

Aspull Methodist Church
Wigan Road
Aspull
WIGAN
Lancashire
WN2 1PP



Email: lisabrabrook@virginmedia.com
Tel: 07933 399900

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5th September 2020

Dear Friends,

As the Connexional year draws to a close, part of my role as Treasurer of Aspull Methodist Church is to prepare the accounts for 2019/2020 to be submitted to Church Council and to the Circuit.

Over the financial year, my first as the Treasurer, I have kept a close eye on the Church's income and expenditure, in an effort to ensure that we have the funds available to enable the smooth running of the Church, and it is with a heavy heart that I feel I must report the current situation, not just to the Church Council, but to all involved with Aspull Methodist Church.

As a Church, we receive income from people's giving (collection / through the bank etc), through our fundraising efforts and from donations. We do not receive any other funding. We have several, regular financial commitments, for the running of the church, which must be paid. Typically, this year's expenditure will be in excess of £33,000.

In addition to this, Covid-19 has had quite a significant impact on Church finances. We have had to spend £500 + on cleaning products to ensure the Church is Covid compliant. There will be ongoing costs associated with this as we will be using far more hand soap than previously, and also hand sanitiser and paper towels.

As Church services have been streamed online only, and we have not been allowed to actually attend the Church, the income from giving has reduced significantly and I estimate that we will have a decrease of around £5,000 compared to last year's giving.

Lettings income has reduced to nil as groups have not been using the building and we have sustained lost income of around £4000 due to this.

We have been unable to run any kind of fundraising events recently and so have lost income from this avenue also.

As we have not been allowed to perform Funerals / Weddings etc, we have lost further income from this.

We started the financial year with no savings to speak of and so have nothing in reserve at present. This is an issue that I had planned to address as a matter of urgency, however that proved to be impossible, given the pandemic.

Bolton and Rochdale District
Wigan Circuit
Charity Registration No: 1138103

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I know that this is not the kind of letter that anyone wants to receive, and believe me, it is not one that I relish writing and sending out! However, as it currently stands, the Church's financial situation is a major concern and it would be remiss of me if I didn't inform everyone involved of the situation and give everyone the opportunity to do whatever they can to help relieve the strain.

There are several ways that you could help if you are able to and these are listed below. Would you please prayerfully consider what you are able to do to help? Any of these things will help enormously to keep the Church's finances in a healthy state. If you are not in a position to be able to help financially, please keep the situation in your prayers.

Suggestions that would make a real financial difference:

1. Set up a regular, monthly Standing Order from your bank to the Church account instead of putting cash into the collection bags.
Account held at: Royal Bank of Scotland
Account Name: Aspull Methodist Church.
Sort Code: 16-28-11
Account Number: 11155746
2. The obvious – please pray and consider whether you can make any increase to your current giving (sorry to ask, but it is necessary at the moment).
3. Consider giving a one-off donation or 'love-gift' to the Church (any amount, no matter how small, will help). Anonymity will be guaranteed.
4. If anyone in your household is a Tax Payer, please complete a Gift Aid Form (available from Lisa Brabrook) so that we can claim back 25% of your giving from HMRC (this costs you nothing).
5. Please think about how we could fundraise now, and in the future. If you have any ideas or if you would like to organise any kind of fundraising, please let me or one of the Stewards know.
6. Ensure that, when not in use, lights and taps are switched off. Only use the central heating when necessary and don't waste any of the Church's resources.

If you have any thoughts about anything else that may help our situation, please let me know. If you have further questions, please get in touch.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter.

God bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lisa Brabrook'.

Mrs Lisa Brabrook
Treasurer – for and on behalf of Aspull Methodist Church Council

Bolton and Rochdale District
Wigan Circuit

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