

STRICKLANDGATE METHODIST CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

1 SEPTEMBER 2023 TO 31 AUGUST 2024

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. Increasing age and infirmity of members has affected attendance at Sunday worship – is now around 45.

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 15-20-25, 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, plus a number of members have helped at Messy Church.

Learning & Caring

This year has been a difficult one, as several people have died, become more frail or full-time carers. Membership at the end of this year (Aug 2024) was 95 members, a loss of 10. There were another 29 people on our community roll, plus 4 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 June 2024 we were delighted to re-appoint our pastoral worker. The role has been a huge success and many have expressed appreciation of her ministry, It has been a particular blessing as so many have died/been unwell.

There are 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 Romans Course. It was challenging but all agreed worth looking at a similar course for 2025.

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. [Karibuni Trust](#) (from Marmalade Sale) and [Tear Fund](#) by twinning our toilets

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.

Stricklandgate is one of six Kendal churches that help fund a CAP (Christians Against Poverty) debt centre to provide drop-in advice and support for families struggling to manage in these hard economic times. 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 2023, £629 was sent to the Chernobyl Project.

In December 2023, church members and others made up, and sent approximately 100 shoeboxes to be distributed by the [International Aid Trust](#) to children who would otherwise not receive any gifts.

Along with other Churches in Kendal we continued to support the local food bank and CAP (see above).

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. Ministers in Kendal and District have 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 Good Friday Walk of Witness and Easter Sunday Morning service at Kendal Castle. This year there was also an ecumenical Pentecost Praise event. 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).

Rev Melanie Greenall

Jan 2025

Stricklandgate Methodist Church, Kendal
Receipts

31-Aug-24

	23/24	22/23
	£	£
Regular Giving :Envelope offerings	1535	2365
Cash offerings	6273	6594
Standing Orders	38181	41299
Tax Recovery	10020	12482
Donations & Legacies	30159	21477
Bank Interest and TMCP investment income	8445	5415
General fundraising	122	11
Property - Rent / Lettings	28383	25306
Contributions from internal Church organisations	1150	803
		0
		0
		0
Church Admin		1710
Sundry Income	488	0
Grants		0
Gifts		0
Insurance Claims		0
Benevolent Fund		0
Total Receipts (as Standard Form of Accounts)	124756	117462
Special Collections (see notes)	2132	2739
OVERALL TOTAL RECEIPTS	126888	120201
Surplus income over exp per std form acs (ignoring spec colls)	14258	16744

Stricklandgate Methodist Church, Kendal
Payments

31-Aug-24

	23/24	22/23
	£	£
Circuit Assessment	61357	58725
Music & Worship	912	830
Church Admin	158	284
Photocopier	1185	918
Publicity, Newsletter, Post,etc	413	425
Accountancy, Payroll Fees	543	385
Phone & Internet	131	130
Bank Charges	11528	7409
Pastoral Worker, payroll plus expenses	9150	8580
Caretaking	0	160
Caretaker Wages, Tax, NI	1680	4833
Cleaning materials, etc	10229	3498
Property Repairs	670	100
Major repairs/improvements		0
Servicing & Maintenance	2699	2251
Equipment	2246	3409
Garden	468	394
Utilities	0	0
Gas	4383	4630
Electricity	1000	1000
Water	780	750
Trade Waste charge	0	25
Church Insurance	0	0
Connexional Subscriptions	327	332
Donations	639	1650
Gifts		
Benevolent Fund: restricted funds		
TMCP charges		
Miscellaneous & rounding		
Total Payments (as Std Form of Accounts)	110498	100718
Special Donations (see notes)	2132	2739
OVERALL TOTAL PAYMENTS	112630	103457

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Stricklandgate Methodist Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

Circuit	Circuit no.	0913
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1126952

If not a registered charity **His 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:

Christine Thomas	
Anna Bennett	
Janet Kitching	
Susanna Mycock	

Treasurer:

David Brian Barnes

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered			56,009	62,740
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income			8,445	5,415
a4	Lettings			28,383	25,306
a5	Other receipts			31,919	24,001
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS			124,756 (a7)	117,462
SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share			61,357	58,725
b3	Donations			1,780	1,750
b4	Repairs and Maintenance			12,579	8,431
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)			9,796	10,685
b6	TMCP admin charge			327	332
b7	Other payments			24,659	20,795
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS			110,498 (b9)	100,718
SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)		14,258	16,744
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		178,456 373	178,829 (c6)	162,085
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	178,456 373	193,087	178,829
c4	Transfers and adjustments			(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	178,456 373	193,087 (c8)	178,829 (c6)

SECTION D			
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS			
d	(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	2,132	2,739
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	2,132	2,739
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID		
	(d1+d2-d3)		

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 2024 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	1,182	949	233		509	742
e2	Stricklandgate Stitches	575	708	(133)		205	72
e3	Under Fives Group	1,216	1,129	87		1,700	1,787
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	2,973	2,786	187		2,414 (e11)	2,601 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	124,756 (a7)	110,498 (b9)	14,258	(c7)	178,829 (c6)	193,087 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	127,729	113,284	14,445		181,243 (x)	195,688 (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 2024**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	45,458	25,022
f3 Bank Deposit Account	6,153	2,141
f4 Central Finance Board	52,802	62,159
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	74,416	103,765
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	178,829 (c6)	193,087 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	2,414 (e11)	2,601 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	181,243 (x)	195,688 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	40,224	43,336
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	4,443,448	5,276,915
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 Church .. Stricklandgate Methodist Church

0913

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 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 10.1.25

Name and address of treasurer DAVID BRIAN BARKES

Woods Bank near ST. BLETAN Post Code LA7 7AL

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will be presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on Feb 11th 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting M J Greenall

Name of the Chair of the meeting MELANIE GREENALL Date Feb 11 2025

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 Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 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 FIBANK SEDBERGH

..... Post Code LA10 5EN

Date 10/12/24

* delete or circle as appropriate