

# LEYLAND METHODIST CHURCH

## ANNUAL REPORT 2008



## Introduction to the Annual Report for the year 2008

This is my fifth "introduction" to an annual report, and it is an honour and a privilege to encourage you to read all the many encouraging reports from so many different groups contained in this record of God's work through Leyland Methodist Church in 2008.

My own personal reflections and "thanksgivings to God" over 2008 include :

~ the arrival of Matt Lawley-Brown as our long-awaited "Youth Coordinator" and the beginning of his ministry amongst us; for Len, Taliyah and Kieona, too, who bring such gifts to us.

For the early work Sylvie, Matt and I have shared together as a new "team" working together at LMC. I thank God for my fantastic colleagues !

~ the success of "SUMMER HOLIDAY" as an adult Music and Drama Group re-emerges alongside the hugely successful MADMOB, whose "MMTV Live" production was fantastic, and helped give a very clear message about Jesus's teaching in the Sermon on the Mount.

~ the resources available to complete the work on the Community Centre roof, securing it well for the next fifteen years, and beyond ! Many thanks to the Property Team and the Finance Team for overseeing excellently this vital piece of work, and for all groups and individuals who are helping to "top up" the reserves over these weeks and months.

~ key people "retiring" from roles within the life of LMC, often having faithfully executed their responsibilities over many, many years. We express our heartfelt gratitude to each, and praise God that in most cases new people have responded to the call to serve God in new and challenging ways.

~ a year of experimenting with a menu of worship styles, and themed preaching throughout the year, with thanks to all the preachers, worship leaders, choir, musicians and music / worship groups, and the new creative arts team who put their "all" into providing opportunities for people to encounter God in a variety of ways. There have been many really helpful comments throughout the year.

~ and a personal note : during 2008 the re-invitation process at LMC, Lostock Hall and across the Circuit led to us being invited to stay a further five years. We are so grateful for the way the process was conducted, and for the many, many helpful comments received. We thank God that our journey together continues !

We praise God for all His faithful servants here at LMC, and look and listen continually for the Spirit's promptings for the future.

**Romans 8 v. 26 - 28 :**

***"The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit himself speaks to God for us, even begs God for us with deep feelings that words cannot explain. God can see what is in people's hearts, and he knows what is in the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit speaks to God for his people in the way God wants.***

**WE KNOW THAT IN EVERYTHING GOD WORKS FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO  
LOVE HIM.  
THEY ARE THE PEOPLE HE CALLED, BECAUSE THAT WAS HIS PLAN."**

*Rev. Phil*

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL CHURCH MEETING  
held on TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

**CHAIRPERSON:** Rev Phil Gough  
**SECRETARY:** Mrs Rosemary Brown

**1. Welcome and Opening Devotions**

1.1 Rev Gough welcomed church members and friends to the meeting. Members were asked to think about things they could praise God for which had happened during the past 12 months. Some of the things mentioned were the lift project, the Fair Trade shop, the number of children in the church, Celebration Praise, the number of strangers coming into the church, new 'seeker' services and the success of the Stewardship Campaign. He also read out a letter from Rev Martin Atkins, President of Conference regarding 'renewal'.

**2. Members Present**

2.1 29 members present plus Jean Lyon from Lostock Hall Church.

**3. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

3.1 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2007 - Point 7.2 should read '6 Stewards' not 7. The meeting then agreed that Rev Gough should sign them as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Annual Report**

Thanks were expressed to Rosemary Brown for taking over the job of compiling the Annual Report. A copy of the Report has been put on the Church's Website.

## **6. Stewards**

It was stated that the appointment of Stewards is the responsibility of the AGM and not the Church Council. Steve Wheeler's name has been put forward as a Steward and he has agreed to this. His appointment was approved by the meeting. He is duly appointed to serve in this capacity for up to a period of six years. An eighth member of the Steward's team is still sought. Thanks were expressed to the Stewards for all the hard work they do week by week. They do a tremendous job and work really hard on behalf of the members.

Two items came up at the recent Steward's Meeting:

- a) What happens in the coffee bar after worship. This has been discussed a few times and there is a concern about the safety of children who could possibly be injured by running around while people are holding hot drinks. It was felt that some supervision should be provided for children to play in the rough room after worship. The chairs in the coffee bar need to be placed in a more open pattern to make the area more visitor friendly and welcoming.
- b) Notices – A concern was expressed at the number of extra notices that the Stewards were expected to read at the beginning of the service. A decision has been taken that unless the matter is urgent e.g. recent death of a member, they should go in the weekly published notices.

## **7. Appointments**

From AGM to Church Council – none at present.

## **8. Eco-Congregation**

Jean Lyon from Lostock Hall Church gave a presentation about how they became the first church in the Circuit to gain Eco-Church status. It took them 15 months to work through 12 modules. There is a website which contains lots of information and churches are given support and advice. It is important to establish priorities for action. A plan should be drawn up and owned by a church decision making group e.g. the Church Council. There should be a regular review of the plan. Thanks were given to Jean for speaking to the meeting and enthusiasm was expressed that our church should pursue Eco-Church status. The following expressed an interest in becoming involved in this way: Diane Barnard, Rosemary Brown, Kevin Brown, Jeff Whittle, Ann Diggles and Malcolm Thomson.

## **9. 'Hope 08'**

A big event is planned for a Fun Day in Worden Park on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April. A list has been made of stalls and activities which we need people to volunteer to staff. There are also leaflets about this available in the coffee bar.

The church will be open for prayer during Holy Week and we need volunteers for people to come down and supervise from 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. and 6.30 – 8.30 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

## **10. Property/Finance**

The Financial Report appears at the back of the Annual Report. We end the year in a healthy state and we have now got money in reserve. This may come in useful if we have any unexpected major expense. The Stewardship Campaign was very successful and we got more income than was originally budgeted for. This sets us off well for the next three years. Two things we need to bear in mind for next year – changes to the church's charitable status and the proposed increase in the Assessment for the next three years. Thanks were expressed to Leysa and the Finance Committee for their work and also Peter Eagle for his work with Gift Aid.

## **11. Any Other Business**

Changes have been made to the church's website. We have now got a new domain name – leylandmethodist.org.uk. This will allow us to do more things. There is also a new section – 'Prayer Ministry'. Thanks were expressed to Jo and Dave Travers for the work they do on the website.

Youth Pastor situation – There will be £30,000 a year for three years to appoint someone to this post. The position has been advertised and at the moment only one application has been received. The post will be re-advertised. It was felt that we may be in a stronger position when people are due to leave college. Until an appointment is made we may be able to get help from outside organisations e.g. Youth for Christ.

## **12. The meeting closed in prayer.**

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## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT 2008**

During 2008 the focus of the Property Committee's work has been maintenance and repair. The exterior of the Community Centre has been repainted and necessary joinery repairs were completed prior to this. Anne Crabtree prioritised the Quinquennial Inspection Report repairs which included the repainting and re-roofing of the Community Centre.

Maintenance and repair is on-going. Lights, diffusers and washers on taps are replaced and minor damage rectified as required. Many problems are due to the Church and Community Centre being used by a lot of people every week. Some of the steps up to the Wesley Hall have been repaired with tread plates. A plaque in memory of Bessie Baker has been placed in the refurbished Bessie's Kitchen and two freezers are being installed in the kitchen. The lead flashing stolen from the roof above the Large Annex has been

replaced with metal lined felt. Smart Water is to be used to mark items of value that can be removed. This is at the suggestion of the insurance company. Registration is being applied for and then the marking will be undertaken. Replacing the Church piano is under consideration and the screen for the Choir will be fitted opposite them as soon as possible. The World Church Group's new notice board has been fixed under the window next to the Fair Trade Store.

The Car Park area needs constant attention. John and Dorothy Richie continue to keep the Garden of Remembrance attractive. The lines are repainted by Terence Clarke and Bill Parry and Roy Manchester repairs holes in the tarmac. The railings are in good repair but the main notice board is needing replacing. Plans have been drawn up by Frank Nixon but because of financial restraints the project is on hold at the moment. Peter Gill's regular inspections and reports ensure that any Health and Safety related matters are dealt with promptly.

As some of the repairs cost more than the Property Committee's budget can afford the support of the Church Council and Finance Committee has been necessary. Archie Whymark keeps the Property Committee's accounts and we are grateful to him and the Church Treasurer Leysa Kopciowski.

Using the expertise and skills of Church members saves money. Out thanks go to Jack Crabtree, Roy Manchester, Terence Clarke and John Nicholas the Property Stewards. John Hutchinson made the attractive Linking Lives screen in Church and Alan Diggles and Jeff Whittle made the cupboards in the Church Lounge. The Committee also appreciates the help and support of the Church Stewards.

The Coffee Bar prices and the Rental Charges were reviewed by a sub-committee of the Property and Finance Committees and the increases decided upon are now in operation. We are grateful to Bill Parry, Beryl Walsh and Jean Damp for their work which raises much needed revenue.

Anne Crabtree has announced her retirement as Chair of the Property Committee. Thank you for all the hard work you have done over many years. It is thanks to you that projects such as the lift, refurbishment of the upstairs toilets and Community Centre kitchen, re-roofing and repainting have been completed successfully.

Alison Hopton

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## **PRAYER MINISTRY**

We still meet on Tuesday evenings at 6.45pm and Sunday mornings at 9.30am and thanks to those who manage to join in. It is uplifting when we see new faces but because of the recent spell of bad weather and illness to some regular attendees, our numbers are down. We know God answers prayers and numbers are not a factor in His decision making and so we are not loosing hope.

We are presently seeking advice on confidentiality and how to conduct ourselves if people

come to the prayer meeting with requests. This is understandable and necessary for people to be reassured that whatever they tell us in confidence will not be voiced outside the prayer group.

During Lent we hope to setup prayer stations in the worship area, similar to what we have done in the past. We hope as many as possible will come and spend quiet times in prayer or browsing through some of the materials which will be on display.

I am stepping down as prayer coordinator in September and at the moment we are prayerfully seeking the next prayer coordinator.

Dear Lord,

For those who have already lost their jobs because of the recession and those afraid of loosing theirs – Lord be with them, and help them not to loose hope.

For those who are weary and lonely – Lord, help them to feel your presence.

For those who are sick in hospital or at home – Lord, help them to know you are by their side.

For those who are bringing up children on their own – Lord, help them with their needs.

For those who are seeking wives or husbands – Lord, help them to seek your guidance.

For those who have plenty - Lord help them to be generous in their giving.

For those in need – Lord, help them to be thankful when they receive. Amen.

Seth Asiaw

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## **BIBLE FELLOWSHIP**

The key word this year has been progression. We now have a network of short or long courses, and regular Home Groups. Within this network, people can move freely from one to another as their needs vary. Some taking part in Alpha during the last year have moved on to Big Picture and Home Group whilst others have taken a year out of Home Groups to complete Disciple.

One-off courses such as "What`s so amazing about grace?" and "The life you`ve always wanted" have been popular and we are grateful to Maria and Phil for running these.

The short course, "Big Picture" has continued to be presented both at church and in individual homes as the need has arisen. It is always tailored to the audience and has been a useful introduction to Bible study for both children and new members. We are grateful to those who provide child cover for those who bring young children and would like to encourage more baptismal families to explore their faith in this informal way. It has also been good to share this course with members of other churches in the circuit.

Seven Home Groups have met regularly this year. In 2008, Seth and Abigail first opened their home to Alpha, then Big Picture and now have a thriving Home Group following the same pattern by which Deborah and Steve`s Buckshaw Home Group progressed in 2007. The Buckshaw group have just enjoyed the new "Challenging Lifestyle" material from HTB.

The original Club Sunday Home Group hosted by Jeff and Ann is now well established and open to all. We are very grateful to Julie and Philip for setting up and hosting a new approach to Home Groups in the form of Soul Food. It is hoped that this group will continue as the venues now move each month. As Sylvie told us in her "Enabling giving" message, we need to be brave in trying out new ideas and new ways of reaching our neighbours and friends. Sadly, 2008 saw us lose one of our longest serving Home Group leaders through the death of Joyce Parsons. Joyce`s faith and the friendship and care she bestowed on us despite her own health difficulties will remain as an example to us all. She is not forgotten. Cliff generously gave the money collected in memory of Joyce to provide twelve NIV Study Bibles which are already well used and well loved by the Disciple group and other Bible Fellowship leaders.

The Wednesday morning Disciple group 2007/8 was a truly wonderful experience for all concerned. The Lord not only taught us about himself through scripture, but also through practical caring in challenging circumstances. The members of that group have returned to their various roles in service in the church and we all shared in the great joy of Rachael`s baptism this January. The new 2008/9 group is well underway with twelve participants. Three of the group recently came from other churches to LMC and are benefitting from the deep friendships which can be formed in such an intimate group; others were motivated to go deeper into scripture by first joining a Home Group or an Alpha course. For Jessie, Enid and Mabel, delivering "Disciple" is sheer joy.

The responsibility for running Alpha courses has been transferred to the Faith Sharing Ministry area. Leaders in both areas work closely together to provide access for all to the good news of the gospel.

We constantly see the fruit of time spent in small group Bible study and fellowship as new people give their lives to the Lord and progress to service in the Leyland Methodist church family and beyond. For this, we give God all the glory. Without Him, we can do nothing. "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain." Psalm 127:1

Mabel Harris

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## **MEN'S GROUP**

The Men's Group is now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year and all men are welcome (and sometimes our ladies) to these meetings for times of friendship, fellowship and fun. Our aim is to expand our group and attract the younger men to our fellowship. Our programme for 2008 is summarised as follows:-

- January 2008 – A slide show & talk by Jean Damp "My Visit to Seattle" Slides taken during her visits to see her brother who lives near Seattle.
- February 2008 – An interesting talk by Deacon Ellen Monk-Winstanley "An American Methodist in Britain". This sparked an interesting discussion.
- March 2008 – An Indoor Games Night at the Leyland & Farington Club. This meeting was cancelled due to lack of numbers.

- April 2008 – A visit to Jodrell Bank Visitor Centre, Cheshire. Home to the world-famous Lovell Radio Telescope. A 3D Theatre presentation was pre-booked and enjoyed by all.
- May 2008 – Our annual meal to the Dog and Partridge at Chipping with our ladies was once again a popular event.
- June 2008 – Crown Green Bowling pairs competition, always an enjoyable and competitive event. This year's winners were Julian Judd & Frank Nixon.
- July 2008 – Our Annual General Meeting was held in the Community Centre mainly to discuss and plan next years programme.
- September 2008 – The first meeting of our new session at the Sea View Restaurant with invited speaker the Revd Nick Moxon.
- October 2008 – An amusing talk and musical evening by Bob Worswick "35 years as a Local Preacher & chapels I have visited".
- November 2008 – An Indoor Games Night at the Leyland & Farington Club. A doubles knockout competition of darts, dominoes and snooker.
- December 2008 – Our Christmas meal was held at the Leyland Golf Club with our ladies, which was enjoyed by all.

Meetings are normally held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm; please see the Church notices for details. For further information contact either Bill Parry on 01772 623781 or Frank Nixon on 01772 421508.

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## **WOMEN'S GROUP**

Women's Group meets on alternate Wednesdays and is for ladies of all ages. Our year starts at the beginning of September and ends on the first Wednesday in July with breaks in between for Christmas and Easter. The meetings start at 8 o'clock. Our speakers and subjects are varied and interesting. Some are from charitable organisations, others take us to far away places, courtesy of pictures and slides. We always end the evening with tea and biscuits and the opportunity to have a chat with our friends, occasionally we have a 'Jacob's Join'. Our annual dinner dance is always a very enjoyable occasion and our annual quiz (well some of us do like a challenge) winners go forward to the Thursday Fellowship quiz which involves all the church organisations. We also have meals out at the beginning and end of the year. Do come and join us, I know you will enjoy it and be made very welcome.

Ivy Probert

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## **TOGETHER ON THURSDAYS**

Tots has been part of this church for many years, and we have enjoyed another successful year. It enables people both members and non members of this church to meet weekly for friendship and fellowship.

We have 44 members with an average weekly attendance of 35-40 people.

We start in a morning with coffee and a chat, a popular time to catch up with one another, and this is followed with some gentle exercises. Later in the morning we have a time of worship with a variety of inspirational speakers.

We enjoy lunch together with a varied menu of a hot meal, salad, or Jacobs join, always followed cake or pudding.

Afternoons are enjoyed with a guest speaker, a craft, a film, or a trip out. Always popular is a visit to a mill for shopping, and this year included a biscuit factory - very tempting to over indulge. We recently had an evening out to the palace Theatre in Manchester to see the musical "Mary Poppins" - a wonderful Show.

Sadly two of our friends have died recently and some are not very well, but we are hoping to see them again soon.

Whilst there is no admittance fee to tots we managed to save enough this year for some small donations :- Leprosy Mission £65, Fairtrade £50, and £400 to the church.

We are very informal so why not call in for a coffee one Thursday morning, everyone is welcome.

Barbara Moore

## **CLUB SUNDAY**

It has been a very encouraging year for Club Sunday. We have a steady number of about 42 children who attend on a regular basis. There have been some recent staff changes. We are very grateful to Ann Diggles for all the support she has given to Club Sunday and for the encouragement she has given to Staff members over these years. We wish her a very long and happy retirement and are pleased that she remains in contact with us as Safeguarding Co-Ordinator. We welcome Matt Lawley-Brown as Youth Ministry Co-Ordinator and Carol Eccles as Children's Ministry Co-Ordinator.

At the beginning of the year the children distributed sprays of flowers on Mothering Sunday to all the ladies in the congregation, and it was wonderful to see the happiness this simple act brought.

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed Reverend Phil as our special speaker at the Anniversary Service. The theme was "Creation".

Promotion Sunday was held in July, when Rev Phil presented the prizes. This has again worked well and the children were settled in their new Club Sunday classes before the holidays.

The Christmas Service was lead by the children from Xstream with the theme " Don't let all the preparations and trimmings get in the way of the true message of Christmas!" A nativity power point was shown on the screen with some older youths reading the words as the

younger children formed the Christmas tableau with Patchelbel's Christmas Canon playing in the background. This was an extremely moving experience. The party followed this service when, a fun time was had by all! We had a visit from Father Christmas at the end of a wonderful day.

Hot Coals (Seniors) are still causing us some concern with fluctuating attendance and numbers. We ask that you will pray for Matt as he begins his work in this vulnerable area.

The house group continues to flourish at the home of Jeff and Ann Whittle.

Club Sunday are delighted with the new cupboards, which have been built by Alan Diggles and Jeff Whittle in the upstairs lounge. We very much appreciate all their hard work!

In all other areas Club Sunday is thriving and we ask for the prayers and support of the Church Family for our future development.

Sue Noon

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## **THE CLUB**

We kicked off in 2008 with a busy evening. 21 members came down, 12 of which were new members. The week after membership had increased to 34 and we were considering splitting the group into two smaller groups for Centre Spot (our name for discussion time!). Most of our members were 16+ and in the skater crowd – but would readily involve themselves in the discussions and were generally very attentive! Our discussions included Sex, Forgiveness, The Death Penalty, Fairtrade and Testimonies from leaders. Over the months strangely the numbers dwindled but we managed to rally together enough members for a joint Club / Clubzone Charity Event on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 to raise money for the International Aid Sri Lankan Orphanage. Everyone found it hilarious as Jeff Whittle got his back waxed for the cause. A brave member also got sponsorship to have his legs waxed! We also had pool and table tennis competitions and managed to raise £200. We closed in May for the summer due to the membership slump down to zero. We believe they may have moved on to another youth group as one of our members had started working there – also they were all in the upper age band so many would have moved on to university.

Before opening again in September, every member was notified by post prior to opening but we had no one!!! After much leafleting and speaking with 4 members due to move up from Clubzone, we started up again in November.

Just before Christmas we added another 2 to our number – I think we just need to have faith and allow God to build up this new group. Having the younger members will certainly be a new and fresh challenge!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our leaders: Kathy Lamb, Terence Clarke, Jeff Whittle, Dean Bond and Steven Wheeler and to all the 'coffee bar ladies' who patiently tolerate the 'Can I have a hundred and five jelly beans, please.'

Jo Travers

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## **BOYS' BRIGADE – 1<sup>st</sup> LEYLAND COMPANY**

### **Junior & Company Sections**

We started off in the National Badminton Competition with a 5-1 win against Morecambe.

The team was Corporal Robert Barnes, Jake Ashton, Jack Barnes and Sam Nunnerley.

Two teams were entered in the North West Ten pin Bowling Competition at Warrington and acquitted themselves well enough but did not progress past the Group stage. In March 25 boys went to the Capitol Centre for an evening of Ten pin Bowling and a visit to McDonalds.

April saw our first visit to the training centre at Treales for our Junior Section. Dragon Racing, Crystal Maze and 5-a-side Football was the order of the day. James Southworth, Cameron Lewis, Oliver Morris, Thomas Hughes, Luke Derbyshire, Sam Thomas and John Cain showed how to lose gracefully especially in the 5-a-side where, in a complete turn round from last year, they lost every game by a considerable margin.

April, 30th saw us Celebrate 100 years of The Boys' Brigade here at Leyland Methodist Church. The Service was led by Rev. Phil Gough and, along with 34 Boys & the Officers, about 80 parents and friends attended. After the Re-Dedication parents and friends were given refreshment and time to view the Displays set up to revive memories. The Boys were treated to Hot Dogs, Beefburgers and a piece of Centenary Cake. The retiring collection for Derian House raised £159-50, which was rounded up to £200-00 and sent, via BB Headquarters to Derian House.

In May the Company Section 5-a-side team fared little better. They lost all three of their games 5-1, 2-1 and again 2-1.

On June 6th the whole Company went to the Fun Day at Treales. Anthony Pickford won the HOT SHOTS Competition. This consisted of Target Golf, Archery, Basketball, Darts and a Football Shoot Out and ran throughout the day. In a separate competition Shaun Dempsey won the Target Golf.

On the 28th of June there was a Boys' Brigade Day Out at Camelot.

The new session started off with a Treasure Hunt at Cuerden Valley. 4 teams set off and all returned – not necessarily via the same route. The Anchor Boys won again. Hot Dogs and Orange Juice were the order of the day.

15 boys went Ice Skating at Blackburn in September.

11 Company Section Boys went on the 125th Anniversary Camping weekend at Treales, Nr. Kirkham. The weekend consisted of well organised activities including Canoeing, Rock & Tree Climbing, and indoor sports at Myerscough College on the Saturday, and different competitions at Treales on Sunday. Two films were shown – A Night at the Museum & Transformers which went on late at night in the Sports Barn. The Services were run by Coverdale Puppets and Salt Cellar Youth Project.

On the Saturday 6 Junior Section Boys visited the site for a full day of Competition. The boys won the team event – Water and Relay races. Oliver Morris, Oliver Kedward and Jordan Ashton were 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Basketball. Jordan and Sam Thomas were 1st and 3rd in the Olympic Challenge. Overall a very successful weekend.

October saw the North West District Executive Meeting in the morning and the Annual Council Meeting in the afternoon at our Community Centre. The Annual meeting was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of South Ribble, Councillor Barrie Yates and Mrs Kath Yates. Lunch and refreshments, including a Buffet after the A.G.M., were provided by Mrs Beryl Walsh and her band of willing Ladies. Their efforts were well received by the 70 or so Delegates from all over the Region. The Council was addressed by Mr Chris Row JP, Brigade Vice President and Chairman of the Executive: Current Developments in The Boys' Brigade.

In November the Company Section was placed 2nd in the North West District Swimming Gala at Ellesmere Port. Matthew Wilson – 1st Freestyle: Jake Ashton - 2nd Backstroke: Tony Pickard – 3rd Breaststroke; Tony, Matthew & Will Banks – 2nd Freestyle Relay: Jake, Will & Tony – 2nd Medley Relay. This was a really good overall performance as our boys competed for Central Lancashire against Battalion selected teams from the North West of England. After all his efforts helping the relay teams Matthew still managed to finish 3rd in the Open Age 200 metres Freestyle Championship, quite an achievement.

In December Southport Battalion invited us to take part in their local 5-a-side. The Junior Section played 7 won 5, and drew 2, to be the overall winners. The Company Section won 3 and drew 2 to finish Runners up.

There was the usual attendance of 6 boys with 6 Guides at the Thursday Fellowship Christmas Party and the trip to the Pantomime at Blackburn (Peter Pan) with the Guides and Brownies.

### **Anchorboys**

As well as taking part in joint celebration of our Centenary and the trip to the Pantomime they have had one or two outings with the Rainbows from 998

As the year draws to a close I find myself in a very awkward position.

During the year Company strength went up to 22 boys, 10 Juniors and 5 Anchorboys. It was difficult to keep 13/14 year olds with just 3 of us running 2 sections between us, especially as they overlap by almost one hour. We now have 5 Anchorboys. 8 Juniors and 10 Company Section.

For some considerable time we have been struggling for help and the situation is now becoming rather critical and despite repeated pleas for assistance we are no nearer to resolving the situation. The concern is not only for the Anchorboys with Warrant Officers Mrs Joan Eagle and Mrs Kathrine Taylor, but for the Company as a whole. We have struggled on with myself, Lieutenant Brian Clarke and Warrant Officer Stuart Nixon with help from Mr Frank Nixon (Band and Classes). If not for their dedication and persistence the Company would not have survived what should have been a momentous year for 1st Leyland Company. Thanks for support from the usual people and especially Beryl Walsh and the Ladies for the A.G.M. It was voted the best for years for the hospitality supplied.

John Procter (Captain)

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## **GUIDES**

We have had a full and busy year once again.

We have done our usual badges and go for it's and still found time for some 'extras'.

In February we attended our annual Thinking Day service this time held at St Ambrose church and the guides took part as our district was host.

In March we raised money for a lady who was entering the London Marathon to raise money for Refuge. The Guides took part in a sponsored event – 20 minutes of relay races, 20 minutes of singing guide songs and 20 minutes – well very nearly! – of silence. They did fantastically and raised £150.00 between them.

In July we finished our year with a treasure hunt around Leyland, ending of course at good old McDonalds. Then we headed for camp at Guy's Farm. Ann and Kathryn came to lend their support and we had a very special visitor in the shape of Matthew Allchurch on the Saturday. He even brought his mum and grandma with him which was very kind! I think Sarah and Paul may well have twenty potential baby sitters. We went under canvas this year and the weather, although not brilliant, was very kind to us and only rained over night on the Friday – not bad considering the summer that we had. We went on the new climbing wall and did archery and then had a midnight hike (at 8pm!) on the Saturday night.

September saw the start for Guides again and a new young leader. Emily has moved from Rainbows to Guides and a very successful move it's been as she has fitted in really well.

In October, we went to the Big Gig, this year at the NEC in Birmingham. There were performances from lots of different bands, none of whom I had heard of before apart from the Sugar Babes, but it was a really good night. We were 'a little later' back than expected and only arrived home at 1.30 am but it was well worth it.

In November we attended the Mayoral Remembrance Parade. We started at the civic centre in Leyland and walked to the cenotaph where a short service was held and then carried on to St Mary's on Broadfield Drive. We then paraded back – in the rain! – to the civic centre. We had a really good turn out and the Guides were very excited to take part. Also in November, the Guides organised games at a coffee morning for International Aid at the church. They threw themselves into this with their usual enthusiasm and even managed to part with some of their own toys to sell. We finished for Christmas with a trip to Megabowl and managed to stop the entire centre from bowling at one point – quite an achievement! Well, nobody told us that we couldn't run down to retrieve a bowling ball that had got stuck did they? At least they got a chance to check that their security procedures worked! In December, we joined with the rest of our district to attend a carol service at St Mary's. It was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> December and was a lovely way to start the Christmas period. Some of the Guides waited on for the Thursday Fellowship Christmas meal and we also joined with the rest of the Uniformed Organisations for our annual trip to the pantomime.

Ruth, Sarah and Cath

### **FAIRTRADE CAFÉ**

The Fairtrade Café continues to be well attended and supported, by members of the local community as well as other churches.

Although we had to reluctantly increase some of our prices during 2008 we believe that we still offer good food as well as friendship.

In 2008 we sent £2400 in donations to: Make Poverty History, Oxfam, Stop the Traffik, Christian Aid and Jireh Women, each of which received £400.

We also gave £400 to the church roof fund.

May I take this opportunity to thank Beryl and her team of volunteers who week by week support the café in various ways. New volunteers are ALWAYS welcome.

Philip Weaver

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### **ECO CHURCH**

This is a first; a first Eco-Coordinator's report for Leyland Methodist Church and a first report that I have prepared. Thank-you LMC for this privilege.

The journey of LMC working towards becoming an Eco-Congregation began in March 2008 when Rev. Phil invited me to talk at last year's AGM about Eco-Congregation and what it entailed. It was also an opportunity for me to be able to share some of what Lostock Hall had done to gain their first Eco-Congregation award in January 2008.

The initial Eco meeting for anyone who was interested in LMC becoming an Eco-Congregation was held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2008, not long after I'd been very warmly accepted at Leyland as a transferring member of the Methodist Church. This was mainly a briefing session on what we needed to do to start the process. Since then we have had 3 more meetings and I was encouraged that three new people joined us at the beginning of January 2009. I found it interesting to be informally leading on this project as a very new member at LMC and am grateful for the confidence that the Church Council gave me when they formally appointed me as the Eco-Coordinator at the October Church Council meeting.

In October, the Church Council also signed up to a Sustainability pledge to encourage the Church family to take the issue of sustainability seriously. They will actively seek to do this by involving all ages of the LMC faith community to encompass environmental, social and economic issues within their spirituality. In other words becoming an Eco-Congregation is for everyone not just the few 'Eco' warriors. It is hoped that by becoming a sustainable community we will not be compromising the quality of life for future generations.

To begin to work towards becoming an Eco-Congregation we discussed some suggestions of what the Church could initially do under the three headings of spiritual, practical and reaching out. The following were agreed at the Church council in October:

- Something spiritual - we shall source good quality Bible Study material to offer to all house groups.
- Something practical - we shall encourage all groups to focus on recycling
- Something to reach out - we shall host a Sustainability Audit day

I am pleased to report that the Bible Study 'Paint Your Church Green' was purchased towards the end of 2008. The World Church group agreed to compile a list of all the recycling points in Leyland and the Boys Brigade agreed to establish a mobile phone recycling scheme. The Sustainability Audit training day was planned for 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009.

The harvest service 'Hope for Planet Earth' in October 2008 was focussed on the planet. This was also a means of us reaching out to our local community as this was a seeker service.

Church notices started to be printed on recycled paper in November and a Christmas e-card was made available on the Leyland Methodist Church web-site. It is hoped that less and less paper will be used in Church.

I thank all those people who have supported, encouraged and prayed for me and the Eco-Congregation initiative and conclude by reporting that 2009 started with the Eco-Covenant prayer:

Enabling God  
Creator of the universe  
Overcome our apathy.

Challenge us to move from our comforts and  
Open our hearts afresh to  
Value everything in your world.

Energise us into action to protect  
Nature as you intended, and  
Activate us to conserve your world's resources  
Now. For the benefit of poorer countries and for future generations.  
This we ask for your Son, Jesus Christ whose life is light for all people.  
AMEN

Jean Lyon

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## **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN LEYLAND**

At the Churches Together in Leyland AGM on 2<sup>nd</sup> October the new Constitution was agreed and signed. The new constitution details that each church is able to have 3 voting members (church reps) in the CTL Forum (meetings) plus all the clergy and any further keen supporters can be co-opted into the group. The three representatives do not include the executive officers.

Malcolm Thomson (chair) and Jean Halliwell (Minutes Secretary ) are officers of CTL. Philip Weaver and Diane Barnard are currently reps for LMC. Thus LMC has a vacancy. Anyone interested in being an LMC rep, or simply being part of, or in contact with CTL should contact Malcolm or Philip.

A forward programme including the African Choir on 8<sup>th</sup> November, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January 2009, A Lent event(s), A CTL brochure, Womens World day of Prayer, another Funday in the middle of 2009 and the need for a replacement Van for the Furniture scheme were discussed. 2008-9 will be a busy year again.

CTL looks forward to the continued support of all the churches in Leyland with the mission :-

**Churches Together in Leyland (CTL)  
is a local response to Jesus'  
prayer for all his disciples-  
"That all may be one."**

Malcolm Thomson

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## **WORLD CHURCH GROUP**

The group are pleased to report that following the Stewardship Recruitment fair last September several people have expressed interest in this ministry within our church. It is very encouraging too receive such support and we'd like to assure everyone that our group is an "open forum" and all are invited to attend meetings if they wish.

We are currently still discussing a future project to bring before Church Council to follow on from the appeal to raise money to go towards the IAT Harvest Orphanage. Also we would like to assure people that we still wish to support the IAT and their work at the orphanage as it continues.

At our last meeting it was agreed that from the money in our budget we would like to support individuals wishing to go abroad to experience first hand various projects. This is something we wish to develop throughout the year.

We also felt it was wise to maintain a fund, again from our budget, from which we would be able to respond immediately in the case of an emergency. Just before Christmas we used part of this to send a donation to the Bangladesh appeal.

In November we held a Coffee morning and Car wash which was well supported. The money raised was sent to support the Leprosy Mission and Oleg's Fund, an ITA project.

One of our most loyal and enthusiastic supporters will be leaving us in January. Liz Johnston-Hoerter is moving to Southport and I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking her for her help over the years, this has been really appreciated. We will miss her but wish her well for the future.

Finally, I am stepping down as Co-Ordinator of the World Church group. I have enjoyed the challenge of the position and the tremendous support of the members of the group but feel that the time is right for some-one else to "take the helm". Mrs Imogen Thomson has said that she is willing to take on this role and I am sure that we would all like to assure her of our continued support.

Enid Hallam

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## Leyland Methodist Church

Financial Statement For Full Year to 31/03/2008

Budget £		Actual £	Balance £
	<b>Opening Balance General Fund 31/03/07</b>		<b>53295.78</b>
	<b>Refurbishment account</b>		<b>4486.10</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
85000	Stewardship	84784.82	
20100	Yax Recovered	20306.78	
12000	Other Gifts	11264.20	
2000	Coffee Bar	3210.00	
8000	Lettings	5671.28	
2500	Interest	2451.50	
1500	Miscellaneous Donations	1832.55	
1500	Fees	7361.00	
2000	Collections for outside organisations	3228.60	
0	Refurbishment Donation	1828.98	
0	Lift project Donations	1000.00	
5000	Miscellaneous	1991.28	
<b>141100</b>	<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>137988.77</b>

<b>Payments</b>			
78515	Circuit Assessment	76969.05	
9000	Contract Caretaker	8880.00	
1050	Organ & Pianos	820.00	
210	Choir	175.78	
2650	Electricity	3587.99	
3750	Gas	9333.00	
180	Telecoms	165.80	
6600	Repairs & Maintenance	3380.00	
2750	Insurance	2549.46	
1140	Water Rates	830.09	
2000	Youth Organisations	1786.49	
2500	Methodist Subs & Grants	2335.00	
500	Gifts & Donations	140.00	
1200	Stewardship	253.72	
2310	Printing & Stationery	1545.64	
1500	Training & Development	589.60	
100	Bank Charges	0.00	
800	Sundry Expenses	2751.87	
2000	World church	2008.00	
2000	Church in Society	277.80	
2000	Church & Ministry resources	1549.26	
2000	Faith Sharing	476.26	
1000	Fees paid out	220.00	
1000	multi media	299.00	
2000	Collections for outside orgs	4207.50	
200	Benevolent fund	100.00	
1700	Lift Project	2211.71	
7500	Loan Repayment	13900.00	
10000	Youth Worker	0.00	
<b>145865</b>	<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>140623.89</b>

<b>Closing Balance 31/03/07</b>	<b>58130.86</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>49744.78</b>
<b>Church Refurbishment account</b>	<b>6286.16</b>
<b>Bequests held in Trust</b>	<b>1957.46</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>57088.44</b>

Average Weekly Collection	
2007/08	2008/07
1620.86	1518.59 Stewardship
216.62	167.98 Other Gifts
<b>1837.48</b>	<b>1687.57</b>