elderly and many of whom are socially isolated and lonely) and similar numbers on a Thursday. Many of our church members are involved either as volunteers or receiving these lunches.

Our Monday Guild also had to stop meeting but when restrictions were eased they began to meet in small numbers in open spaces. continues to meet with a selection of speakers and subjects to keep them thinking. The Thursday Communion also began meeting with similar guidelines as did our Friday chatty café.

Our in-building Christmas Day meal had to be cancelled again so our 45th meal was again cooked on the premises for around 120 guests which was delivered by a team of drivers and we were humbled again by the number of people wishing to volunteer to help.

When able we also ran Chomp, a holiday event with lunch provided for families on benefits or low income. We fed around 50 guests and volunteers during the year. It is free for the families and we run it in conjunction with One Church and we are usually able to send families home with food parcels to help during the rest of the week.

We hope that alongside our active community work and involvement we also will touch the community with a deepening and yet everyday faith that speaks of the transforming love of God.

Looking forward we hope to be able to resume all our in-person activities in-line with government Coronavirus guidance and guidance from the Methodist Church. Our aim is to support families with the full re-opening of our parent and toddler group (Polka Tots) and offer a chance for members of our worshipping community to attend regular in-person service.

An exciting development for us during this period has been the welcoming of three other local community organisations. These are Nam Yang who offer martial arts training, Brighton Table Tennis Club offering table tennis and Stay up Late, a local charity with both national and international outposts supporting people who are unable to access evening and night life without support. A number of Gig Buddies groups have been set up around the world through them. We are enriched by their being with us and we are building good and strong working relationships which are of benefit to us all and to the community we serve.