



North Weald Methodist Church
High Road, North Weald. CM16 6HW

Mission Statement

2018 - 2023

Adopted - February 2018

Background ...

North Weald Methodist Church has been in the centre of the village for over 100 years during which time it has responded to several challenges to ensure that it continues to be relevant to the needs of the community as well as to those of its members and adherents. At all times it wishes to be seen as an active place of worship that is also open for community use rather than to be regarded as a museum reflecting the history of past events.

Following the completion of the refurbishment of the Sanctuary and other parts of the premises in 2014, we now have a building that meets the needs and expectations of the 21st Century – including access and facilities for the disabled - and we are aware that visitors now view the Church in a more positive light.

Our principle concern has always been to maintain and enhance the life and witness of the Church to ensure that our Methodist traditions do not become part of history.

We are aware that this will represent a further challenge but the history of the Church illustrates that it owes much to the foresight and tenacity of previous members and we are committed seeing their past work continue to flourish.



The refurbished Sanctuary



The refurbished Hall

Our Plans ...

We have a small but committed membership and, in conjunction with our Minister, our plans for the first of the next five years are:

- 1. To seek new members among the Church adherents and to run Church membership classes**
 - this process is due to start very shortly.
- 2. To continue and promote the fortnightly Bible study meetings;** these commenced fairly recently and have proved to be of great value both in terms of attaining further knowledge of the less well-known books and of encouraging free discussion between those attending.
- 3. To encourage wider community participation in Church activities through continuation of;**
 - Periodic coffee mornings with the proceeds going to agreed charities.
 - Our annual Christingle and Carol Services - here again, the proceeds go to agreed charities.
- 4. To have occasional services in the Café Church format** as this is clearly popular with those attending.
- 5. To enhance our relationship with St. Andrew's Church in North Weald** – participating in their events (such as Messy Church or the annual Carol Service at St. Andrew's School) where invited and inviting them to ours where appropriate.
- 6. To continue supporting Women's World Day of Prayer and Methodist Women in Britain activities.**
- 7. To provide prayerful and practical support** to members and adherents in time of need and to respond to wider international, national or local appeals where possible.
- 8. To maintain the standard of the Church and ancillary buildings at the highest level** to ensure that they are safe for use by third parties; the changes made in the 2014 refurbishment have opened up the interior of the Sanctuary and we believe that can now be regarded as a more "inviting" area. Following comments made over the years that it is not obvious that the building is that of a Church, we have plans to have its name displayed over the main entrance to the Sanctuary.
- 9. To enhance the Church profile in the village and wider community and encourage the use of our premises by the local community** by including articles and advertising events in the North Weald Village Life magazine, on the Church website and other appropriate avenues.

In subsequent years, these may be modified in the light of experience. We shall, however, continue to support Methodist causes (including Action for Children, All We Can and MHA) together with national and local charities (such as Mary's Meals, St. Clare Hospice and the Harlow Foodbank).

At all times, we shall be aware of the mission given by Christ to His disciples...

“Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciplesand teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age.”

... and we accept that it is our responsibility to welcome the strangers in our midst and to show to them the concern and love Jesus has shown to us through those who follow Him.