

TOLL GAVEL UNITED CHURCH
BEVERLEY



METHODIST/URC



Annual Reports from Church
Organisations 2023

MINISTER'S INTRODUCTION 2023 by Fran Rhys

The Methodist President's and Vice-President's theme this year is revealing hidden treasures. Revd Gill Newton and Deacon Kerry Scarlett have chosen as inspiration for us the wonderful verse from Isaiah 45:3:

I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
So that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

This annual report reveals many of the hidden treasures of Toll Gavel United Church in Beverley; there are yet more treasures, included among rental groups using the premises. A professional fund-raiser recently advised the church to shout more loudly about all the good that the church is doing. Reducing isolation at four weekly cafés and at Messy Mondays; providing meals together for vulnerable adults; cooperation with nine uniformed young people's groups; showers for rough sleepers; support groups for people experiencing domestic abuse or mental health challenges; choirs and concerts: these are just a sampling of the amazing activities, the hidden treasures taking place within the shelter and with the support of the church. The amount and energy of volunteer and some salaried time which enable these activities is deeply impressive and reflective of the (often too-well hidden) treasure of Christian faith with its Jewish roots.

This year's report has been compiled by the church's new administrator, Sarah. We are immensely grateful for the way she got stuck into this project with so much gusto as she has into so many other tasks since she started in this role. We also remember with thanksgiving the significant contributions made by the former administrator, Christine.

One more hidden treasure is the worship and faith study groups which have taken place over the year. Through these, church

members have looked among other things at 'lament' and at John's Gospel. The church participated in Bible Month in August, focusing on the book of Revelation. In these ways the church has fulfilled one of the goals of its constitution: the teaching of the Christian faith.

CHURCH STEWARDS by Sally Youngs

There are currently seven stewards. One stepped down to utilise her talents as a musician at both Toll Gavel and Norwood churches. A new steward has come forward. One of our number has unfortunately been out of action much of the year.

All stewards greatly appreciate Fran's support and that of John (Turner).

There will be a change to the rota. The afternoon or evening service will have different stewards to those at the morning service.

As last year, stewards don't count the offertory, reducing the responsibility of the role.

PASTORAL VISITORS by Elaine Turner

At Toll Gavel we have 16 pastoral visitors, including one couple, who, between them, care for 138 members and 47 adherents connected with our church. This is done week by week and is an asset to the Church family. We have 2 retired ministers. There are 134 families in our care. Sadly 6 of our members and friends have died. We have continued to send flowers for people where appropriate.

Please let Rev Fran, one of the Pastoral Visitors or me know if you hear of someone who is unwell or who would appreciate a visit. Thank you for all your support during the past year.

God bless you all.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH by Jim Sharp



Our Church has been a Local Ecumenical Project - Methodist and United Reformed - for some 40 years, following the closure of the United Reformed Church on Lairgate.

Our Minister - and one or two church members attend United Reformed Yorkshire synods – three per year, and other seminars and conferences.

Several of our members have the monthly ‘Reform’ magazine, copies of which can be obtained from myself.

Please let me know if you would like to attend any of the URC meetings or synods which will be advertised in our church bulletin.

Last year was the centenary of the forming of the United Reformed Church (the joining together of the Presbyterian and Congregational churches in England). We had a special service and a special cake for the occasion.

We invite United Reformed ministers to preach from time to time.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BEVERLEY by Jim Sharp

The Churches Together in Beverley Forum is made up of lay members and clergy from most of the Beverley Churches and

meets four times a year. The clergy and church leaders also meet separately on a more informal basis.

Toll Gavel Church is represented by our Minister, Jim Sharp, Christine Milburn and Sally Knapp. Victoria Cook from Norwood Methodist Church is Secretary.

We share news from the different churches and have speakers. Events are organised at Lent and Pentecost. We are also co-ordinating services in residential homes and trying to ensure that every care home in Beverley has a regular Christian service.

We support the Beverley Schools Christian Trust.

Our latest initiative is a housing project 'Hope into Action' – part of a national project to house and support homeless or needy people. The first property has just been opened in Beverley. We also support ACTS435 which helps pay for individual domestic emergencies.

Churches are encouraged to use our Facebook page: churches-together-beverley, on which they can publicise their special activities.

We produce a news and information leaflet several times a year.

We have united services every year in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and at Christmas. The Christmas service is always at the Minster.

BEVERLEY AGAINST POVERTY by Jim Sharp

Beverley Against Poverty is a small charity which runs a weekly Community Kitchen every Wednesday in Toll Gavel Church Hall - and a Shower Project in the Church. We hold forum

meetings every quarter, with speakers from various agencies linked to poverty and homelessness - including ACTS 435.

Community Kitchen: The team of volunteers wish to say a huge thank you to Toll Gavel Church for giving us the Hall each Wednesday morning for a small rental donation - £400 p.a. We average 10 to 20 people coming for lunch: one or two people in company with their carers, a few homeless people, some people with disabilities - and others.

We serve simple food and charge £1.50 if people can pay. We keep an eye on local rough sleepers and street people – some of whom attend the Kitchen. The fact that there is a profit suggests sharing - those who can pay easily cover others who cannot.

We have been able to liaise with ACTS435 in paying for domestic emergencies etc.

The homeless outreach team from 'Emmaus' are regular welcome visitors and we have occasional visits from NHS, Social Service and Police.

Shower Project: A shower is made available in Toll Gavel Church for rough sleepers on Wednesdays after the Kitchen - when the need arises.

CO-ORDINATOR WORKING ALONGSIDE OLDER PEOPLE FOR THE BEVERLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT. 2022-2023 by Christine Milburn

It hardly seems a year since I was writing my last report, and life continues to be busy in the Circuit.

Both the Leisure Day at Norwood and Toll Gavel Lunch Club are going from strength to strength. With 20+ attending Leisure Day and 40 regulars plus a waiting list at Lunch Club, I

keep busy with enquiries and am continually meeting new people.

Worship in the Residential Homes, supported by Beverley Churches together, is more or less back to what it was pre Covid so I am leading a monthly worship at Beverley Grange, supported by Jim on the piano, and often Frieda or Sally who help with readings and prayers. I also support Kate, who leads worship monthly at The Old School House.

I make pre-arranged visits to people in their homes and it's always a joy to be welcomed by those who want a chat or just a listening ear.

I can usually be found at Church on Thursday and Saturday mornings, if anyone wants to catch up with me.

BEVERLEY FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS by Christine Milburn

The Festival of Christmas which was held on the 11th December, was a huge success and numbers were almost back to pre-Covid times. The church was opened up after the morning service and we had some wonderful entertainment.

First on the stage was the Minster School Choir, and it was good to see so many children and their parents in church. They were followed by the Humberside Police Band, then the Toll Gavel Musicians. Positive notes followed on, who are a choir who support cancer survivors and raise money for the Queens Medical Centre at Castle Hill hospital, the final singers were the Beverley Male Voice Choir, who as ever gave their excellent renditions.

Coffee & Tea, mince pies and cakes were served during the performances and over £1100.00 was raised for Church

Funds. A donation was made to the Cancer Unit at Castle Hill.

We estimated that about 700 people came into Church for this annual event.

TOLL GAVEL CHURCH LUNCH CLUB by Christine Milburn

The Lunch Club continues to be very popular and serves delicious homemade lunches fortnightly. Our numbers have increased during the year and we now have 40+ members on the books, so we have opened up a waiting list. Meals vary from a traditional roast, Sausages & Yorkshire pudding, Casseroles to Lee's speciality Fish Pie. Puddings are also very popular, treacle sponge, Coconut & Jam sponge, fruit crumbles, shortcake etc. all of course with lashings of custard, and then finished off with a cup of tea.

We enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Lunch, when we were able to invite members of the Norwood Leisure Day Club to join us, 65 meals were served and as well as a scrumptious meal we were treated to lovely music.

More recently the team cooked a traditional meal for the Open Doors community from Princes Avenue Church, it was a challenge for the team and they really excelled with the meal.

As a Church we must thank all the Staff, for their continued help and dedicated service to our Lunch Club. Lee, Jennifer, Paul, Sally L, Sally K, Ros and Yvonne are there at every session, some from first thing in the morning to the end of the session and without them we could not function.

CENTRE CAFÉ by Maureen Stevenson

The café in the Church Centre has regularly been open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the Church year (except for the odd closure for Bank Holidays, Funerals in Church etc and a break at Christmas).

We had hoped that the group from Millers would be able to come back after Covid and take over at least one of the Wednesday or Friday slots but there is no foreseeable chance because of the necessity of sufficient staffing being available.

The attendance at the Centre is variable, with some sessions very busy. We have aimed to welcome customers and to provide them with a cup of tea or coffee for a reasonable price, a chance to sit down and, if required, a chat.

The regular staff are reliable and helpful and thanks are due to them all. There is, however, a need for a little more help. At present the rota in the coming year has 12 blank spaces on it. If anyone feels they can do one of these slots (all on Tuesday) as part of a team of three, please let me know.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE REPORT by Margaret Jackson

We have now been serving coffee and tea after the morning service for almost a year. A drink is always welcome after our singing, and many people enjoy taking the opportunity to chat to others while having their drink, before leaving chapel.

We now serve all Fair Trade tea and coffee, and use ground coffee and cafetières, though instant coffee is always available if preferred. There are twelve members of the team at the moment so we are on duty every six weeks. If anyone feels able to join the team their help would be much appreciated.

Donations are given for the drinks and at the moment are added to general chapel funds.

Thank you to all who help or support this time spent with others.

OPEN DOORS by Fran Rhys

Open Doors charity operates out of Princes Avenue Methodist Church in Hull. Its aim is: **To provide friendly and accessible support and learning environment in safe surroundings through interaction with people of all faiths and none, welcoming people seeking sanctuary, refugees, migrant workers and the destitute.**

Colin and Doreen Raynor have stepped down from their liaison role with Open Doors after many years of enjoying fulfilling this role. Great thanks are due to them for fostering this link and helping support Open Doors clients. Toll Gavel members and the wider community continue to donate clothing and other household items, as well as financial donations to this significant charity. These gifts are deeply appreciated. During her years as mayor of Beverley, Linda Johnson, member at Toll Gavel, made Open Doors one of her two charities of focus.


36 clients and staff from Open Doors were invited during the summer of 2023 to a day out in Beverley by Toll Gavel United Church. Many of the guests were Iraqi. A good proportion of them were children who came with their parents for a first visit to Beverley. They enjoyed a meal prepared by the church's Lunch Club team, an afternoon open mic concert including the Esperion Singers, with Pat and Frieda playing the piano, and guided tours around the special town of Beverley. One of the staff sent a message saying - "To all our friends in Toll Gavel, Thank you for your hospitality and wonderful time, Regards, Open Doors project, All staff and clients"

REBEL GIRLS by Sally Knapp

Rebel Girls continue to meet regularly throughout the year. Alternate Mondays we have lunch at the Dog and Duck and some of us meet up at Norwood Film Nights.

We support TWAM tools with a mission by collecting fabrics, needles, thread etc which are sent to Africa and at the moment we are helping our friends at St Nicks by donating to their shoeboxes for Moldova.

Our big event is Carols and Chips. Last year we were joined by ladies from different community groups to raise the roof in the Rose and Crown. We have provisionally booked the Dog and

Duck on 7th December for this year's sing . 

If you would like to find out more about what we get up to, speak to Frieda or Sally K. You are very welcome to join us, even men are invited to the Monday lunches.

MUSTARD SEEDS by Sally Knapp

In April we went to Flourish and came back full of enthusiasm. Mustard Seeds work with TG band to plan Ignite informal worship and afternoon events.

We also continue to raise money for outreach, from coffee mornings and stalls on the drive.

We gave out plants on Mothering Sunday, encouraging people to take them to friends and neighbours. We helped to buy new planters which are used to grow edibles for use by church members and the community.

Donations from our Summer Party came to over £400 which went to the Cherry Tree Centre to help provide packed lunches for children in the school holidays.

Thank you to everyone who supports our efforts throughout the year.

CREATIVE LADIES by Sally Knapp

Creative ladies get together at 2pm on alternate Tuesdays. We continue to knit blankets for Jacobs Well and Maister Lodge and run the centre cafe during our meetings.

We also help to decorate the centre and church for special events, at the moment we are busy preparing for our Weddings through the decades exhibition.

PRAYER AND SHARE by Christine Milburn

Our group meets Thursday mornings in the Still Waters (Prayer Corner) at the front of Church.

We share in the concerns of ourselves, our Church, our Community and the Wider World. Although small in number we continue to pray and share and are always open to new members.

ALL WE CAN by John Turner

We still receive information distributed by AWC and this is displayed on the noticeboard in the church hall. We have not been able to be active in our support of the charity this year.

WOOLLY WESLEYS by Sally Knapp

Woolly Wesleys and Scrabblers meet in TG centre cafe at 2pm every Monday during term time.

We knit, sew, play scrabble or just enjoy each other's company. In winter we opened as a warm space and we continue to welcome everyone who calls in for a cuppa. Come along and join us.



Celebrating Yorkshire Day



CHRISTIAN AID by John Turner

As with many charity accounts we have closed the local account with Barclay's bank and now send off all our contributions using counterfoils



provided by Christian Aid. As with other churches in the town we are struggling to continue supporting charities or having to find different ways of doing it. This is due to a number of factors; Covid; ageing volunteers; changed priorities.

Some churches managed to help with a house to house collection in a limited way, or using the delivery only envelopes. Many other ways of raising support and money during Christian Aid Week are being tried across the country. We thank you for your donations during C.A.W. when we raised £941. We were all touched by the earthquake in February affecting southern Turkey and Syria and we collected £1k for the appeal. We managed to plan a full series of Lent Lunches Sundays during Lent 2023 and our church was included this year.

FAIRTRADE by John Turner

We are still operating a Fairtrade stall at the church which also supplies Norwood and All Saints in Hesse who both have a stall once a month. We have managed to weather a difficult period in the winter when Traidcraft had to close down its operation. They had been



a principal player in the Fairtrade scene for over 40 years so this was a big blow as they were one of the main suppliers of Fairtrade products during this time. As a result of this, I toured the local supermarkets to find alternative supplies, and this certainly helped. But a new company has emerged from the ashes of Traidcraft run by their former chief executive who had only been in post since September 2022. They purchased some of Traidcraft's stock and have introduced a range of ethically produced products which you can view on the stall. They have plans to introduce some of their own brand products this autumn. Also, as I write this report there is news of an attempt

to resuscitate Traidcraft by a group known as Transform Trade. In what form this emerges we will have to wait and see. They are keen to benefit from the status and reputation of the company. The town needs to renew its Fairtrade status before the end of the year.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY HOUSE GROUP by John Turner

At the start of this calendar year, we launched our own eco group. I was invited to join an eco -group at Beverley Minster as they began planning an EcoFair at the end of September this year. They gathered a group of ambitious, knowledgeable and committed group of people and their plans are due to come to fruition this autumn. Participating in this group inspired me to suggest we started our own group. The 5 people I invited were all willing to help. Within a few weeks we applied and were awarded our eco silver award by A Rocha. This is now displayed in the church Centre. We distributed a survey to gauge support among church members for living a more planet friendly lifestyle. Although the number of returns was limited, it helped to confirm we have a committed core of people doing this. We also produced a special Eco Bulletin and arranged a programme of events for The Great Big Green Week held in June.

The S.R. group has continued to meet on a monthly basis with a regular attendance of about 14 people. We always have a long list of varied ideas and issues to discuss. One month we studied banking using an article from the Ethical Consumer. Our church bank came bottom of the pile overall using all the criteria, so we sent a suggestion to the Trustees to consider changing banks. The Trustees discussed this suggestion but rejected it. The reasons included the issue of finding an alternative bank as charities are not the flavour of the month with banks; the extra work it would cause changing an account and the convenience of having a branch in the town as we make a large number of cash deposits. We usually meet in 3 different

homes which have enough room to accommodate us. New members are always welcome.

THE FLOWER GROUP by Margaret Chastney

The above says group, can you call two a group? We used to be more but over time we have dwindled. Do you feel you could join us?

We arrange flowers in the church each week. The money for the flowers comes from very generous donations given by church members. The donations are often given in remembrance of something or someone. The flowers can be arranged in the church in any style to suit the flowers bought and some of them are wrapped to be given to someone after the service who is in our thoughts and prayers. These can be delivered by one of the pastoral visitors.

The Flower List is displayed in the Centre and people who wish to donate can choose a date and sign. A new list usually goes up in November and remains for anyone to sign during the year.

A huge thank you to everyone who has given a donation in the past and we hope you will consider giving again.

SATURDAY COFFEE MORNINGS by Margaret Chastney

The coffee morning numbers have not completely recovered since the Covid outbreak.

The number of outside bookings has still not recovered which means that some of our church groups are having to step up and do extra. The extra not only means extra on a Saturday but extra baking to fill the cake stall and the asking for small tombola prizes.

If any of you belong to an organisation or group who would benefit from some extra income you could contact our church office for details or why not join us one Saturday to see how it works and enjoy a drink and a biscuit or perhaps some cake.

We feel our mornings are very worthwhile as a place of contact with people; some of them may not have spoken to anyone during the week. (If you feel you could be the person to just talk to them rather than serving coffee that would be good too.)

We are grateful to everyone who helps on the morning or who keeps us supplied with things for our stalls in the hall. We are also grateful to John and Sally who keep the stalls going on the drive.

Can you help??? Look out for the date of the coffee mornings on the church screen, in the bulletin or on the board in the Centre where you can add your name.

If anybody has ideas for further fund raising at our coffee mornings please get in touch with me.

HERITAGE WEEK 2022 by Fran Rhys

The Heritage Open Days in September 2022 hosted a 'Bible Yarns Exhibition'. As last year, the church was open all weekend, 9-11 September and into the following week, when the Centre Café was open.



Volunteers staffed the exhibition and made cakes with which to welcome hundreds of visitors who loved visiting the church.

The Bible Yarns exhibits were made by knitting, sewing, and by using papier mache and collage, among other craft skills. They

were made by people, mainly women and girls of different ages from St George's Church and the wider community of Clun in South Shropshire, at first during the pandemic lockdowns.

Bible stories depicted included Noah's Ark, Jonah and the Whale, Jacob's Dream, the Wedding at Cana, the Lost Sheep, and the Good Samaritan. Over 3 mornings in the subsequent week, 90 plus children from the Minster Primary School aged 5-8 years old visited the Church and engaged with the Bible Yarn Exhibition. With them came 8 different members of staff.



The format for the school children was simple and included prayer, pointing out areas of interest in the church, an introduction to the Bible Yarns exhibition, a retold bible story and then a tour of different exhibits. Children's bibles were opened to several stories to read to the children and questions were asked like "Who would you be in this story?" "What surprises you about this story?" "How do you think the characters felt?"

On the carpeted floor of the Church were laid out activities the children could engage with which related to several of the bible stories and exhibits. Here is a sampling of comments received:

"What a lovely environment for our children to engage with bible stories in such a visual way."

"Can I come here with my family as well to look around?" "I know this story (Noah's Ark) – have you seen all the animals!"

One village school could not arrange a time to visit. So, Children's and Families worker, Cathy Beynon and Revd Fran Rhys took a display to them and led an assembly around the bible story of the



Miraculous Catch of Fishes with prayers and a reflection. A parade service for uniformed group members was also held, using the exhibits as thematic inspiration.

Approximately £450 was made for church funds from refreshments and donations, and even more importantly, the stories of the bible were vividly brought to life for children and adults alike in the beautiful setting of the church.

TOLL GAVEL (BUTTY) BAND by Peter Shepherd

The Butty Band is an enthusiastic group of musicians who will 'have a go' at worship songs and hymns which are more suited to more modern instruments than the organ or which give more traditional music a more contemporary, relaxed feel. As a 'scratch' band, any instruments are welcome and anyone who can read music or guitar tabs is encouraged to join.

We are Rev. Fran (violin), Cathy (guitar), Luke (percussion), Nigel (violin & music transposer), Paul (Guitar), David (mouth organ, recorder), Frieda (keyboard), Peter (guitar), David (guitar), Diane (slide presentation), Mustard Seeds (Service organisers).

Our regular Sunday 'spots' are:-

9:30am - Breakfast on the first Sunday in the month

6:30pm - Ignite service on the fourth Sunday of the month

2:30pm - Mustard Seed service/event on the second Sunday of the month

Occasional morning services - by special request - if we're not too tired!

You may wonder where their name came from? That's because they always play on the first Sunday of the month at Toll Gavel's 'Big Breakfast' which features locally-sourced bacon and egg 'butties'. For anyone who has not been to 'Big Breakfast' it's from 9.30am in the Community Hall. Butties and The Butty Band - what's not to like!!

So come along to one of our events and if you would like to join us make yourself known to one of the Band.

AUDIO/VISUAL TEAM by Peter Shepherd

The AV service has extended the reach of our Sunday morning services with approximately half the number of people attending the service watching it within 24 hours on YouTube. The provision of the AV service requires at least three people to prepare a slide presentation for projection during the service; managing sound levels and streaming onto YouTube.

Our thanks for this continuous service go to Diane A. (slide presentation, streaming), Elaine T. (slide presentation, streaming), Graham G. (sound), with occasional help from Nigel C., David P. and Peter S.

If you would like to learn and volunteer with sound, slide preparation and/or streaming, please make yourself known to one of the operatives sat at the AV desk at a Sunday morning Service.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR TOLL GAVEL UNITED CHURCH FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 by Nigel Dykes, Treasurer at Toll Gavel Church

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

For the 12 months to 31 August 2023 the Church had total income of £133,943 of which £52,276 was from Collections and £23,654 was from Room Lettings.

£7,803 of receipts were identified for Restricted Funds or from Special Collections.

Overall Expenditure for the same period was £126,127 giving a surplus of £7,816.

Our income has been enhanced by exceptional receipts from Legacy donations of £12,000 and a donation of £6,000 from Lairgate United Reformed Church Legacy Trust.

The Repairs figure includes £6,200 for the repair and decorating for the damp damage in the balcony area which was fully covered by the insurance claim.

The Architect Fees of £6,200 for work on feasibility and proposed plans for the possible alteration to the church premises were fully covered by grants from ERYCC.

The Expenditure includes payment for the purchase of new chairs of £4,259.

CASH BALANCES

Total balances on the various Bank Accounts were £61,520 (£53,704 as at 31 August 2021).

Of this £18,535 was in “Restricted” accounts leaving £42,985 for General Church Funds.

Budget for the next 12 months

Attached is a brief budget for the next 12 months showing what I think we can expect from regular income sources and the expenditure we should count as overheads (i.e. that we should look to cover at a minimum).

This shows a predicted shortfall of £5,400 for the year.

The fixed price contracts for Gas and Electricity until 31 March 2025 and September 2024 respectively should keep our outgoings for Utilities at current levels though we are likely to face significant increases when these contracts expire after next year.

The new Bridge Circuit have advised that the Circuit Assessment for the next 12 months should not be increased from the amount paid in the last 12 months.

While there are other “one off” sources of income that may become available such as donations and legacies the budgeted expenditure on property repairs is, I think, a minimum and will cover basic maintenance. The Quinquennial Report did not identify any urgent matters that will need major expenditure.

RECOMMENDATION

Barring any major unforeseen expenditure, the church should have sufficient reserves to cover the operating costs over the next 12 months.

While the surplus of £8,000 for last year was welcome, this was achieved with one off Legacy and Donation receipts of £18,000. While these income sources are gratefully received, we cannot

rely on or budget for similar amounts being available in the future. We would be grateful if everyone can consider the church when making provision for a will in the future as these donations can make a big difference to our finances.

TOLL GAVEL UNITED CHURCH BUDGET FOR 2023/2024

REGULAR INCOME SOURCES

	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually
Collections	£4,500	£13,500	£54,000
Gift Day	£500	£1,500	£6,000
Lettings	£2,000	£6,000	£24,000
Fundraising	£1,000	£3,000	£12,000
Donations from Church Groups	£200	£600	£2,400
TOTAL	£8,200	£24,600	£98,400

OVERHEADS

Circuit Assessment	£4,167	£12,500	£50,000
Employee Costs	£1,833	£5,500	£22,000
Utilities and Telephone	£1,000	£3,000	£12,000
Insurance	£550	£1,650	£6,600
Stationery and Post	£100	£300	£1,200
Repairs	£1,000	£3,000	£12,000
TOTAL	£8,650	£25,950	£103,800

SURPLUS/SHORTFALL	-£450	-£1,350	-£5,400
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TOLL GAVEL UNITED CHURCH - DRAFT ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE					
INCOME	YEAR TO	YEAR TO	BANK BALANCES	31 August 2023	31 August 2022
	31 AUG 2023	31 AUG 2022			
COLLECTIONS	£52,276	£59,623			
LETTINGS	£23,654	£18,146	CURRENT ACCOUNT	£10,380	£24,785
FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES	£11,789	£7,775	DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	£31,787	£17,026
DONATIONS - CHURCH GROUPS	£1,933	£2,425	STO ACCOUNT	£17,010	£9,318
DONATIONS - OTHER	£23,041	£4,487	CENTRAL FINANCE BOARD	£1,697	£1,633
SUNDRIES	£6,999	£3,016	TRUSTEES FOR METH PURPOSES	£504	£504
ADJUSTMENT FOR CHEQUES CANCELLED / EXP	£200	£480	PETTY CASH	£142	£438
RESTRICTED INCOME	£14,051	£9,698	TOTAL CASH BALANCES	£61,520	£53,704
TOTAL	£133,943	£105,650			
EXPENDITURE			CHANGE IN BALANCES for YEAR	£7,816	
CIRCUIT ASSESSMENT	£49,680	£49,942			
COST OF EMPLOYMENT	£17,950	£17,301			
UTILITIES & TELEPHONE	£9,881	£10,985	ALLOCATION OF FUNDS		
REPAIRS	£19,114	£10,744	GENERAL CHURCH FUNDS		£42,985
PRINT STATIONERY AND POSTAGE	£761	£906	RESTRICTED FUNDS		
INSURANCE	£5,780	£5,700	BENEVOLENT FUND	£315	
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£474	£1,067	MESSY MONDAYS	£1,869	
SUNDRIES	£4,063	£3,231	MUSTARD SEED	£110	
DONATIONS	£841	£436	FLOWER FUND	£350	
RESTRICTED EXPENDITURE	£12,554	£5,393	PROPERTY FUND	£153	
NEW EQUIPMENT PURCHASES	£4,733	£14,587	ORGAN FUND	£4,894	
CHANGE IN PETTY CASH BALANCE	£296		TG CENTRE	£10,809	
TOTAL	£126,127	£120,292	DRIVE FUND	£0	
SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR YEAR	£7,816	£14,642	OTHERS (Special collections etc)	£35	
			TOTAL		£18,535
			TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		£61,520

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT by Sarah Poskitt

This is my seventh month of being the Church Administrator here at Toll Gavel United Church and I have settled in very well thanks to the very warm welcome I have received from everyone here.

Although I can't comment too much for the whole of this year, I can see from last years diary that we have maintained a lot of our regular bookings such as Slimming World, MIND and DVAP to name a few. Looking at our Treasurer's report, our lettings amount to the same as last year so we have remained steady with this. We have lost our Beverley School of Art booking which was a regular fixture on a Wednesday but the group leader has moved away to America now. We wish him well with his move.

We have welcomed various musical performers to the Church in the past year including New Paths Music last September and in April of this year, Stage 4 Beverley in February and Early Music in May. BMVC and Beverley Singers have also held concerts with us too, the latter was done to raise money for the Queens Centre at Castle Hill Hospital which was a success raising £880.

Next year we look forward to welcoming Park Street Performing Arts for the first time. They are set to perform the play of Romeo and Juliet and will do 2 nights of performances with us in April 2024. Our regular music events have also pencilled in some bookings for next year too.

We have had a steady stream of Children's Party bookings in our Church Hall which proves popular for soft play and bouncy castles amongst other things! Feedback from the parties always seems positive too.

Our singing groups continue to meet – Tues to Sing, Beverley Community Choir, BMVC and Beverley Singers. I'm lucky to have some of them sometimes from up in my office.

Our baby and pre-school groups are a joy to hear too when I walk in on a Monday morning, all happily playing. I have fairly recently donated a big box of Lego Duplo to Messy Mondays which Anne tells me went down really well with the children and I'm really pleased about this.

Coffee Mornings continue to have quite a number of gaps in the bookings as Christine, my predecessor mentioned last year. Hopefully this will pick up as times goes on and I can hopefully reach out to some groups that hosted a Coffee Morning pre Covid to see if they might like to come back again.

We have 8 uniformed groups that meet here over term time and occasionally for sleepovers in the Hall throughout the year and looking at the reports sent over, they all seem to be doing really well.

Our regular Church groups continue to meet and are really good for the community. Lunch Club proves to be very popular and Community Kitchen offers an essential service to the community as well as the Beverley Against Poverty shower. We continue to have the Foodbank with us on a Wednesday too.

This is my first time producing this booklet and also this report so I hope that I have done both justice.

I look forward to seeing what this next year brings!

MESSY MONDAYS by Anne Cuthbert

Messy Mondays is thriving. We have 25-30 families each week, with the majority of families attending weekly. We have a mixture of parents, grandparents, childminders and other carers and a range of children from new born babies to age four. We're particularly popular with Grandmas.

We now use the welcome room as a baby area where mainly mums are able to chat and let the babies play on the floor in the relative peace of the smaller room. We still have a small baby area in the main hall too for families who also have older children. We don't have a lot of babies, but think this is because of other baby groups on at the same time, we mainly have children aged 1-3, as most 3- and 4-year-olds are at nursery.

Each of our sessions follow a similar structure, with families playing for the majority of the session, with snacks and drinks provided throughout then we all tidy up and join together for a circle time with singing, our favourite song is sleeping bunnies and we usually sing this at least three times before we're allowed to sing anything else, our new variations involve sleeping dinosaurs, crocodiles and at Easter we had sleeping donkeys!

We have a different themed craft each week and often link our craft to a bible story which we leave on the craft table for families to read together. We sometimes extend our theme to the toys and activities we put out, like a football pitch with small world people to celebrate the women's world cup and role play ice cream stall for the summer. The most popular set up at the moment is our 'People who help us' table, with fire station, police station, doctors, nurses and lots of emergency vehicles. The children love role play and I'm planning on extending this with a medical kit, some stuffed toy animals (to play vets) and I'm always on the hunt for fancy dress items and clothes for our

baby dolls or if anyone is feeling creative we'd love some handmade items for the children to enjoy.

We all moved into the church for an egg hunt and a short Easter story for our last session before the Easter break. This worked well as the children explored the church while looking for an egg and then sat still listening to the story while devouring their chocolate. We're working on plans to go in to church for Harvest and Christmas too and we'd love for you to join us.

Cathy and I have worked together to run some holiday sessions over the Summer, Christmas and Easter where we invite older siblings along too and these have been very successful with a range of different aged children enjoying the group together.

This year we have celebrated the King's coronation, made special gifts for Mother's and Father's Day, and enjoyed a range of crafts and activities. Please let us know if there's anything anyone would like to do with us – could you teach us a craft or activity? Have you got any odds and ends we could make use of? I'm hoping the children or grown ups will be able to make some Christmas themed centrepiece/floral arrangement, etc if anyone has any ideas or is able to help us.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered with running the group over the last year. Their help is absolutely invaluable and I couldn't run the sessions without them! In particular Sally, Jenny, Mary, Emily and Sammy who come every week, you're all amazing and all those who've helped last minute or with other events. A huge thank you as well to those who've been collecting various cereal boxes, bottle lids and fruit packaging for us, we've made lots of exciting crafts with them.

I look forward to seeing where the next term leads the group and our families.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER REPORT by Cathy Beynon

It has been a busy year!

Messy Mondays is thriving with Anne Cuthbert and her team of volunteers who provide a vibrant and lively group for parents, carers and their children. Healthy snacks and refreshments are served through the morning, varied play and songs to end with make the group very popular in the community.

During the holiday I support Anne and her team to run bible and play based holiday events, and lots of new adults and children attend these, often then they come along to Messy Mondays or further events. We have creatively used the outdoor space to host a water play session.

The King's Coronation was a great opportunity to open up Church to the community, filled with soft play equipment, crafts and a sweet stall, over 200 children enjoyed bouncing around whilst adults tasted home baked treats. Church members were very kind, welcoming and serving the families and many commented what a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere there was.

Messy Mondays regularly come into Church for seasonal celebrations like Harvest and Advent, it is always encouraging when Church members come along to see the children.

Heritage Week in September 2022 presented bible stories in knitted scenes, these were displayed beautifully in Church. The Uniformed groups and local schools were invited to view the display, hear stories from the bible and make a whole range of crafts to help them remember the story.

Palm Sunday was a hit with a real donkey to be petted and welcome us into Church. There were several families who made a first time visit to Church on this day.

Crib service is always memorable and finding new ways to retell this incredible story helps us think about how we present our living faith afresh. Seeing many grandparents and their grandchildren participate together is a highlight of the year.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

WORLD MISSION FUND by Dorothy Dodgson

Many thanks to those who make contributions to the World Mission Fund.

There are many calls on our resources and Toll Gavel Church is involved in supporting many causes throughout the year.

The total raised in the 12 months to 31 August 2023 is £105. My thanks to Pat Cave who collects some of these contributions twice each year.

In addition, the Easter Offerings go to the World Mission Fund.

FAITH, PLACE AND SPACE GROUP (FSPG) by Colin Hogg

The FSPG has continued its work throughout the year and has met on a regular basis to oversee progress with plans to remodel the church premises. The membership of the group is: Rev'd Fran Rhys, Linda Johnson, Peter Shepherd, Kate Cawley, Cathy Beynon, Adam Ellis, and Colin Hogg. Richard Whomsley has joined the Group during the last year and has provided us with valuable contributions from the perspective of a younger member with links to the uniformed organisations. We have reported regularly to the Trustees Meeting and to the Congregational Meeting. We will continue to do so.

Feasibility Study

We approached three firms of architects (two local to Beverley and one from Leeds) with a view to the preparation of a feasibility study, building on the results of the ‘Needs Analysis’ carried out in the early summer of 2022. After careful consideration we selected SALT Architects of Beverley, a local firm with a good track record of designing important public buildings, including church refurbishments. We were able to secure a grant from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (with help from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council) which covered the total cost of the study. The study was completed at the end of January 2023 and was presented to a Special Congregational Meeting by the architect on 26th March 2023.

We have since commissioned a digital 3-D model of the plans included with the feasibility study and expect that this will be available by early September 2023. It will be used as part of a consultation exercise which will give the congregation and all other users of the premises an opportunity to express their views on the proposals and to suggest any modifications that they would like to see (Consultation section below).

Advice from Others

As part of the process, we have continued to talk to others, including:

District Property Secretary
District Grant-funding Enabler
ERYC Planning Department
Norwood Methodist Church (after initially joining meetings Norwood have decided to go their own way for the present)
Other churches (most recently Malton Methodist Church who are in the process of developing a £3.4m scheme)

Results from these discussions have been fed into our deliberations.

Potential Sale of the Hall

As configured, the plans envisage the hall becoming surplus to our requirements. We have had preliminary ‘without prejudice’ conversations with a local housing charity who have expressed a possible interest in acquiring it. We have also had valuations from two local agents, although both agree that sale by tender may be the only way of securing the best price (as we are required to do).

Nothing further will be done until the Church has agreed the appropriate way forward.

Consultation

As noted above, we intend to carry out a full consultation exercise with the Church Community starting in September. This is being undertaken in conjunction with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council who have agreed to use their existing digital system to circulate questionnaires and correlate the results free of charge. These will be fed into the process of amending the plans to accommodate as many requirements and opinions as possible. In addition, the ERYC system will evaluate the ‘Social Value’ of the total current community activity of the premises, giving a monetary value to the things that the Church, and others using the premises, are doing. Among other benefits, this will help us prioritise how we use the premises in the future and should add weight to applications for funding.

Funding

We have begun consideration of potential sources of funding, notably by talking to the District Grant-funding Enabler and other churches. We cannot begin to actively pursue funding applications until we have finalised our proposals, but we have been considering the possibility of involving a professional fund-raiser.

PROPERTY REPORT by Colin Hogg

In view of continuing financial constraints, work has been restricted to essential repair and maintenance, and to enhancements which have been carefully evaluated and costed (including external funding where available).

The work completed is as follows:

A. Essential Repairs and Maintenance:

- (i) Upgrading of Fire Protection system following an inspection by the Humberside Fire Brigade Fire Protection Officer in September 2022. This involved work throughout both buildings including the installation of additional emergency call points and sounders, additional smoke and heat detectors and the provision of a replacement fire door. A subsequent visit by the Fire Protection Officer confirmed that the work had been completed satisfactorily.

- (ii) Repainting of areas in the south-western corner of the Church following water ingress (as reported in the 2021/22 report). This work was covered by an insurance claim. Some remedial work is required following 'blowing' of the painted finishes and negotiations are ongoing.
- (iii) Replacement of a gas boiler was necessary after several attempts to repair the existing one proved unsuccessful.
- (iv) Minor works to plumbing, locks and the hall floor
- (v) We suffered 3 break-ins during the year: one through the hall kitchen window and two through the 'minister's toilet' window. There was some small loss of petty cash but all necessitated expenditure on repairs. The 'minister's toilet' window has now been fitted with strengthened glass and metal bars to hopefully prevent further occurrences.

B. Improvement Works

- (i) Provision of a cabinet to house the AV desk in the Church. The cost of this was covered by a generous donation.
- (ii) Installation of a new noticeboard at the Toll Gavel entrance was finally achieved in October 2022.
- (iii) A new banner has been installed on the drive.

- (iv) New planters have been provided along the drive to replace old ones which were in a dilapidated condition.
- (v) Two flagpoles were erected close to the Toll Gavel gates in August 2023. Unfortunately, these lasted less than a week before being vandalised. A decision about what to do to replace them is pending.

C. Outstanding Work to be rolled over into 2023/24

- (i) A Quinquennial inspection of the premises was carried out in April 2023. The report did not identify anything requiring immediate attention other than highlighting the fact that a full check of the fixed electrical installation in the premises is overdue. (Arrangements for this to be addressed are in hand).

Recommendations for repairs within 12 months included:

- Overhaul and repair/redecorate external joinery as required
- Graffiti removal
- Replace broken or damaged glazing

Recommendations for repairs within 24 months included:

- Attention to localised eroded brickwork, typically saturation with a waterproofing agent

- (ii) An inspection of the premises by the Insurer's Risk Management Surveyor took place in July 2023. We are still awaiting his formal report, but informally he appeared to be generally satisfied. He also identified the need to check the fixed electrical equipment (see above) and also suggested that we should protect any leadwork with 'Smartwater'.

JACOB'S WELL APPEAL by Anne Mitchell

Jacob's Well Appeal continues its work sending aid in the form of medical, household, agricultural, food, educational items and donations of money for projects in various countries.



Above: a large tent used as field hospitals in Ukraine

The continuing war in Ukraine has increased the need for medical aid. Since the conflict started, 32 trucks and many smaller vans, containing aid worth £8.7 million pounds have been sent. Money was gifted to buy 6 ambulances. The monthly payment of £150 helps to cover

costs of hiring a distribution warehouse in central Ukraine where trucks unload the aid. The hospitals and army deliver this aid throughout the country. Many people have lost their homes and belongings, so donations of clothing, blankets and food are

needed. Medics were asking for large tents, small tables, instrument trolleys and other medical items as 1218 medical facilities including 540 hospitals have been damaged.

The Syrian earthquake caused the death of over 60,000 people, and UN World Food Programme estimated that 18 million people have lost their homes. Jacob's Well has been supporting Samara's Aid in Syria for some time. When Jacob's Well Appeal launched an emergency appeal, £85,000 was raised in 2 weeks. Good quality health care is not available to most of the population, while 60% of the hospitals have been damaged.



Aftermath of the Syrian Earthquake

£40,000 Appeal has been launched to buy a x ray machine for Samara's Aid's new medical centre near Aleppo.

In Northern Ghana a borehole was in need of repair and a generous donation meant it was fixed and another one dug. Drs.Alistair and Margaret Robertson visited a remote medical centre recently. They were able to assess the medical equipment and put aid money to the most urgent needs. A simple paediatric ward is being built to extend the facilities at the centre.

The reusable sanitary pads project started in 2021 continues. This April 433 girls in Wa, a major town in Upper West Ghana, have benefitted from the project. The girls can now be at school full time. They can gain numeracy and literacy skills to gain jobs and avoid living in poverty. Liz Lyle was in the Wa area in northern Ghana last autumn and February this year to train new staff. When she returns this October, she will set up a new workshop to build the equipment for the children with cerebral palsy.

In Sierra Leone, the Autistic Society has received a mini bus to collect children going to school. In Freetown the school has 60 pupils. In Karbala the new school will accommodate 150 children. JW Appeal supplied catering equipment as part of a programme to develop the skills autistic pupils will need to feel included in society.

These projects are the main ones, but smaller aid goes elsewhere. To finance these programmes, the donated goods sold in the Beverley shop, book sales and warehouse sales pay towards transport costs. Many volunteers work in the shop or warehouse sorting donated medical equipment, clothes, household items and sundries. New volunteers are always welcome to process the vast quality of donations.

We recognise and thank the many Church members who help and contribute in diverse ways to enable the success of the Jacob's Well Appeal.

5TH BEVERLEY (WESLEY)
RAINBOWS by **Anne**
Cuthbert



We've had another busy year at 5th Rainbows. We have 16 girls and a long waiting list. We have moved a few girls up to Brownies this year, but the majority of our girls still have another year left with us.

We have completed 3 of our themed badges for the year, Express myself, Skills for my future and Be well. We have enjoyed learning about eating balanced meals, new and different ways to stay fit and keep active and explored our bodies and the environment with some science activities.

We spent a few weeks learning all about the King's Coronation and made lots of crafts themed around the King and Britain. We really enjoyed making crowns, decorating biscuits and designing our own cypher. Lots of the girls came along to the activities in Church on the Coronation weekend, and enjoyed the archery, smores making and catapult activities that the Guides were running. We've had some disappointing turnouts for church parade but hope this has been simply due to some busy weekends and that the families will continue to join us in church.

We've been desperate for leaders this year and we were grateful to Gabby from Guides coming along each week for the last term to help us out. We have a wonderfully enthusiastic new Young Leader Ameerah who brings a lovely energy with her, and Christine and Liz have been invaluable with their commitment to helping us regularly. Unfortunately, due to family commitments, both Hannah and I had to leave Rainbows at the end of the summer term but Angela who is a Guider at Tickton Brownies has stepped up to run the unit, we wish her the best of luck, and thank everyone for the support you've given Hannah and me over the years.

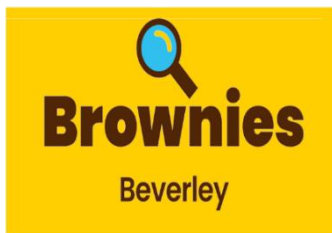
We continue to appreciate the support and help Toll Gavel Church give us and are grateful to be part of it.

Anne Cuthbert – Rainbow Leader (Squirrel) Hannah Griffith
– Assistant Leader (Bumble Bee)

Additional note:- I would like to add both mine and the Church's thanks to both Anne and Hannah who came to our Rainbows as Warranted Leaders, and have been wonderful Leaders at our Rainbows for about eight years. They have both given the girls amazing experiences and we will miss them at our Meetings.

Christine Milburn – Guider

**5TH BEVERLEY (WESLEY)
BROWNIES by Janet Birt
(Brown Owl)**



“We started our return to Brownies last September with the unfortunate news of the death of Her Majesty the Queen which was quite ironic as during the summer holidays following the girls sending cards to Her Majesty to congratulate her on her Platinum Jubilee I had received a letter from Windsor Castle and a photo thanking them for their good wishes. The Brownies all now have a wonderful memento of her late Majesty to treasure.

During the Autumn term the Brownies produced a window display for the Church as part of the Twelve Days of Christmas and continued work on their Skills builder badge. They also attended a private screening of Matilda the Musical at Parkway Cinema.

After Easter the Brownies began work on their Coronation Badge in preparation for celebrating the King’s Coronation and they again sent cards of congratulations and were delighted with the response they received. It goes without saying that they also had a party! Work then began on their Jobs interest badge to complete the Skills for Life badge. Discussions were held on what sort of jobs they would like to do in the future and questions prepared for interviews. Snowy Owl did a wonderful job arranging for the owner of Everything but the Dog, 2 Police Officers who brought their police car with them much to the delight of the Brownies, Suzanne Smith, Head of National Womens and Girls development in football, a lady who looks after and rehomes pets and the Brownies especially loved the Duck with the Rabbit and Guinea pigs she brought in to show them. In June some of the Brownies enjoyed another cinema trip for the screening of Little Mermaid.

A huge thank you goes to the Adult Helpers, especially Snowy Owl who prepares the weeks activities and to Edie and Sophieanne, our Young Leaders for their enthusiasm and congratulations for obtaining their Young Leader Qualification this year. Also to Cathy Beynon who visits us regularly.”

BEVERLEY RANGER
UNIT by Anne-Marie
Smith



The Rangers have been busy this year with a number of different projects. Firstly, the girls took part in the autumn term pumpkin picking at Butt Farm in which they then carved some very artistic designs. This was followed by the Rangers completing their Skills for my Future Skill builders which included designing a race cart and planning for their future careers. This led to the Spring and Summer term where the girls were busy on completing the Kings Coronation challenge where they undertook a number of activities based around the coronation. These included learning Welsh, putting on a play and making their own commemorative plate.

As the nice weather approached the girls have been out having adventure's theme which included map reading skills and quizzes around Beverley town and a trip to the secret garden, where we had a sing along. We also undertook a number of chill out relaxation session for those girls studying for exams and their unit meeting provided a safe space away from revision. The Ranger unit are planning to undertake their summer camp next week to Hesley Wood activity centre.

8TH BEVERLEY (WESLEY)
BROWNIES by Katie Blanchard



Another year of Rainbows! We have had 2 new young leaders join our leadership team, we have had two nights out the Minster secret garden building fires, compiling tree rubbings and welcoming 5 new Rainbows. We have completed skill builder, have adventures stage 1 and got over 4 theme awards. Decorated buns, made self portraits using scrap material, made Father's Day biscuits and went into the church for the Christingle service. We also made a display as part of the 12 days of Christmas for the church. I would also like to say a massive thank you to Claire who has taken over Rainbows and grown the unit and kept the programme fun!

8TH BEVERLEY (WESLEY)
BROWNIES by Casey Hirst
(Brown Owl)



Our Brownie Pack continues to meet every Thursday evening, with 15-20 Brownies each week. Once again, we have enjoyed a packed programme with a variety of activities.

This year the Brownies have been learning all about the new programme and doing all sorts of new activities. The Brownies gained their skill for my future badge, alongside Jobs and Inventing badges. They have also sent letters to the King and really enjoyed taking part in various royal activities.

Our Pack Holiday was in November and was thoroughly enjoyed by all, we held a Christmas Theme. Each day was based on a day over the Christmas period, we celebrated Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. We looked at different

traditions that different cultures have and celebrated them whilst on pack holiday.

I am grateful for the continued support of my helpers, and also for the support of the Church.

5TH BEVERLEY (WESLEY) **GUIDES by Gabriella Calvert**



Since taking over Guides this year we have built on the Girlguiding programme and made some great strides in working towards their bronze/silver/gold awards.

In the autumn, we went to Butts farm pumpkin picking. The girls got to choose their own pumpkin and then carve a suitably spooky image into their pumpkin.

We joined the rest of the district in a trip to the cinema to see Matilda the musical at Parkway cinema. We had planned a sleepover in the church hall, but this was unfortunately called off due to a broken boiler in the hall!

In the spring term we really focused on our skills for my future theme award. We worked on different skills that should help them in the future. We also started a challenge badge, the dinosaur challenge! This challenge let us explore the world of dinosaurs and try new activities.

In the summer we tried to go outside a bit more, but the weather had other plans. We completed our dinosaur challenge this term and started thinking about our upcoming camp. We tried our hands at town planning, we looked at our town and came up with some ideas on how to improve our local area.

This summer we were fortunate to go on our annual summer camp. We went to Hesley Wood campsite, near Sheffield for 4 nights. Despite the weather not being on our side (and a few leaky tents!), the girls really showed their resilience and had a great time.

I look forward to the year ahead and hope we can build on our strengths and make this unit better than ever!

5TH BEVERLEY (WESLEY) Scout Group by Darren Burgess (Group Scout Leader)

The past 12 months have been amongst the busiest for the group in recent memory; with activities most weekends alongside our weekly section meetings.



Undoubtedly; the highlight of the year came this summer when 18 Scouts and 3 Leaders joined a contingent of almost 400 for an Austrian Adventure.



Staying at Pfadfinderdorf Zellhof; an international Scout & Guide Centre near Salzburg; our Scouts enjoyed a week of high octane adventure interspersed with visits to some of the local tourist attractions. Surrounded by beautiful Austrian

landscapes and blessed with glorious sunshine throughout; it was truly the adventure of a lifetime for everyone.

The adventure in the programme came courtesy of a session of Whitewater Rafting, an Alpine Rollercoaster, a trip to a High Ropes park and a visit to the local Water Park. The week also included a trip to the world's oldest Salt Mine in the beautiful village on Hallstatt and a full day of sightseeing in Salzburg.



Our evenings on the site gave us the chance to make new friends both from within our contingent and with the German Scouts who were camping on the site at the same time.

The site's traditional Open Pots night gave us the opportunity to share traditional dishes with both the groups on site and the staff and while we were able to try Spaetzle and Wurst; we introduced our

international friends to the delights of Yorkshire Pudding and Victoria Sponge Cake. We also had the chance to learn some traditional Austrian dancing; when a local dance troupe visited the site.





Besides Austria; all sections have had several opportunities to enjoy nights away experiences. The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all enjoyed “Sleeping with the Sharks” at The Deep in November & December last year.

Our annual Winter Camp took place at the beginning of February at Snowball

Plantation in York. The Cubs and Scouts enjoyed a full day in York; visiting both the National Railway Museum and York’s Chocolate Story; as well as having a chance to see some amazing Ice Sculptures on the streets of York as part of the city’s annual Ice Sculpture festival.



Several Scouts also attended Humberside Scout’s Annual Winterfest Camp in January; where they had the opportunity to go Ice Skating and challenge their friends at Adventure Golf before enjoying an evening of quizzes, karaoke and a disco.

The Beavers and Cubs enjoyed a Summer Camp at Raywell in June; enjoying a packed programme including Sailing, Climbing, Cavebus, Rifle Shooting, Archery and Low Ropes. They also lit fires and prepared Fajitas for their evening meal.



Both Cubs and Scouts also hiked part of the Hudson Way from Kiplincotes to Beverley in March and then enjoyed a sleepover in the Church Hall.

Outside of our Nights Away events; we have also had plenty of opportunities to try new adventures. Two teams of Scouts completed the Wolds Challenge (a 12 mile hiking and navigation challenge) last October and one team also went on to complete the Fells Marathon (a two day competition where Scouts navigate a course of over 20 miles whilst carrying all of their kit and camping overnight en-route).



Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have all joined in with the County Badge Days. The Beavers spent the day completing their Photographer Badge whilst the Cubs learned how to safely use tools as they earned their DIY Badge and the Scouts learned to solder and make circuits as they completed their Electronics Badge.

The Cubs and Scouts also had another chance to go Kayaking at the end of July.

In our weekly Section meetings we have enjoyed a full and varied programme including developing many important Skills for Life which are at the heart of our programme week in, week out and we have been proud to award armfuls of badges; including several Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards to our Young People.

As always none of this would have been possible without the time and dedication of our team of volunteer adults who have given up countless hours to deliver our weekly meetings and our amazing weekend events.



Looking forward to the next 12 months; we already have exciting plans with a Winter Camp, a sleepover at Legoland and a summer trip to the Larkin Jamboree in North Yorkshire already booked.

Additionally; plans are in motion to open a Squirrel Drey at some point in the New Year. Squirrels are the newest members of the Scouting family; aged between 4 and 6 and we look forward the sharing their first adventures with you next year.

HERITAGE WEEK IN 2022 AT TOLL GAVEL UNITED CHURCH

