

Facing the Challenge

Christ Church (Hipperholme and Lightcliffe)

Methodist/URC L.E.P.

Where we've come from

Christ Church was formed on 1st September 2003 when, after a lot of preparation and a time of growing together, Hipperholme Methodist Church and Lightcliffe United Reformed Church joined. Both churches were convinced that the work of God in Hipperholme and Lightcliffe could be done better together.



At the inaugural service on 7th September, we built a cairn of stones – a marker for the path we were travelling together. Worship alternated between the two sites we owned whilst we juggled plans for the refurbishment of the crossroads site and Calderdale's plans for the junction. October 2005 saw worship move to the Lightcliffe Site and work start at the crossroads to ensure we had a building fit to be used for our mission.

On Advent Sunday, 3rd December 2006 we moved back to the crossroads and the butterfly flew around the building during the service – new life had been born.



Many new initiatives were started – some are still growing and others served a purpose and then were allowed to finish.

Through all this time we were led and guided by Revd Ruth Gee until she left in July 2008. Ministry switched to the URC and after a year's interregnum, Revd Patrick Taylor was welcomed on 23rd August 2009.

We place a great importance on ministry as this is what feeds us and helps us to grow in our faith, which in turn enables our mission.

The managing trustees of Christ Church are our Leadership Team of 12 members plus the treasurer and the Minister and we have a Church Secretary rather than a Senior Steward.

Where we are now... Christ Church is a busy place so it's hard to know where we are 'now'!

Our mission statement:

Christ Church is a worshipping community which seeks to witness to Christ through fellowship, service and outreach and to develop knowledge and understanding of God in today's world.

As an L.E.P. we relate to both the Methodist Circuit and the United Reformed District as well as the other local churches in Churches Together in Hipperholme and Lightcliffe.

Here is our 'Menu':

Starters

Junior Church Sundays 10:30-11:30

Pilots for 5 - 11 year olds Fridays 6.30 - 8.00pm

Youth Group Second Friday for school years 5 +.

Mums and tots and **pre-school** groups.



Mains

Sunday worship 10:30-11:30

Bible study fortnightly on Mondays at 1.30pm.

Prayer Group Each Sunday, from 10.00am and alternate Wednesdays at 9.15 am.

Church Meeting quarterly

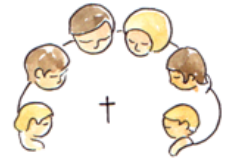


Worship Planning group lead worship quarterly

Mission Group dreaming dreams for our mission and organising social events for fun and fellowship.

Worship Consultation planning our worship and special events

Prayer leaflets delivered locally and weekly prayers for specific the street.



Desserts

Tuesday Evening Fellowship Second and fourth Tuesday, at 7.30pm.

Reel Issues for films - first Monday at 7.30pm

Curry Club fourth Tuesday from 8.00 - 10.30pm



Coffee and drinks

Call in for Coffee Wednesday, 10 - 11.30 am.

Good as New Sale Wednesday 10am - 12.00, Friday 10am - 12.15.

Pub Quiz team Tuesdays 9pm

Accompaniments/Extras

Music group for instrumentalists and singers

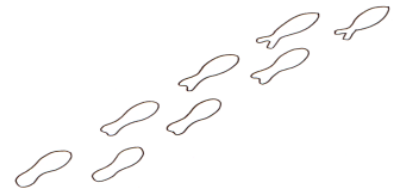
Organ our new 3 manual organ is used for worship and recitals

Chinstep walkers second Wednesday at 10.00am

Crossroads luncheon club Every Friday from 12 noon (run with Churches Together)

Premises to rent on two sites

Find out more from our website www.christchurchhalifax.co.uk



We have built up a good relationship with many in the community through the Good as New sale, Christmas tree festivals and other events. On Fridays our Good as New Sale is enhanced by the help of adults with learning difficulties through the Social Services. We also have a good relationship with Sandholme Fold, the local care home for the elderly.

In July 2016 we ran a 3-day Holiday at Home for the more mature people associated with the church and from the local care home. We had virtual visits to Blackpool, Llandudno and Harrogate and the event was a great success.

Where next – our dreams for the future.

- † More of our members involved in regular discussion groups and bible studies.
- † To turn community contact into Faith
- † Youth club meeting weekly (or at least more often than monthly) – can we join up with other clubs occasionally?
- † Holiday Club – plans in progress for Summer 2017
- † Youth worker – we have just employed a youth worker part-time to help with and build on the work being done through the youth club.
- † ‘What do we need to do to ensure the gospel is still in Hipperholme and Lightcliffe in 5 – 10 years?’ was the question the let to an exciting discussion at a church meeting in June. A ‘Future Group’ is now working on putting the ideas into practice.

Resources we offer to the Circuit:

- 5 Local preachers (1 retired)
- Circuit stewards (1 current, 1 recently retired)
- we have several members serving on various Circuit committees and groups
- 1 Former Circuit meeting secretary
- 2 buildings
- Flexible worship area with projection

We also offer resources to the District through personnel and the use of our buildings.

September 2016