

Offington Park Methodist Church

Trustees Report for the year ending 31 August 2025

1. Objectives and activities

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Church Council meets at least three times a year under the leadership of the presbyter in Pastoral Charge.

Our mission is to be a powerful spiritual influence in the community and a visible expression of God's inclusive love. We aim to achieve this by developing the worship, social and outreach activities that currently exist, and by seeking new ways to extend to others the fellowship of the Church family.

2. Achievements and performance

The Church funds are detailed in the Church accounts.

In the course of the year Offington Park Methodist Church has provided regular acts of public worship on Sundays and other significant days of the Christian year. Worship has been enhanced by introducing café worship each month which, along with breakfast church, messy church and fun church, enables families to access worship regularly. A monthly midweek service of Holy Communion is celebrated on the third Wednesday of each month and every second Sunday in the month during the 10.30am service. All services are accessible from screens within the church and all Sunday services are now live-streamed with a growing number of our elderly congregation joining on line. We are grateful to our Lay Worker, who, as part of his pastoral responsibilities helps those who need it with equipment set up advice. Our worship is further enhanced by the variety of music offered using our band, the organ and videos on screen. All Christian festivals are marked and the community attendance at these is very popular, especially Christingle. In the course of the year the Church has held a number of fund-raising and social events to which members of the wider community have been invited. The Church has offered hospitality to the wider community by hosting a weekly Luncheon Club for around 50 elderly people, some from the congregation and others from Guild Care. The Church provides opportunities for Christian education through its regular Bible Study Group and three house-groups. The Church makes its premises available to the wider community, through Zach's café (a free drop-in held in the church space for all ages) which is increasingly well supported as it is open from Monday to Thursday all year round (excluding Easter and Christmas). The Lighthouse Soft Play has been more popular than we could ever have imagined and is run by a full time Community Development Worker and a part time Deputy Community Development Worker. It also encourages our older young people to volunteer and teaches them transferrable life skills. Schools and colleges have approached us to host work experience students and those studying for their Duke of Edinburgh award.

The Church hosts several social groups including Knit 'n' Natter, Cameo and Offington Bells, a handbell ringing group. We also host a local church that has no physical building in which to meet. A yoga group and Women's Choir also meet regularly.

Two Rainbow units, two Brownie units and a Guide pack currently meet on the premises each week during term time. The Cubs and Scouts, which used to meet on the

premises, outgrew the space available to them and have now found another venue. Regular Parade services are held three times a year to which all these are invited.

The Church is always looking at ways to be good stewards of God's creation and has installed automatic lighting in most of its room and automatic handwashing in all of its refurbished toilets. Lighting is being replaced by LED's on a rolling basis as it wears out.

The new kitchen in September 2024 was fitted with Eco-efficient equipment.

2.1 Plans for future years

A full time Pioneer and part time Children's and Families Worker have been funded, initially for three years, by a very generous grant from the District and Connexion and the posts have been advertised. With the support of the Church family these posts will encourage growth in faith sharing in a new and accessible way to future generations.

The Allan Fletcher Hall, toilets and kitchen are scheduled to be upgraded and refurbished to ensure the building is fit for purpose and to better serve future generations.

The Church will continue to ensure that all those required to do so attend training appropriate to their role and we will continue to promote Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) across the church groups.

3. Financial Review

Please see the accompanying accounts.

There were no significant events during the year.

The Managing Trustees have every reason to believe that the Church is a going concern. Trustees do not foresee any factors that will significantly affect the financial performance or position in the next year or two.

The church holds no freehold property.

The church's principal sources of funds are from the free-will gifts of the members of the congregation and from fund-raising events.

3.1 Investment policy and performance

To comply with Methodist Standing Orders, monies for long-term investment are lodged with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). These sums are invested in unitised investments or held on deposit. The investment returns are close to tracking the movements on the FTSE100 index. The deposit mirrors the deposit rates available elsewhere. The Managing Trustees' investment policy is aligned with that of the CFB and TMCP because these organisations take into consideration the social, environmental and ethical considerations, both negatively and positively, that make investments suitable for the Methodist Church.

Short term deposits are lodged directly with the Central Finance Board (CFB) and attract good rates of interest.

3.2 Reserves Level and policy

Please see the accompanying Reserves Policy agreed by the Church Council. Reserve levels are clearly stated in the church accounts.

4. Trustees' Responsibilities

For each financial year ending on 31 August the Managing Trustees are required to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the Church's financial activities during the year, and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these financial statements the Managing Trustees must:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Follow applicable accounting standards
- Prepare accounts using The Methodist Church Standard Form of Accounts

The Managing Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the church and enables them to ensure that financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

4.1 Risk

The Church is largely risk averse.

1. Structure, governance and management

The Church is governed by the Methodist Church Act (1976) and the Deed of Union (1932).

1.1 Structure

Offington Park Methodist Church is part of the West Sussex (Coast and Downs) Circuit. As such it is represented on the Circuit Meeting which meets four times a year. The Methodist Conference meets once each year as the supreme denominational body for all Methodist Churches.

1. Overall regulatory authority rests with the Methodist Conference.
2. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by the Conference and is responsible for the stationing of presbyters and deacons (collectively known as ministers) in individual Circuits within the District.
3. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate officers of the District for implementation.
4. The District passes down to Circuit level for implementation by the Superintendent Minister, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards, and authority is delegated to the Circuit Meeting for certain matters.
5. The Circuit Meeting passes regulatory control down to Church Councils for local implementation by the presbyter, the Church Stewards, and other officers, and

this regulatory control is then exercised by the Church Councils as Managing Trustees of their charity.

5.2 Purpose of the Church

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union the advancement of:

- a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church, and
- b) Any charitable purposes for the time being of any connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church, and,
- c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society, or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church, and
- d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a subsidiary or ancillary of the Methodist Church.

The primary purpose of Offington Park Methodist Church is to advance the Christian faith by providing opportunities for worship, Christian nurture and fellowship within the wider West Sussex Community.

5.3 Governance

The Church operates within a statutory framework of regulation and seeks to ensure that it follows Methodist Standing Orders. It relies on the Connexional Office at 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR to provide guidance on changes that could affect the Church.

The members of the Church Council are appointed under the terms of S.O. 610(2). The Superintendent is *ex officio* chair of the Church Council but may delegate this task to other presbyters in the Circuit. The Church Council normally meets three times per year and deals with routine and exceptional matters. It oversees the work of other groups within the life of the Church.

5.4 Responsibilities of the Church Council

The responsibilities of the Church Council and other committees are set out in Standing Orders 603 – 604 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church.

6. Reference and Administrative Details

6.1 Name of the Church

Offington Park Methodist Church

6.2 Charity Registration number

1127681

6.3 Superintendent Minister

The Rev Rosemarie Clarke

6.4 Presbyterian in Pastoral Charge

The Rev Dawn Carn

6.5 Names of Managing Trustees

Rev Rosemarie Clarke

Rev Dawn Carn

Mike Powell

Gill Powell

Joy Barnes

John Bishop

Kevin Harmer

Roz Merrick

Karen Clayton

Terry Edmondson

Adam Cook

Bridget Quint

Michele Funnell

Alison Wright

Catherine Burgess

Carolyn Williams

Pam Frost

Emily Wilson

Nick Skinner

Hilary Colbourn

Tanya Griffith

6.6 Independent Examiner

Mr Keith Thacker

OFFINGTON PARK METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Income	£
Offerings	77,057.23
Circuit Assessment Rebate	4,423.00
Gift Aid on Offerings	21,022.29
Gift Day Receipts	13,802.43
Donations (General)	2,365.14
Lettings (Use of Premises)	14,946.50
Weddings and Funerals	1,199.00
Church Activities (Fundraising)	5,498.50
Spotlight Sales	661.20
Photocopier Income	127.12
Transport Receipts	517.56
Church Flowers	67.50
Solar Panel Income	2,580.85
Interest on Investments	2,998.67
Miscellaneous Income	5,122.23
Zach's Café	18,488.80
Tuesday Lunches	9,032.00
Our Calling (Worship)	180.10
Our Calling (Learning & Caring)	2,605.00
Our Calling (Service)	0.00
Our Calling (Evangelism)	0.00
Cleaning Receipts	330.00
Grants & Legacies	26,364.05
Lighthouse Soft Play Session Income	53,140.59
Lighthouse Party Income	6,742.50
Lighthouse Café Income	43,005.01
Lighthouse Other Income	878.01
Total Income	313,155.28
<i>General Fund receipts due to CFB funds</i>	<i>22,245.60</i>

OFFINGTON PARK METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Expenditure

Circuit Assessment	92,020.00
Salaries & Wages (excluding Lighthouse)	18,149.86
Insurance Premiums	4,759.61
Administration	420.16
Property Account	25,996.43
Gas Charges	5,677.08
Electricity Charges	7,627.18
Water Rates/Commercial Waste	3,372.41
Telecom inc Broadband	1,915.18
Cost of Fundraising	1,510.19
Photocopier Expenditure	1,940.04
Transport Expenses	1,111.78
Church Flowers	197.96
Fees & Charges	746.14
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,398.65
Digital Media	2,198.59
Wedding and Funeral Costs	508.00
Zach's Café Expenses	5,727.42
Tuesday Lunch Expenses	2,235.24
Organ & Piano Costs	393.49
Cleaning Expenses	2,226.49
Our Calling (Worship)	829.70
Leasing Charges	8,058.14
Our Calling (Learning & Caring)	2,899.55
Our Calling (Service)	0.00
Our Calling (Evangelism)	0.00
Lighthouse General Expenses	17,033.14
Lighthouse Party Expenses	1,321.41
Lighthouse Café Expenses	23,968.84
Lighthouse Other Expenses (Salaries)	41,681.34
Total expenditure	275,924.02
<i>Other fund expenses through bank</i>	<i>27,292.16</i>

Net Surplus/Deficit(-)

37,231.26

<i>B/F Balance Others</i>	0.00
<i>Collections on behalf of Others</i>	676.80
<i>Payments on behalf of others</i>	676.80
<i>Net C/F Balance Others</i>	0.00

Total Funds B/F

99,082.88

Unrealised Gain/Loss on TMCP Unit Revaluations

329.09

Net Surplus/Deficit(-)

37,231.26

OFFINGTON PARK METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Net 'Other Fund' Movements (Internal CFB Transfers)	<u>5,046.56</u>
Total Funds C/F	<u><u>130,938.49</u></u>

OFFINGTON PARK METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

STATEMENT OF FUNDS

Current Assets

Bank	24,674.43
Central Finance Board	68,889.94
In Hand (Floats)	315.00

Cash Assets **93,879.37**

Current Liabilities

<i>Creditors (<1-year Loans)</i>	10,000.00
<i>Funds Collected for Others (Box 1)</i>	0.00

Liabilities **10,000.00**

Net Assets Held Locally **83,879.37**

Reserve General Funds Held at TMCP Manchester

TMCP Trustee's Interest Fund	845.41
TMCP Managed Fixed Int Fund	16,522.59
TMCP Managed Mixed Int Fund	29,691.12

Net Reserves **47,059.12**

TOTAL OPMC FUNDS **130,938.49**

ANALYSIS OF FUNDS HELD LOCALLY

CAF Bank Current Accounts

General Fund	10,219.69
Lighthouse Fund	14,769.74
	24,989.43

Central Finance Board

General Fund	Unrestricted	43,150.93
Lighthouse Reserve Account	Designated	21,771.24
Eco Fund	Designated	327.93
COP Project Fund	Restricted	0.00
Dunning Bequest (Junior Youth)	Restricted	2,944.57
OPYP Fund (Senior Youth)	Restricted	695.27

Total Central Finance Board **68,889.94**

Total Locally Held Funds **93,879.37**

ANALYSIS OF RESERVES

Reserves

Unallocated Reserves	47,059.12
Total Reserves	47,059.12

ANALYSIS OF CREDITORS

1-year Rolling Loan	10,000.00
Total Creditors	10,000.00

OFFINGTON PARK METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

TOTAL OPMC Funds

130,938.49

ANALYSIS OF GENERAL FUND HOLDINGS	2023-24	2024-25
Central Finance Board (General Fund)	8,470.78	43,150.93
Central Finance Board (Lighthouse Fund)	0.00	21,771.24
Current Accounts	27,283.04	24,989.43
TMCP	47,388.21	47,059.12
General Creditors	30,000.00	10,000.00
Total General Fund	53,142.03	126,970.72
Other CFB Funds (Restricted and Designated)	30,591.04	3,967.77
TOTAL OPMC FUNDS	83,733.07	130,938.49

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Offington Park Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2025

West Sussex (Coast & Downs)	Circuit	Circuit no	36/08
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1127681

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 Dawn Carn

Church Stewards:

Roz Merrick	Hilary Colbourn
Joy Barnes	Kevin Harmer
Gillian Powell	John Bishop
Barry Spooner	Terry Edmondson

Treasurer:

Michael Powell

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
			£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		98,080		98,080	97,492
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		2,999		2,999	4,243
a4	Lettings		14,946		14,946	20,456
a5	Other receipts		196,922	208	197,130	55,239
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		312,947	208	313,155	177,430
SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		92,020		92,020	89,512
b3	Donations					
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		26,390		26,390	23,306
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		23,351		23,351	18,814
b6						
b7	Other payments		133,208	955	134,163	37,185
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		274,969	955	275,924	168,817
SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	37,978	(747)	37,231	8,613
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		83,733		83,733	122,567
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	121,711	(747)	120,964	131,180
c4	Transfers and adjustments (investment revaluation)		9,974		9,974	(47,447)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	131,685	(747)	130,938	83,733
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					60
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations				677	1,236
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				677	1,296
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 2020 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 Benevolence					357	357
e2 The Lighthouse Soft Play		15,350	(15,350)		15,350	
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds		15,350	(15,350)		15,707 (e11)	357 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	313,155 (a7)	275,924 (b9)	37,231	9,974 (c7)	83,733 (c6)	130,938 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	313,155	291,274	21,881	9,974	99,440 (x)	131,295 (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 2020**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	325	325
f2 Bank Current Account	27,298	24,664
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	39,061	68,890 ✓
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	47,388	47,059 ✓
f6 Other funds	(30,339)	(10,000)
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	83,733 (c6)	130,938 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	15,707 (e11)	357 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	99,440 (x)	131,295 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 01/09/2024	At 31/08/2025
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	£7.10m	£7.25m
g3 Other Assets	£318k	£400k
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		10K
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

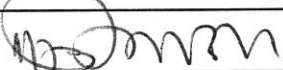
g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church Council

Signature of Treasurer



Date

12/11/25

Name

MICHAEL POWELL

Address

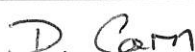
20 St Lawrence Avenue Worthing BN14 7JF

Presentation to the *Church Council for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Church Council on
and were approved.

04/11/2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Dawn Carn

Date

12/11/25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Offington Park Methodist

Church

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st August

2025

Respective responsibilities of Trustees 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 is 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 Report

My examination was 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 matter has come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~*):

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply appropriate*

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

** Please circle as appropriate*

Name

Keith Thacker

Signature

Mr. Thacker

Relevant Professional qualification or body

Address

*HIGH RIDGE
COMMANDERS WALK
FAIRLIGHT TN11 4BE*

Date

22/1/26