

STRICKLANDGATE METHODIST CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 1 SEPTEMBER 2024 TO 31 AUGUST 2025

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.

Our Minister Rev. Melanie Greenall left her appointment in August 2025. A leaving service was held for Melanie to celebrate her 5 years of ministry in the Kendal Circuit.

Kendal Circuit will merge with 7 other circuits to form the Cumbria Circuit on 1st September 2025. Stricklandgate Methodist Church is now part of a larger North West England District which came into being on 1st September 2024. These decisions reflect a huge amount of time and energy invested by lay and ordained members of the church in structural change in order to respond to pressures the church currently faces with decline in membership and an aging membership.

During the year members have been encouraged to continue to follow the Methodist Way of Life which encompasses the following areas:

Worship & Prayer

Worship at Stricklandgate Methodist Church is open for anyone to attend and we seek to offer a warm welcome to everyone. 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. 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.

We have received our certification to conduct Same-Sex Marriages.

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. Conversations have also been facilitated by Brec Seaton of the Methodist Learning Network, to explore how we could work more closely together. These conversations are continuing with the preferred option being one church on two sites.

Learning & Caring

Membership at the end of this year (Aug 2025) was 90 members plus 4 retired (supernumerary) ministers were part of our fellowship.

Our pastoral worker has continued in role (until December 2026), and her ministry is greatly appreciated by those no longer able to get to church and those who have been bereaved.

Three House groups continue to meet in private houses to share faith and support each other on a weekly/monthly basis. A Prayer Course was run in Lent.

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).

We continue to ensure good practice with training: safeguarding, unconscious bias, GDPR and EDI.

Service & Evangelism

Throughout the year, the church has continued to support various charities around the world e.g. Karibuni Trust (from Marmalade Sale),

The church premises continue to be well used by community groups. There are active Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and the only Rangers group in town, plus several choirs, a singing group for mums and babies meet on a weekly basis.

The Well Community meets each week supporting people recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. Sadly the Child Contact Centre has moved to larger premises.

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 for good causes in a variety of ways. At harvest we supported the King's Church Foodbank. During Advent we supported Manna House who work with those who are homeless or vulnerably housed. In December 2024, church members and others made up, and sent over 100 shoeboxes to be distributed by the International Aid Trust to children and families who would otherwise not receive any gifts.

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

Ecumenical Relationships

We continued to work with other Churches in Kendal and District. Ministers met regularly to share good practice and discuss how we can work better together in the future, sharing gifts and skills. The Good Friday Walk of

Witness and Easter Sunday Morning service at Kendal Castle were once more well supported.

Property & Finance

The property continues to be well maintained thanks to our volunteers – including the Brownies who look after the window boxes. New guttering has been installed. Redecoration of the outside of the building has been deferred to 25/26. The Methodist Church nationally is encouraging every church to reduce its Carbon Footprint and to be carbon neutral by 2030. This is part of the ongoing conversation on the future of the church building and something we need to plan for. There has been a change of tenants in our former caretakers' cottage. We pay our caretaker and pastoral worker The Living Wage.

Thank you to everyone who works so hard ensuring that the church is a warm and welcoming space for all.

Rev Marie-Anne Kent
Minister
March 2025

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Stricklandgate Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2025

Kendal	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
Susanna Mycock
Janet Kitching

Treasurer:

David Brian Barnes

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
			£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		57,680		57,680	56,009
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		8,283		8,283	8,445
a4	Lettings		24,436		24,436	28,383
a5	Other receipts		9,446		9,446	31,919
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		99,845		99,845 (a7)	124,756
SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		62,728		62,728	61,357
b3	Donations		1,980		1,980	1,780
b4	Repairs and Maintenance Res	Repair Project	5,069	13,278	18,347	12,579
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		11,237		11,237	9,796
b6	TMCP admin charge		478		478	327
b7	Other payments Res	Pastoral worker	18,492	10,000	28,492	24,659
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		99,984	23,278	123,262 (b9)	110,498
SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(139)	(23,278)	(23,417)	14,258
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		192,714	373	193,087 (c6)	162,085
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	192,575	(22,905)	169,670	193,087
c4	Transfers and adjustments	from TMCP	(25,000)	25,000		(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	167,575	2,095	169,670 (c8)	193,087 (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				1,331	2,132
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				1,331	2,132
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 2025 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	768	1,109	(341)		742	401
e2 Stricklandgate Stitches	618	660	(42)		72	30
e3 Under five Group	1,170	704	466		1,787	2,253
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	2,556	2,473	83		2,601 (e11)	2,684 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	99,845 (a7)	123,262 (b9)	(23,417)	(c7)	193,087 (c6)	169,670 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	102,401	125,735	(23,334)		195,688 (x)	172,354 (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 2025

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	25,022	38,863
f3 Bank Deposit Account	2,141	5,965
f4 Central Finance Board	62,159	46,077
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	103,765	78,765
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	193,087 (c6)	169,670 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	2,601 (e11)	2,684 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	195,688 (x)	172,354 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	43,336	43,416
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	5,276,915	5,414,133
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 Church

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 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 17.11.25

Name and address of treasurer DAVID BRIAN BARNES

..... Blocco BAR Church Street Bepton Post Code LA7 7AL
Wm2219

Presentation to the Church trustees

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting MARIE-ANNE KENT Date 12/11/26

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Stricklandgate 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 2025 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

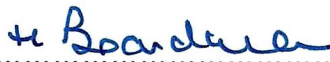
Independent Examiner's Statement

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 

Name of independent examiner Heidi Boardman

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner Retired accountant

Name of firm (where appropriate) ABC Accounting

Address HeatherLea, Firbank, Sedbergh

..... Post Code LA10 5EN

Date 13.11.25

* delete or circle as appropriate

Stricklandgate Methodist Church, Kendal	31-Aug-25	Stricklandgate Methodist Church, Kendal	31-Aug-25
Receipts	24/25	Payments	24/25
	£		£
Regular Giving :Envelope offerings	1335	Circuit Assessment	61357
Cash offerings	8263	Music & Worship	2787
Standing Orders	37126	Church Admin	158
Tax Recovery	10956	Publicity, Newsletter, Post, etc	1197
Donations & Legacies	2900	Accountancy, Payroll Fees	406
Bank interest and TMCP investment income	8283	Phone & Internet	522
General fundraising	380	Bank Charges	128
Property - Rent / Lettings	24436	Pastoral Worker, payroll & expenses (project)	12650
Contributions from internal Church organisations	1100	Caretaker Wages, Tax, NI	9865
	0	Cleaning materials, etc	262
	0	Property Repair: Major repairs/improvements Project	12440
	0	Servicing & Maintenance	4562
	0	Equipment	1345
	0		0
Sundry Income	5066	Garden	0
Grants	0	Utilities	4391
Gifts	0	Gas	1807
Insurance Claims	0	Electricity	535
Benevolent Fund	0	Water	468
	0	Trade Waste charge	0
Total Receipts (as Standard Form of Accounts)	99845	Church Insurance	4504
		Connexional Subscriptions	1000
Church Admin: transfer from TMCP for projects	25000	Donations	980
Special Collections (see notes)	1331	Gifts	0
OVERALL TOTAL RECEIPTS	126176	Benevolent Fund: restricted funds	0
Deficit per std form acs (ignoring spec colls)	-23417	TMCP charges	478
TMCP transfer for projects added back in	25000	Miscellaneous & rounding	517
Overall surplus income over exp on Draft	1583	Total Payments (as Std Form of Accounts)	123262
		Special Donations (see notes)	1331
		OVERALL TOTAL PAYMENTS	124593
			110498
			2132
			112630

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Stricklandgate Methodist Church, Kendal

Balance Sheet at

31-Aug-25

24/25

23/24

Assets

HSBC Bank plc (c/a & dep)	22472	13271
Barclays Bank plc (FG)	401	742
Lloyds Bank (SS)	30	72
HSBC (U5s)	2253	1787
Charities Aid Foundation	22356	13892
Central Finance Board	46077	62159
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	122181	147101
Total Assets	215770	239024

Represented by

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund	88810	88949
Model Trust Fund No 1346:		
Interest Fund	78765	103765
Endowment investment	43416	43336
	122181	
	<u>210991</u>	<u>236050</u>

Restricted Funds

Benevolent Fund	373	373
Project Repairs Fund	1722	0
Friendship Group	401	742
Stricklandgate Stitchers	30	72
Under 5s Group	2253	1787
	<u>4779</u>	<u>2974</u>

Total funds**215770****239024***W Boardman*

Stricklandgate Methodist Church, Kendal

Notes to the Accounts 24/25

1. General Fund

Balance 01/09/24	88949
Excess of income over Exp unrestricted from SFA	-139
Balance 31/08/25	<u>88810</u>

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

Balance 01/09/24		103765
less payments for projects & minstry (restricted)		
Repairs project	Guttering and Letting property	15000
Pastoral worker		10000
No gain or Loss		<u>-25000</u>
Balance 31/08/25		<u>78765</u>

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

Endowment Investments

Balance 01/09/24		43336
Investment Income		
Interest	4551	
Dividends / Fixed Interest	<u>914</u>	
	5465	
Less TMCP Admin Charge	<u>478</u>	
Net Income Received		4987
Paid out income	<u>-4987</u>	0
Unrealised Gains and Losses		0
Gain on Revaluation	6048	
Loss on Revaluation	<u>5968</u>	
net unrealised loss on TMCP Model Trust		80
Balance 31/08/25		<u>43416</u>
TMCP Total funds 31/08/25		<u><u>122181</u></u>

J. Bardwa

Stricklandgate Methodist Church, Kendal

Notes to the Accounts 24/25

4. Church Organisations: Income

Under 5s Group	0
Friendship Group	500
Stricklandgate Stitchers	600
	<u>1100</u>

5. Donations and Legacies

Donations	1900
Legacy income:	1000
	<u>2900</u>

6. Sundry income

This includes a refund of £4885 by Connexional for Pension Fund Donations given years ago, and now refunded as no longer required.

7. Special External organisations Collections

World Mission Fund	50
All We Can (ex MRDF)	252
Easter Offering	363
Karibuni Trust	179
Manna House(extra present)	437
Boxes of Hope	50
	<u>1331</u>

8. Donations to other organisations

Kendal Debt centre CAP:	600
Disasters Emergencies Committee	380
	<u>980</u>

9. Restricted funds

Benelovent Fund	373
Repairs/ Refurb project balance	1722
internal organisations	2684
	<u>4779</u>

H Boardman

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Stricklandgate Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2025

Kendal	Circuit	Circuit no.	0913
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Susanna Mycock
Janet Kitching

Treasurer:

David Brian Barnes

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

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	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 2025**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
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SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

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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 Church

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 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 12.11.25

Name and address of treasurer DAVID BRIAN BARNES

..... Blocco BAR Church Street Beetham Post Code LA7 7AL
Cumbria

Presentation to the Church trustees

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting MARIE-ANNE KENT Date 12/11/26

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Stricklandgate 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 2025 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.

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Name of Church .. Stricklandgate

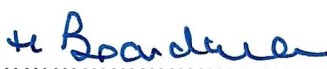
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I have/~~have not~~* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in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

Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner Heidi Boardman

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner Retired accountant

Name of firm (where appropriate) ABC Accounting

Address HeatherLea, Firbank, Sedbergh

..... Post Code LA10 5EN

Date 13.11.25

* delete or circle as appropriate