

STRICKLANDGATE METHODIST CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

1 SEPTEMBER 2022 TO 31 AUGUST 2023

The Aims and Objectives of our mission continue to be

- to encourage a personal faith
- to share a life of fellowship and mutual support
- to reach out to the community in Christian service
- to co-operate with other Christian churches

These are in line with the Methodist Church nationally which seeks to [respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ](#).

During the year being reported on, members have been encouraged to follow the [Methodist Way of Life](#) which encompasses the following areas:

Worship & Prayer

All public acts of worship at Stricklandgate Methodist Church are open to members of the Church and non-members alike. The same applies to the teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups. A variety of preaching styles are offered by our minister, supernumeraries and local preachers. We have also sought to encourage members to participate by reading, leading prayers, playing instruments. Attendance remains lower than pre-pandemic levels, mainly because of the increasing age and infirmity of members. However, we regularly have between 40 and 50 at our Sunday services. A midweek communion service during Lent was appreciated by those who attended.

There continues to be a prayer space at the front of the church for people to use and a prayer chain that offers prayer on behalf of people in need. The Thursday afternoon meditation service, offering a quiet space, continues to attract a regular following of 15-20, drawn from several different denominations (and none).

Over the year we've continued to develop relationships with our sister church in Sandylands, sharing a joint newsletter and regular united services, including a very successful one on Christmas Day.

Learning & Caring

This year has been a difficult one, as number of significant people have died, become more frail or full-time carers. Membership at the end of this year was 105 members, a loss of 10. There were another 26 people on our community roll, plus 5 retired (supernumerary) ministers were part of our fellowship.

Our pastoral co-ordinator has developed home worship sheets for people who can no longer attend worship physically and a communion service has been held in Wainwright Court, a supported living complex near the church.

In January 2023 we were delighted to appoint a pastoral worker for 16 hours per week to help support our more elderly/housebound members. The role has been a huge success and many have expressed appreciation of her ministry, It has been a particular blessing in a year when so many have died/been unwell. The role was originally funded for 2 years by a legacy left to the church. During the next year we will consider how we might extend this.

There are now 3 housegroups available where members meet in private houses to share faith and support each other on a weekly/monthly basis.

During the early part of the year, some members joined friends at Sandylands and Anglican friends to look together at the Bible Course, putting all the books of the Bible in their context. It is hoped to repeat this for people unable to attend in an evening.

Other groups that meet are

Friendship Group (fortnightly on a Thursday afternoon, with a variety of speakers and a regular attendance of over 40, both church and non-church members)

Stitchers (a space where church and non- church members can meet to share their crafting skills).

Service & Evangelism

Throughout the year, the church has continued to support various charities around the world e.g. Medic Malawi

The church premises continue to be well used by community groups.

There are active Rainbows, Brownies and Guides troops plus several choirs, a singing group for mums and babies meet on a weekly basis.

Child Contact use the premises on alternate Saturdays to enable parents and children to maintain their relationships. The Well Community meets 2 mornings a week, supporting people recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. The Church also provides accommodation for the South Lakes Talking Newspaper Association and a studio for a local artist.

In January 2022 we were pleased to be one of six Kendal churches that funded the launch of a CAP (Christians Against Poverty) debt centre to provide drop-in advice and support for families struggling to manage in these hard economic times. This commitment has been renewed and we've been pleased to have the debt centre manager update the congregation on progress and ongoing challenges.

Stewardship & Giving

Each year the church raises funds during Advent for good causes. During Advent 2022, £591 from the extra present appeal was sent to [Medic Malawi](#)

In December 2022, church members and others made up, and sent approximately 100 ['Boxes of Hope'](#) to Romania for children who would otherwise not receive any gifts.

Along with other Churches in Kendal we continued to support the local food bank.

Ecumenical Relationships

Throughout the year we continued to work with other Churches in Kendal to look at ways we could come together within a Mission Community. An online meeting of ministers in Kendal and District has met regularly to share good practice and discuss how we can work better together in the future, sharing gifts and skills. This has resulted in several prayer/quiet days being organised, plus the regular carol singing in the town, Good Friday Walk of Witness and Easter Sunday Morning service at Kendal Castle. This year there was also an ecumenical Pentecost Praise at the Castle. Discussions are ongoing about closer working as part of the 3 Mission Communities, covering Kendal and surrounding villages.

Property & Finance

The property continues to be well maintained. The quinquennial review has taken place and all matters that need to be are in hand. Work is continuing to address a recent fire risk assessment and look at how to meet the challenges of the Methodist Church pledge to reduce its Carbon Footprint.

We continue to successfully rent out our former caretakers' cottage.

During the year we've had a legacy left which helped fund our pastoral worker (see above). Our current treasurer has indicated they wanted to step back. Going forward we are planning to split the role to make it more manageable.

Rev Melanie Greenall

Jan 12th 2024

Stricklandgate Methodist Church, Kendal	31 August 2023	
Receipts	22/23	21/22
	£	£
Regular Giving :Envelope offerings	2365	4382
Cash offerings	6594	4851
Standing Orders	41299	42029
Tax Recovery	12482	12531
Donations & Legacies	21477	25926
Bank Interest and TMCP investment income	5415	1620
General fundraising	12	172
Property - Rent / Lettings	25306	25054
Contributions from internal Church organisations	803	1557
	0	320
	0	800
	0	0
Church Admin	1710	0
Sundry Income	0	1352
Grants	0	0
Gifts	0	500
Insurance Claims	0	0
Benevolent Fund	0	0
Total Receipts (as Standard Form of Accounts)	117462	121093
Special Collections (see notes)	2739	4154
OVERALL TOTAL RECEIPTS	120201	125247
Excess of income over exp per std form acs (ignoring spec colls)	16744	22154

Stricklandgate Methodist Church, Kendal	31 August 2023	
Payments	22/23	21/22
	£	£
Circuit Assessment	58725	57631
Music & Worship	830	745
Church Admin Photocopier	284	253
Publicity, Newsletter, Post,etc	918	962
Accountancy, Payroll Fees	425	400
Phone & Internet	385	323
Bank Charges	130	146
Pastoral Worker, payroll plus expenses	7409	0
Caretaking Caretaker Wages, Tax, NI	8580	7669
Cleaning materials, etc	160	294
Property RepairsMajor repairs/improvements	4833	7660
Servicing & Maintenance	3498	6170
Equipment	100	960
Garden	0	17
Utilities Gas	2251	2491
Electricity	3409	1196
Water	394	323
Trade Waste charge	0	0
Church Insurance	4630	4058
Connexional Subscriptions	1000	5500
Donations	750	610
Gifts	25	0
Benevolent Fund: restricted funds	0	200
TMCP charges	332	340
Miscellaneous & rounding	1650	991
Total Payments (as Std Form of Accounts)	100718	98939
Special Donations (see notes)	2739	4154
OVERALL TOTAL PAYMENTS	103457	103093

Balance Sheet at	31 August 2023	22/23	21/22
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HSBC Bank plc	38825	39568
Barclays Bank plc	509	214
Royal Bank of Scotland	205	203
Charities Aid Foundation	14486	8932
Central Finance Board	52802	40560
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	114640	116424
Total Assets	221467	205901

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund		104040	87296
Model Trust Fund No 1346:			
Interest Fund	74416		74416
Endowment investment	40224	114640	42008
		<u>218680</u>	<u>203720</u>

Benevolent Fund	373	373
Friendship Group	509	214
Stricklandgate Stitchers	205	203
Under 5s Group	1700	1391
	<u>2787</u>	<u>2181</u>

Total funds	221467	205901
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Stricklandgate Methodist Church, Kendal
Notes to the Accounts 2022/23

1. General Fund

Balance 1/9/2022	87296
Excess Income over exp 22/23	16744
Less excess relating to Benelovent Res Fu	0
Excess of income over Exp unrestricted	16744
Less rounding	
Balance 31/8/2023	<u>104040</u>

2. TMCP Model Trust Bequests Trust No 1346 Trustees Interest Fund

Balance 1/9/2022	74416
No gain or Loss	0
Balance 31/8/2023	<u>74416</u>

3. TMCP Model Trust Bequests Trust No 1346 Managed Mixed Fund

Endowment Investments

Balance 1/9/2022	42008
Investment Income	
Interest	2361
Dividends / Fixed Interest	1239
	3600
Less TMCP Admin Charge	332
Net Income Received	3268
Paid out income	-3268
Unrealised Gains and Losses	0
Gain on Revaluation	4800
Loss on Revaluation	6584
net unrealised loss on TMCP Model Trust	-1784
	<u>40224</u>

TMCP Total funds 31/8/2023	<u>114640</u>
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Stricklandgate Methodist Church, Kendal
Notes to the Accounts 2022/23

4. Church Organisations: Income

Under 5s Group	0
Friendship Group	200
Stricklandgate Stitches	603

803

5. Special External organisations Collections

World Mission Fund	770
All We Can (ex MRDF)	60
Mission in Britain	10
Fund for Human Need	205
Easter Offering	380
Boxes of Hope	50
Karibuni Children	97
Christian Aid	586
Extra Present Appeal: Medic Malawi	581

2739

6. Connexional Subscriptions

1000

7. Donations

Christians against Poverty CAP	600
Dementia UK	150

750

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Stricklandgate Methodist Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

Kendal	Circuit	Circuit no.	0913
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1126952

**If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and
Customs Gift Aid number**

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Rev Melanie Greenall

Church Stewards:

Suzanne Flynn	Stuart Helliwell
Anna Bennett	Susanna Mycock
Janet Kitching	Anne Pater
Sylvia Friend	Christine Thomas
Alan Reed	Michael Pearson
Lynn Doherty	

Treasurer:

David Brian Barnes

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		62,740	62,740	63,793
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		5,415	5,415	1,620
a4	Lettings		25,306	25,306	25,054
a5	Other receipts		24,001	24,001	30,626
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		117,462	117,462 (a7)	121,093
SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		58,725	58,725	57,631
b3	Donations		1,750	1,750	6,110
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		8,431	8,431	14,807
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		10,685	10,685	8,068
b6	TMCP admin charge		332	332	
b7	Other payments		20,795	20,795	12,323
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		100,718	100,718 (b9)	98,939
SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	16,744	16,744	22,154
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		161,712	373	139,931
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	178,456	373	162,085
c4	Transfers and adjustments			(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	178,456	373	162,085 (c6)
SECTION D					
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS					
(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)				£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year				
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			2,739	4,154
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			2,739	4,154
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)			0	

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**SECTION E**

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1 Friendship Group	1,025	730	295		214	509
e2 Stricklandgate Stitches	625	623	2		203	205
e3 Under Fives Group	1,353	1,044	309		1,391	1,700
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	3,003	2,397	606		1,808 (e11)	2,414 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	117,462 (a7)	100,718 (b9)	16,744	(c7)	162,085 (c6)	178,829 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	120,465	103,115	17,350		163,893 (x)	181,243 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2023	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	43,458	45,458
f3 Bank Deposit Account	3,651	6,153
f4 Central Finance Board	40,560	52,802
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	74,416	74,416
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	162,085 (c6)	178,829 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	1,808 (e11)	2,414 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	163,893 (x)	181,243 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES	At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	42,008	40,224
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	3,890,965	4,443,448
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of Churchstricklandgate Methodist Church

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer  Date..... 8.11.24

Name and address of treasurer DAVID BRIAN BARKS
BLOCCO BANK, CHURCH STREET, BLETCHAMPTON ^{WIMBORNE} Post Code. LA7 7AL

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 ~~were~~/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on Jan 30th 2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting MELANIE GRAEVALL Date Jan 9th 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Stricklandgate Methodist Church

Charity Number . 1126952

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the stricklandgate. Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 1... to ...9. As the Church's trustees, 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 Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church .. Stricklandgate Methodist Church

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (~~other than that disclosed below*~~) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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.

I have/~~have not~~* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner

H Boardman

Name of independent examiner H Boardman

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner retired ACA

Name of firm (where appropriate) ABC Book keeping

Address HeatherLea, Firbank, sedbergh

..... Post Code LA10 5EN

Date 31.12.23

* delete or circle as appropriate