

**CARNFORTH FREE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND**  
**UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Xeinadin  
Dalton House  
9 Dalton Square  
LANCASTER  
LA1 1WD

**CARNFORTH FREE METHODIST CHURCH**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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# CARNFORTH FREE METHODIST CHURCH

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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<b>Trustees</b>	Rev C Murgu Mr J Carter Rev I Ellershaw Mrs C Duncan (resigned 17/12/2024) Mr D Kitchen Mr P Burt Dr M White Mr I Rothwell Mr J Davies Mr P Hayes Mr P Lumb Rev M Surrey Mrs S Wright Mrs V Karg
<b>Principal address</b>	The Manse 33 Dunkirk Avenue CARNFORTH LA5 9AP
<b>Registered charity number</b>	1059512
<b>Independent examiner</b>	Xeinadin Dalton House 9 Dalton Square LANCASTER LA1 1WD
<b>Bankers</b>	Barclays Bank Plc 3 Market Street CARNFORTH LA5 9JX

# CARNFORTH FREE METHODIST CHURCH

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

### Objectives and activities

The object of the Carnforth Free Methodist Church is the furtherance of the religious and other charitable works of the Free Methodist Church of North America in accordance with the doctrines, disciplines and usages of that Church for the time being as set forth in the book of discipline. The Church benefits from many voluntary hours and unclaimed out of pocket expenses, contributed by a large number of people. It would be impossible to place a value on these gifts in kind, for which the Trustees are extremely grateful. The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives.

### Achievements and performance

During the year further income was received by the Charity via Gift Aid resulting in a total of £26,574 tax being recovered from HM Revenue & Customs.

The Trustees are aware that the Charity has an obligation to operate for an identifiable and public benefit. When planning activities Trustees consider the Commission guidance on public benefit; in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

During 2024, the Church has continued to meet in-person meetings predominantly, albeit virtually using Zoom and YouTube to compliment face to face meetings, particularly for those who are vulnerable or elderly. During the year, the Church continued to support humanitarian work overseas, in particular, where two families continue to serve overseas in 2024. The Church has continued with work in the UK through schools work via sports outreach and the Church has continued to give compassionate gifts and help where needed in the local community.

During 2024, our Lead Pastor, Cristi Murgu has continued to lead the work of the Church in the local Community and surrounding areas, supported by our Associate Pastor, Ian Ellershaw. In the meantime, the Churches Admin support has continued to fulfil a part-time role to provide administrative support to the Lead Pastor, Community Pastor and wider Church.

The Pastors have been involved in visiting members of the Church and people in the local community who have had particular needs and may have asked the Church for assistance. In addition, the Church assisted community programmes have continued in person, such as divorce and bereavement support. During 2024, the Church has continued to liaise with local agencies in identifying and then supporting individuals and families in the communities.

As for assets, the Church manse at Dunkirk Avenue has been maintained. The recently developed Church Conference and Resource Centre has again been used to support the Charities objectives and hosting the community support ventures, including hosting AA. During 2024, all outstanding loans relating to the £1million plus build programme were repaid. Insurance cover on all properties has been reviewed with the recommendations of the RICS and in consultation with the Church's Insurance Brokers.

There were minor changes to the Charity's policies during 2024. In particular, the Trustees reviewed its child protection (safe guarding) policy, ensuring that employees and relevant volunteers received bespoke training on the subject. This will be delivered again in 2025. The Health & Safety Policy has been reviewed with ongoing risk assessments drawn up, particularly focus being given to new ministries and events run from the Centre. The Churches GDPR policy and its charitable data protection management processes are being managed.

### Financial review

The charity does not have a formal reserves policy however it is the policy of the charity to maintain balances at a level equivalent to approximately two months expenditure to cover church running costs, should income fall. There have been no occasions when credit balances have fallen beneath this level, and no need for the matter to be escalated by the Trustees to the members of the Church for their consideration. Free reserves as at the year end were £174,253 (2023 - £61,705). No funds are in deficit.

# CARNFORTH FREE METHODIST CHURCH

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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### **Future plans**

The charity plans to continue with its core objectives within its immediate vicinity and the surrounding regions, in addition to which it continues to explore making more use of its new premises to support its charitable objectives.

### **Structure, governance and management**

The main governing document of the Charity is set out in the Declaration of Trust dated 30 October 1996 as amended by scheme dated 9 March 2000. New Trustees are appointed on an annual basis at the Annual General Meeting and meet regularly to review management, financial and operational risk matters.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on ..... and signed on its behalf by:

.....  
Mr J Carter - Trustee

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CARNFORTH FREE METHODIST CHURCH

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## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Carnforth Free Methodist Church**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Carnforth Free Methodist Church (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by Section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

T M Preece FCCA

Xeinadin  
Dalton House  
9 Dalton Square  
LANCASTER  
LA1 1WD

Date: .....

# CARNFORTH FREE METHODIST CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

		Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
	Notes				
<b>Income and endowments from</b>					
Donations and legacies		288,835	5,184	294,019	218,151
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Church activities		-	11,386	11,386	6,959
Investment income	2	1,897	-	1,897	233
Other income		1,106	-	1,106	1,040
<b>Total</b>		<u>291,838</u>	<u>16,570</u>	<u>308,408</u>	<u>226,383</u>
<b>Expenditure on</b>					
<b>Charitable activities</b>					
Church activities		160,394	15,230	175,624	146,879
Other		530	-	530	2,999
<b>Total</b>		<u>160,924</u>	<u>15,230</u>	<u>176,154</u>	<u>149,878</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		130,914	1,340	132,254	76,505
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		538,325	1,050,662	1,588,987	1,512,482
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<u><u>669,239</u></u>	<u><u>1,052,002</u></u>	<u><u>1,721,241</u></u>	<u><u>1,588,987</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

# CARNFORTH FREE METHODIST CHURCH

## BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	7	127,726	-	127,726	127,538
Investments	8	-	1	1	1
		<u>127,726</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>127,727</u>	<u>127,539</u>
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	9	373,733	1,051,861	1,425,594	1,442,703
Cash at bank		<u>171,029</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>171,169</u>	<u>58,841</u>
		544,762	1,052,001	1,596,763	1,501,544
<b>Creditors</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(3,249)	-	(3,249)	(3,434)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>541,513</u>	<u>1,052,001</u>	<u>1,593,514</u>	<u>1,498,110</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		669,239	1,052,002	1,721,241	1,625,649
<b>Creditors</b>					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	11	-	-	-	(36,662)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>669,239</u>	<u>1,052,002</u>	<u>1,721,241</u>	<u>1,588,987</u>
<b>Funds</b>	13				
Unrestricted funds				669,239	538,325
Restricted funds				<u>1,052,002</u>	<u>1,050,662</u>
<b>Total funds</b>				<u>1,721,241</u>	<u>1,588,987</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on ..... and were signed on its behalf by:

.....  
Mr J Carter - Trustee

.....  
Mr P Burt - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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1. Accounting policies

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

**Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Furniture and equipment	- 15% Reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 25% on cost

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charity's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

**Going concern**

There are no material uncertainties regarding the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

## CARNFORTH FREE METHODIST CHURCH

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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#### 2. Investment income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Deposit account interest	1,897	233
	<u>1,897</u>	<u>233</u>

#### 3. Grants payable

	2024	2023
	£	£
Church activities	30,969	14,618
	<u>30,969</u>	<u>14,618</u>

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Education for Life	-	600
Sportsreach	3,121	600
Royal British Legion	20	40
NISCU	900	700
United Christian Broadcasters	-	40
The Way Church	250	-
United Servants	-	111
Cornerstone Church, Bentham	11,000	-
CAP Lancaster & Morecambe	750	-
Prison Fellowship	819	-
Open Doors	819	-
	<u>17,679</u>	<u>2,091</u>

The total grants paid to individuals during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Individuals	13,290	11,035
	<u>13,290</u>	<u>11,035</u>

#### 4. Trustees' remuneration and benefits

Both the Lead Pastor and Associate Pastor (who are also Trustees) received remuneration for ministerial work done during the year. Rev C Murgu received gross pay of £31,616 (2023 - £30,141) and pension contributions of £2,370 (2023 - £2,070). Rev I Ellershaw received gross pay of £34,423 (2023 - £32,526) and pension contributions of £2,370 (2023 - £2,070).

# CARNFORTH FREE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 4. Trustees' remuneration and benefits - continued

#### Trustees' expenses

The Trustees were reimbursed expenses of £798 (2023 - £282).

### 5. Staff costs

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
Charitable activities	3	3

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

### 6. Comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>Income and endowments from</b>			
Donations and legacies	168,167	49,984	218,151
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Church activities	-	6,959	6,959
Investment income	233	-	233
Other income	1,040	-	1,040
<b>Total</b>	<u>169,440</u>	<u>56,943</u>	<u>226,383</u>
<b>Expenditure on</b>			
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Church activities	137,902	8,977	146,879
Other	2,999	-	2,999
<b>Total</b>	<u>140,901</u>	<u>8,977</u>	<u>149,878</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	28,539	47,966	76,505
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>			
Total funds brought forward	509,786	1,002,696	1,512,482
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u>538,325</u>	<u>1,050,662</u>	<u>1,588,987</u>

# CARNFORTH FREE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 7. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 January 2024	119,820	28,935	5,609	154,364
Additions	-	2,210	479	2,689
At 31 December 2024	119,820	31,145	6,088	157,053
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 January 2024	-	24,747	2,079	26,826
Charge for year	-	978	1,523	2,501
At 31 December 2024	-	25,725	3,602	29,327
<b>Net book value</b>				
At 31 December 2024	119,820	5,420	2,486	127,726
At 31 December 2023	119,820	4,188	3,530	127,538

### 8. Fixed asset investments

	Shares in group undertakings £
<b>Market value</b>	
At 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024	1
<b>Net book value</b>	
At 31 December 2024	1
At 31 December 2023	1

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

### 9. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other debtors	1,425,594	1,442,703

# CARNFORTH FREE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 10. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 12)	-	1,107
Trade creditors	2,182	1,342
Taxation and social security	1,067	985
	<u>3,249</u>	<u>3,434</u>

### 11. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank loans (see note 12)	-	36,662
	<u>-</u>	<u>36,662</u>

### 12. Loans

The bank loan was repaid in full on 8 March 2024.

### 13. Movement in funds

	At 1/1/24	Net movement	At
	£	in funds	31/12/24
	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	538,325	130,914	669,239
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Gifts for specific purposes	15	(15)	-
Building	1,050,482	1,380	1,051,862
Food bank	140	-	140
Ladies ministry	25	(25)	-
	<u>1,050,662</u>	<u>1,340</u>	<u>1,052,002</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>1,588,987</u>	<u>132,254</u>	<u>1,721,241</u>

# CARNFORTH FREE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 13. Movement in funds - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	291,838	(160,924)	130,914
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Gifts for specific purposes	3,344	(3,359)	(15)
Building	1,380	-	1,380
Soccer school	6,267	(6,267)	-
Men's ministry	4,959	(4,959)	-
Ladies ministry	160	(185)	(25)
Youth	460	(460)	-
	<u>16,570</u>	<u>(15,230)</u>	<u>1,340</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>308,408</u>	<u>(176,154)</u>	<u>132,254</u>

### Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/1/23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/12/23 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	509,786	28,539	538,325
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Gifts for specific purposes	20	(5)	15
Building	1,002,439	48,043	1,050,482
Food bank	237	(97)	140
Ladies ministry	-	25	25
	<u>1,002,696</u>	<u>47,966</u>	<u>1,050,662</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>1,512,482</u>	<u>76,505</u>	<u>1,588,987</u>

# CARNFORTH FREE METHODIST CHURCH

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

### 13. Movement in funds - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	169,440	(140,901)	28,539
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Gifts for specific purposes	1,940	(1,945)	(5)
Building	48,043	-	48,043
Soccer school	6,814	(6,814)	-
Food bank	1	(98)	(97)
Ladies ministry	145	(120)	25
	<u>56,943</u>	<u>(8,977)</u>	<u>47,966</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>226,383</u>	<u>(149,878)</u>	<u>76,505</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1/1/23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/12/24 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	509,786	159,453	669,239
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Gifts for specific purposes	20	(20)	-
Building	1,002,439	49,423	1,051,862
Food bank	237	(97)	140
	<u>1,002,696</u>	<u>49,306</u>	<u>1,052,002</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>1,512,482</u>	<u>208,759</u>	<u>1,721,241</u>

## CARNFORTH FREE METHODIST CHURCH

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

#### 13. Movement in funds - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	461,278	(301,825)	159,453
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Gifts for specific purposes	5,284	(5,304)	(20)
Building	49,423	-	49,423
Soccer school	13,081	(13,081)	-
Food bank	1	(98)	(97)
Men's ministry	4,959	(4,959)	-
Ladies ministry	305	(305)	-
Youth	460	(460)	-
	<u>73,513</u>	<u>(24,207)</u>	<u>49,306</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>534,791</u>	<u>(326,032)</u>	<u>208,759</u>

#### 14. Related party disclosures

The charity provided a loan to CFMC Development Company Limited, a company of which the charity is the sole shareholder, to enable the company to undertake a building development. At the balance sheet date the amount due from CFMC Development Company Limited was £1,419,121 (2023 - £1,436,240).

The total donations made by the Trustees to the charity during the year amounted to £32,785 (2023 - £42,260).