

STRATFORD METHODIST CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2022/2023

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER – 1127618



FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31ST. AUGUST 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1. Mission Statement	1
2. Stewards Report	2
3. Property Report	3
4. Sunday School Report	3
5. Wesley House	4
6. Community Centre	5-6
7. Chairperson Report	6-7
8. Annual Financial Review	8
9. Reserve Policy	8-9
10. Reference and Administrative information	10
11. Responsibilities of Trustees	11
12. Independent Examiners Report	12
13. Summary of Annual Accounts	13 - 14
14. Notes to accounts	15 – 17

STRATFORD METHODIST CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

Stratford Methodist church is part of the Methodist Church of Great Britain, situated within the Newham Circuit of churches. The Church registered, as a Charity on 20th January 2009. The Charity constituted according to Standing Order 610 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist church.

The managing trustees form the Church Council, which meets quarterly. The following Committees meets and report to Church Council: - Community Centre, Welfare, Stewards, Pastoral, Finance and Property, Worship and Youth and Adult committees.

This is the fourteen years of our registration as a charity.

Mission Statement of Stratford Methodist Church

The mission statement of the Methodist Church as a whole is sum up in the document 'Our Calling'. "The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission".

Worship is about-

- Recognising God's sovereignty over all things and responding in praise, song and prayer
- Becoming open to God's transforming love, through the Holy Spirit
- Receiving and reflecting on the Gospel of Christ in our world today
- Offering ourselves to share in God's costly action in the world

Mission consists of:

- Telling the good news of Jesus
Helping people to recognise the calling of God in their lives
- Living our discipleship in our world
- Caring for individual people and communities
- Sharing the task of education and social and spiritual development
- Struggling for a just world and in the meantime being alongside 'the poor'

PROPERTY REPORT

Over past year we have carried out wide range of work to all areas of community centre and church which has made a huge difference to our environment and the health & safety of the building.

Some of the work undertaking includes:

- All boilers were serviced and safety certificates issued.
- Fire alarm, smoke detectors, emergency lighting have had their annual inspection and safety certificates issued.
- All electrical items had their annual safety check (PAT - Testing).
- All Fire extinguishers checked and serviced.
- Upgrade of the lighting in the men's toilet, IRL, lounge, hallway and office to LED lights.
- Main Hall repair and repainted – still have to paint the upper and ceiling areas of the hall.
- Kitchen in the main hall replaced.
- Store – room in main hall repair and painted.
- CCTV camera coverage extended to cover back of church building and additional camera installed in the Main Hall,
- First Aid training for church members and volunteers.
- Purchase a defibrillator and an alarm cabinet for storage of the defibrillator.
- Men's toilet, fully refurbished.
- Replace the printer in church office.

Future Plans.

- Look into replacing the boilers, that provide hot water for whole building and the other 2 boilers that provide heating for our Main Hall and our hostel (Wesley House).
- Look into replacing fire alarm system.
- Carry out maintenance work to community centre roof.
- Look into replacing the kitchen next to David Lapworth Hall.
- Look into introducing sound system controller to monitor and control noise level in the main hall.
- Complete painting of upper areas of the main hall.
- Replace stage curtains.
- Look into replacing pews or repairing pews in the church & also look into replacing the flooring in the church this requires further on-going Church Council discussions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

Stratford (Bryant Street) Methodist church have a Sunday school session, during our Service (11.00 - 12.30pm). Where the children leave the main church at about 11.20am and return towards the end service to share what they have learnt during Sunday school.

The age range is from 3 – 16 years old, where the children could work in groups or work all together on a variety activity.

We use a variety of resources - Roots magazine, Sermon 4 kids and selection activities selected from the internet.

We have 3 dedicated and hardworking Sunday teachers who run variety of activities every Sunday to help our children learn more about God/Jesus and about been a Christian in a fun and exciting way.

All Sunday school teachers attended regular training courses to keep up to date with all the latest teaching techniques.

WESLEY HOUSE REPORT

Wesley House Report May 24

Our partnerships with Just Homes (who are responsible for managing Wesley House) have continued over the past 12 months. The occupancy level has remained full throughout the whole period, and they continue to provide vital accommodation to men sleeping on the street and parks around the Stratford area.

Our partnership remains strong, they are up to date in settling all issued invoices and have passed on to us the funding increase allocated to them by the local authority, as per our license agreement.

A group of us attended the 25th anniversary of First Fruit Charity along with the 15th anniversary of Just Homes Charity, which was celebrated on the 28th of September at Penuel House.

The event was a great success with a very good turnout from partners and well-wishers. Our local MP Sir Stephen Timms (guest speaker), and Cllr Shaban Muhammed – Parliamentary representative for Housing for Newham, Cllr Neil Wilson and Cllr Elizabeth Booker attended the event along with other members from the council.

The renovations to the kitchen was completed in March 23, which consisted of a total gut-out with the renewing of the:

- Flooring
- Wall & Floor Units
- Wiring
- Sinks
- Extractor
- Wall Tiling
- Painting of Walls, Ceiling & Door

Just like the renovation of the shower units previously, the feedback from Just Homes, the Trustees and members of the church about the standard of the kitchen renovation has been very positive.

General maintenance has continued such as the replacement of worn seals around the bottom of the shower doors. The flooring within the lounge has also been changed from carpet to vinyl.

Up until recently no issues relating to repairs had been reported, however we are now investigating a leaking radiator pipe in Room 7 and evidence of leakage resulting in watermarks on the ceiling along the corridor downstairs (above the toilets near the pantry).

Our Newham License for Landlords was renewed last year for another 5 years which enables the use of Wesley House as an MHO for the duration.

Unfortunately, the renewing of the license agreement between the Church and Just Homes (with expired Oct 22), has still not been completed mainly due issues with our solicitors. Assurance has been to Just Homes to alleviate any concerns and we hope it will be completed in the coming months.

We continue to give God the glory for sustaining this partnership and pray for favour daily for it to grow and change the lives of those accessing the services provided.

COMMUNITY CENTRE REPORT

The church and centre continue to function considerably well with more enquiries daily. The revenue generated is almost at its study post the pandemic. Thankfully, our regular users have returned and we have acquired one more. The new Latin American Dance Company has ceased using our premises but the Karate Club has continued.

Thursday lunch club and the monthly Chinese lunch clubs are well attended and continue to gain momentum. We issued a license to Stratford Karate Club this year after they completed their probation period

We continue to work with Sphere, a charity who obtains food, donations and baby items to assist the community elderly, mothers and the homeless alike. They currently use the centre facility twice a week and provision has been made to accommodate them fully. A formal licence agreement has been sent to Sphere for any additional programme they wish to conduct on the premises and we await confirmation and the return of their license. We currently assist in the food bank with Sphere on Mondays and Wednesdays.

We are yet to obtain any information about the donations obtain via the Facebook page set up for the night shelter through the night shelter organisers. There is still a notion that we could resume the night shelter back at the centre, provided that volunteers are obtained and re-trained but this is yet to come to fruition.

We currently have nine churches that use the premises for worship namely; Fountain of Blessing Church, The Great Commission Church, Sion Church, London City Chapel Church, Assembly of God Church, The Way of Holiness End Time Ministry, The Church of Pentecost and the Light House Church who began using the premises this year.

Grace Communion International Church Has ceased worshipping at the centre.

We are eager to obtain volunteers to assist at the community centre during the day (weekdays or weekends) as this helps the centre immensely.

Ongoing task at present includes the following;

We require volunteers to help Dorothy and Amy for the Thursday lunch club. As well as for our monthly table top sales.

Changing the church carpet with the donation obtained / deep cleaning of the carpet as well as obtaining a new lectern is yet to be implemented.

We continue to seek volunteers for the centre as well as long term volunteering opportunities.
Continue to review insurances, safe guarding policy and personal by all users.

Medium to long term 12- 46 months

Maximising the usage of our building for the purpose of what it is intended,

Seeking feasibility to develop the upper part of the main hall and replacing the roof once a feasibility studies in place.

Review our utility services, systems and update our heating systems accordingly particularly the hall as well as the Kitchen units.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Thanks be to God for another year of the Church.

After the effect of the Covid 19 pandemic, the Church has seen a gradual growth in Church attendance of members lately. We participate in activities of the Churches in Newham known as Transform Newham to see to the wellbeing of the Borough. These meetings comprise of Leaders of the various Churches meeting together to share experiences, pray for God's wisdom and revelation to Christ Body- the Church and having our Christian presence felt in the Borough.

In addition to being part of the Newham Churches, we Stratford Methodist Church hire out our premises to various groups to enable them operate and help members of the Community e.g. The Alcoholic Anonymous Group, Karate; various Evangelical Churches and some language Groups, to name a few.

The Church has embarked on training Volunteers to work with Vulnerable women and the youth to signpost people to where to access help and turn their lives round for support when needed.

Again, we run Bible Studies in both mornings at 11 am to 12pm and Evenings on Zoom at members' convenience. These are done on top of our regular Sunday Services in the morning at 11am to 12:30pm latest.

School Children are also invited into the Church to learn about the Christian Religion especially the Christmas story and the use of some Christian artefacts.

There is Thursday Lunch Club every Thursday for the Community after their Dance Exercise Class

to meet over cooked HOT food to socialise at an affordable price.

Furthermore, volunteers provide Chinese lunch once a month for the Chinese group to gather and socialise to reduce isolation among the Chinese community.

From that Lunch group has come another 'Chinese Nurses group' to bring together many of the old time Nurses who have served the Country immensely since coming over to the United Kingdom.

Food bank is also carried on in the premises by volunteers on Mondays and Wednesday from 1 pm to 3pm which help members of the Community and well attended.

The Church is again a Vitamin D Distribution Centre under Newham Council where people from the community come to get their supply.

As one Police lady described to me, "are you from the Church that always has people with lots activities going on?" Yes, indeed we are a Christian Charity that supports, and enable members of the Community to fulfil their potential by God's grace and mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

May God give us the strength and the zeal to continue serving Him and neighbours around.

Rev. Elizabeth Osei

Chairperson Trustees of Stratford Methodist Church
Stratford Methodist Church

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW

Full details of the results for the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 13 and Balance Sheet 14, and they are further analysed on pages 15 and 17.

The total income for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £191,909 and the total expenditure was £124,398 resulting in surplus of £67,511

RESERVES POLICY

We submit our annual report in accordance with the requirements of the Methodist Conference and the Charity Commission guidance in CC19.

The trustees have established their mission aims taking into account all of the resources available in terms of people, property and money

Mission initiatives/projects have been costed or estimates made of projected future costs, which take into account the needs of the buildings and the requirements of the Quinquennial Inspection Report/s. We have agreed a Reserves Policy, which is set out below and recorded in the trustees' minutes and our Annual Report

We recognise the need to be accountable as charity trustees for all the money, which comes into our hands and will provide further information as required by the Church Council

A structure for the risk based assessment of the free reserves requirement set by the Stratford Methodist Church Council. This sets the target free reserves of £400,000. This level was calculated taking into account the amount considered to be needed to enable the charity to fulfil its existing financial obligations and to future financial obligations, arising from the loss of tenants or indeterminate risks could be met. In this report for the year ended 31 August 2022 the Church Council acknowledged that free reserves were below:

At 31st August 2023, Stratford Methodist Church had total cash reserves of £330,184

These funds were held in the following account:

Central Finance Board	£316,684
Cash at Bank and in hand	<u>£ 13,200</u>
Total	<u>£330,184</u>

General Church Funds from the Church and the Community Centre are for paying annual assessments to Newham Methodist Circuit of (£40,000 per annum) and to pay maintenance and repair costs of a large building complex which is heavily used for community activities. Community Centre pays for expenses of running the Community Centre and unexpected loss of income from user groups. We aim to have a cash reserve of £400,000 for the Church and for the Community Centre. We currently have about £330,184 in our total reserve and we need a further £69,816 to achieve our target of reserve. The reserve will cover the six months operating expense and start working through projects which have been approved by the Church Council.

“We are followers of Jesus Christ, and we seek to enter into his thinking about wealth and its place in our life and actions both individually and collectively.

Continually looking to see if it is producing the fruit of the Spirit and the signs of the Kingdom. Having a sense of gratitude to God for the resources entrusted to us.

Applying wisdom in being good stewards of all resources.

Deepening a sense of trust in God’s ability to provide for our needs rather than depending upon our own sense of financial security.

Sustaining a spirit of mutual care and the sharing of resources with one another.”

Being faithful in using our resources in ways that release new possibilities and care for those who minister on our behalf.”

Stewardship Network Good Practice Guide, Christian Stewardship Network

Reference and Administrative information

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER – 1127618

Officers:

Chairperson–Rev Elizabeth Owusu Osei

Treasurer-Isaac Ankomah

Secretary– Denise Sandra Walker

Managing Trustees:

Rev Asif Karam
Rev Elizabeth Owusu Osei-
Rev Paul Regan
Mr Isaac Ankomah
Mrs Denise Sandra Walker
Mrs Tina Agyeman-Mensah
Mrs Margaret Marfo
Mr. Samuel Agyeman-Mensah
Miss. Hong Nio Ho
Mr. Solomon Oluwafemi Ijehin
Mrs. Bernice Johnson
Mr. Edmond Simpson
Ms. Gloria Thomas
Mr. Eric Walker
Mr. Atto Saah
Ms, Dorothy Duddy
Mr. Jones Agyeman
Mr David Mensah
Mrs Barbara Spencer–Devonish

WEBSITE
www.bryantstreetmethodist.org.uk
E-mail-stratfordmethodistchurch@gmail.com

Appointed 1st September 2019
Appointed 1st September 2017
Appointed 1st January 2009
Appointed 1st January 2009
Appointed 1st January 2009
Appointed 1st January 2009
Appointed 1st January 2009
Appointed 1st January 2009
Appointed 1st January 2009
Appointed 1st January 2009
Appointed 1st January 2009
Appointed 1st January 2009
Appointed 1st January 2009
Appointed 1st January 2009
Appointed 1st January 2009
Appointed 16th June 2017
Appointed 13 August 2017
Appointed 1st May 2019
Appointed 6th August 2023
Appointed 6th August 2023

Registered Address:

Stratford Methodist Church
Bryant Street
Stratford
London
E15 4RU

Bankers:

HSBC
8 Victoria Street
Westminster
London
SW1H 0NJ

Independent Examiner

Glory Community Accounting Services
318 Barking Road
London
E13 8HL

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Charity Trustees have responsibilities to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charity as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent ; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charity Law. Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



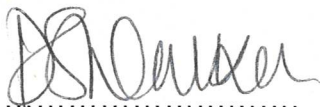
Rev Elizabeth Owusu Osei (**Chairperson**)



Isaac Ankomah (**Treasurer**)

Date.. 8/06/2024

Date.. 08 - 06 - 2024



Mrs Denise Sandra Walker (**Secretary**)

Date.. 8/6/24

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of Stratford Methodist Church

I report on the attached Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2023, which are set on pages 13 to 17 and have been prepared on an accrual basis.

Respective responsibilities of Management Committee and Examiner: The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act; ☐ to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement: My examination carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement: In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention, which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

Accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act or the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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



Hasina Jahan (M Com, DFT, MAAT, MBA)
Glory Community Accounting Services
318 Barking Road
London
E13 8HL

Glory Community Accounting Services
318 Barking Road
Plaistow
London E13 8HL

Date: 8/06/24

Summary of Annual Accounts 2022/2023

These are summary accounts and may not contain sufficient information for a full Understanding of the charity's financial affairs.

A copy of the full annual accounts is available from our registered address on request


Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31st August 2023

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<u>Income</u>				
Income from Charitable Activities (2)	182,521	-	182,521	167,226
Investment Income (Bank Interest)	9,394	-	9,394	935
Total Income	191,915	-	191,915	168,161
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Expenditure on Charitable Activities (3)	124,398	-	124,398	79,140
Total Expenditure	124,398	-	124,398	79,140
Net Income / (Expenditure)	67,517	-	67,517	89,021
Total Funds Brought forward	2,067,768	-	2,067,768	1,978,747
Total Funds Carried forward	2,135,285	-	2,135,285	2,067,768


Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2022

		2023 £	2022 £
<u>Tangible & Fixed Assets</u>			
Church Building		1,800,000	1,800,000
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Cash at bank and in hand		329,885	262,368
Debtors and Pre-payment	5	7,000	7,000
Total Current Assets		<u>336,885</u>	<u>269,368</u>
<u>Current Liabilities</u>			
Creditors and accruals (due in under 1 year)	6	1,600	1,600
Net Current Assets		335,285	267,768
Total Assets less Current liabilities		<u>2,135,285</u>	<u>2,067,768</u>
Total Net Assets / (Liabilities)		<u>2,135,285</u>	<u>2,067,768</u>
Funds and Reserves			
Unrestricted Fund		2,135,285	2,067,768
Restricted Fund			
		<u>2,135,285</u>	<u>2,067,768</u>

Approved by the Management Committee and signed on its behalf by:



 Rev Elizabeth Owusu Osei (Chairperson)



 Isaac Ankomah (Treasurer)

Date...8/06/2024.....

Date...08/06/2024.....

Notes on the Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 August 2023

1. Accounting Policies

(a) Format of the Financial Statements

Accounting framework and accounting policies

1.1 Accounting framework

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective from 1 January 2019) – (the Charities SORP (FRS 102) as amended by Update Bulletin 1) – in replacement for the SORP's 2005 version specified in its related 2008. Regulations and in accordance with the "True and fair override" provision contained therein.

1.2 Public benefit entity

The Stratford Methodist Church definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s) below.

1.3 Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost to show a true and fair view of the Stratford Methodist Church financial position and activities.

1.4 Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. The accounts were expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

1.5 Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available and the trustees believe that the Church is a going concern.

1.6 Unrestricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are income from Sunday Collection, lettings from Just Homes and Community Centre, donations and other activities

1.7 Restricted Funds

Restricted funds are grant for specific purposes which are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year received.

1.8 Consolidation

The Church oversees the work of Community Centre and for this reason, the financial statements of the Church is the consolidation of the Church, Community Centre and the income from Just Homes.

1.9 Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue. Income is generated from offerings tax recoverable, donations, contributions for use of the premises and from Just Homes

1.10 Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payer being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the district to pay out resources. Expenditure is recognised in the year in which liabilities are incurred.

1.11 Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts pre-paid Newham Circuit as part of our assessment and Creditor is the fee for the independent account's examiner. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit accounts balance with CFB.

1.12 Tangible Fixed Assets

This year a value for the church premises remains the same as the previous year. There has not been any depreciation provided or revaluation done. The figure is based on the insured value of the buildings

2. Income from Charitable Activities

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
Offering And Tax Recoverable	36,543	-	36,548	39,662
Lettings	145,973	-	145,973	127,564
		-		
		-		
Total	182,516	-	182,521	167,226

3. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
Circuit Assessment of Shares	30,600	-	30,600	30,600
Repairs and Maintenance	51,755	-	51,755	19,654
Insurance	3,453	-	3,453	3,077
Utilities	21,697	-	21,697	7,028
Other Expenditure	6,818	-	6,818	7,206
Support & Governance Cost (Notes 4)	10,075	-	10,075	11,575
Total	124,398	-	124,398	79,140

4. Support & Governance Cost

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
Staff Cost	9,075	-	9,075	10,575
Accountancy fee	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Total	10,075	-	10,075	11,575

5. Debtors and Prepayments

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
Pre-payment to Methodist Circuit	7,000	-	7,000	7,000
Total	7,000	-	7,000	7,000

Creditor

	2023	2023	2023	2022
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
Accountancy fee	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Assessment	600	-	600	600
Total	1,600	-	1,600	1,600