

Church
Accruals Accounts
2022 - 2023

THE METHODIST CHURCH
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)

For the year ended 31st August 2023

SOLIHULL METHODIST CHURCH

Charity Registration number 1127682

BIRMINGHAM

Circuit No

5.1

Minister

REVEREND MOLLY CHITOKWINDO

Church Stewards

Mrs Cathy Coleman (until 11.06.23)

Mr Howard Staight (until 11.06.23)

Mr Peter Austin

Mrs Karen Robertson

Mrs Elizabeth Pickles

Mr Glen Mullineux

Mrs Alison Faulkner (from 11.06.23)

Church Treasurer

Caroline Hinchliffe

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Section 1 Overview Report

1.1 Introduction

The charitable objects of Solihull Methodist Church are those of the Methodist Church, and include commitment to Christian service through worship, prayer and community involvement, which provides significant public benefit.

1.2 Mission Statement

We believe that to make the all-embracing love of Jesus Christ known, we need to be brave in God's changing world, so that all can belong and find hope.

1.3 Worship, Care and Mission in 2022-2023

Reverend Molly Chitokwindo continues to be our minister, as well as the Minister of two other Churches. It has been wonderful to deepen our relationship with Molly, knowing that in her loving hands our faith will grow.

In May 2023, Abi Godfree was appointed to be the Children, Youth and Family Worker at Solihull. It was felt that SMC needed a leader to support the growing numbers of children and families that are now attending Solihull. She has made an excellent start and has many ideas for taking Young Church forward and helping them to grow in their faith.

We are fortunate that we have been able to welcome many new worshippers over the last twelve months. We welcomed 13 worshippers into Church membership in July. This includes people who have relocated to Solihull from other parts of the UK as well as people from abroad. The number of worshippers, who have emigrated from Hong Kong continues to grow. We continue to have the Bible Readings in both Cantonese and English.

The Hong Kongers are gradually becoming more involved in Church; two of them are Vestry Assistants, some of them have become Welcome Stewards, others have helped with the children in Young Church and a few have played the piano before and during Church services. Many do voluntary work in Church and in the community.

There has been an increase in the numbers of children and young people regularly attending Young Church and "En.gage" (for young people) on Sunday mornings. They come into Church towards the end of the service to share their morning's activities with the congregation.

Babies and very small children are welcome to use the creche mat and toys, which are situated at the front of the Church, during the service.

Sunday services are still streamed live on YouTube but the frequency has dropped from every week to twice a month. A small number of people watch live, but many tens of viewers "catch-up" and watch the service online in the days after recording.

Every Tuesday morning at 9.30am, there is a service of Holy Communion. It has also been possible to resume the monthly evening service of Holy Communion with prayers for healing. Prayers for the

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world continue to be held via Zoom, every Wednesday. Requests for prayers for specific situations and people are considered prayerfully.

There continues to be a number of very active house groups, meeting weekly, fortnightly or monthly for fellowship and worshipful study.

This year our minister has started weekly groups for Bible Study, one in English and another in Cantonese. During Lent this year, in our groups, we discussed the concepts of, and possible applications of, 'Hospitality' and 'Sanctuary'. We had one group meeting on zoom and this was led by our Church Link student minister Mrs Michaela Barker.

The Church newsletter, The Messenger, is provided by email or personal delivery. This newsletter contains a message from our Minister; news of the Church's activities and articles and encouragement about local, national and international matters.

168 individuals and families receive the electronic notices sent out weekly with further emails as needed to keep members informed about services and other Church activities.

The Greener Church group continues to work towards a Gold Eco-award and provides useful green tips each month in The Messenger.

Lawrence Day has been appointed as the Health and Safety officer for the Property Committee. He has drawn up a comprehensive Health and Safety Report which has been discussed and a number of identified actions will be taken forward on a prioritised basis.

The property committee has overseen new display screens for the Church to enable hymns and group resources to be seen more clearly.

Screens, telephones and mains plug sockets have been updated in the office and vestry. Breeze and Earle, our electrical contractors, have installed a new ring main in the Church Vestry. Thanks should also go to all our volunteers in ensuring this and other work has been completed during the year.

1.4 Groups run by Solihull Methodist Church

Our Church and Community Centre continues to be used by over 60 regular groups.

Shall We Talk

Shall We Talk continues to be a very popular group, with over 80 Cantonese and/or English speaking people meeting each week to discuss British history and culture. They have covered everything from The King's coronation to gardening, using the post office and visiting the doctor or dentist. Recently, close to a hundred people went on a trip to Southfields Farm and experienced the British way of unstructured exploration as they looked around the farm and took the trailer to the riverside.

Bible Study

Throughout Lent, approximately 13 people met fortnightly for Bible Studies in Cantonese and English, studying the Book of Mark. The studies were led by Rev Molly and members of the group in English, alternating weekly with one led in Cantonese by Ms Patrice Li, a Chinese missionary from Leeds. The study gave the attendees a different perspective on the Book of Mark and they continue to study – fortnightly.

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Classic Cantonese Club

In March 2023 our minister started a new group as an extension of Shall We Talk (Cantonese Senior Citizens) - meeting separately from the bigger group. They learn English as they play games such as table tennis, mah jong and singing in English. This group helps members with making friends, wellbeing and learning about the local community. This group is led by our minister and two other volunteers Yan and Edmond.

Pushchair Club

This is a stay and play group for parents and carers of preschool children. It offers opportunities for play and friendship every Monday morning during term time. It is run by a paid worker and members of the Church help to make refreshments and chat to the parents.

Tuesday Men's Coffee

The retired men of the Church meet each Tuesday morning to enjoy coffee, cake and conversation, often debating the big news issues of the day.

Friendship Cafe

The group meets on the second and fourth Fridays each month at 10.30am. It is an opportunity to meet others, have a chat and a cup of tea/coffee, and play some board games.

Badminton

The club meets on a Thursday evening at 8.15pm in the Community Hall. The membership of the group is fluid, with a core of 4 or 5 members, who play most weeks and a number of other members who play, when other commitments permit.

ENRG

ENRG is the Church youth club and meets every Friday evening during term time and provides games and sports activities alongside times of reflection and fellowship.

SMASH, Solihull Methodist Church's Drama Group

The group comprises a large number from the Church and outside. In March 2023, SMASH performed "Honk" – a dramatisation of "The Ugly Duckling" with a focus on diversity. The Church was transformed into a theatre for the week of the performance.

Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Brownies and Rainbows

These groups all meet weekly during term time in the Community Hall, successfully delivering a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities to provide skills for life. The Church provides valuable storage facilities for sports equipment and camping equipment for these groups.

Contact Choir

This group has continued to meet and share their love for singing.

1.5 Groups from the wider community

The Church is pleased to offer space for numerous groups for people with health problems. These are heavily subsidised by the Church as an indication of the care for the more vulnerable of our society.

Concessionary Lettings

Alzheimers Activity Group meets weekly in the Church building. It is a weekly group run by the Alzheimers Association.

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Birmingham Ileostomy Society: A coffee morning for people with ileostomies and their carers for mutual support.

Breast Friends: A monthly support group for people with breast cancer.

Deaf Feel Good: meet alternate weeks to communicate using British Sign Language.

Focus on Dementia: Small group for those with dementia.

Gentle Exercise: This exercise class used to be run by the Osteoporosis Society and still has a number of people with this condition as well as those who are unable to do strenuous exercise.

Mental Health Matters: A drop in session for people with mental health issues. They meet on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Parkinsons: A large group of people who meet for weekly exercise to help their condition. This also serves as a support group over their tea break.

Singing For The Brain: People with dementia and their carers meet once a month for singing which is recognised as a therapeutic aid for those whose memories are failing.

Solihull Prostrate Support Group: A monthly meeting for those with prostate cancer. Speakers from various medical departments and a buddy system of support are both a big part of these meetings.

West Midlands Autism: Adults with autism meet once a month as a support group and for talks about their condition.

Interest Groups

A number of interest groups use our premises. Many of these are linked to the University of the Third Age with sub groups for ukelele players, gardening, craft, book group, choral singing, painting and history. Creative Textiles and other textile groups are regular users.

A Speakers Club meets fortnightly.

There are also three choirs using the premises.

1.6 Further service to the community and beyond

The Church continues to collect non perishable goods for food banks. Many non-Church user groups also contribute to this which enables us to donate a large amount of food.

Pastoral visiting

This has continued with our large team of visitors going to see a number of people each month to look after their welfare.

This year's Church Project raised over £17k from a number of fundraising activities led by a team of Church members. The project supported a local charity offering skills development supporting employment opportunities for young adults.

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1.7 Plans for 2023-2024

The church aims to focus on these areas:

- The growth in faith of young people.

We wish to enable the young people to develop a deeper understanding of God. This will be achieved by identifying and developing the talents and gifts of the young people and encouraging links between young and old. This will be facilitated by our newly appointed Children, Youth and Family Worker who is delivering engaging activities aimed at developing and maintaining the children's interest in the activities and life of the church.

- The appreciation of and support for communities and the environment overseas.

It is proposed to use the 2023/24 church project to support the provision of solar panels for Matthew Rusike Children's Home in Zimbabwe

- The appreciation of and support for communities at home.

The church is endeavouring to meet the needs of Cantonese people many of whom have recently arrived in the UK. Plans include the expansion of the small groups (such as house groups and Bible studies), the possible employment of a lay Cantonese/English speaker to assist Cantonese speakers who are part of the congregation and the provision of courses to equip members and leaders to grow in faith.

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Section 2: Finance and Governance

2.1 Basis of preparation and Legal Framework

Solihull Methodist Church is a church within the Methodist Connexion in Great Britain and these Financial statements including the Trustees Annual Report have been prepared in accordance with the constitution, practice and discipline of that Church. Solihull's Methodist Church's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023 have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102:

Registration Charity Number: **1127682**

Date of registration: **January 2009**

Main communication address: **Solihull Methodist Church, Blossomfield Road,
Solihull, B91 1LG**

The members of the Solihull Methodist Church Council are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up, in accordance with Standing Order 610 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church in Great Britain, of church office holders, Minister and representatives appointed by the General Church Meeting.

A Full list of Church Council members (i.e. Managing Trustees) is shown in [Appendix A.](#)

Treasurer: Caroline Hinchliffe

Caroline Hinchliffe acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the church during the year.

Auditors: Wallace Crooke, Wallace House, 20 Birmingham Road, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 2LT

Investment Bankers: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Trustees for Methodist Church purposes

Funds are Held at: HSBC Bank, CAF Bank, Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes & Central Finance Board of The Methodist Church

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2.2 Aims and Purposes

The charitable objectives of Solihull Methodist Church are in accordance with the Purposes of the Methodist Church of Great Britain as set out in Section 4 of the Methodist Church Act 1976. That section states that: -

"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 discipline of The Methodist Church.
- b) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of The Methodist Church.
- c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church.
- d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church."

The aims and calling of Solihull Methodist Church are in line with the Methodist Church of Great Britain which are:

- 1. Worship – to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.
- 2. Learning and Caring – to help people to learn and grow as Christians, through mutual support and care.
- 3. Service – to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.
- 4. Evangelism – to make more followers of Jesus Christ.

Within those aims and purposes, Solihull Methodist Church has its vision to make the all-embracing love of Jesus Christ known, being brave in God's changing world, so that all can belong and find hope.

2.3 Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in compliance with its duties under section 17 of the Charities Act 2011.

At Solihull Methodist Church, we seek to provide public benefit in the ways mentioned in section 2.2 above by building relationships with all members of our community. That includes those who worship with us regularly, those who make use of our premises, those who commute past our grounds, and those who live in the neighbourhood.

2.4 Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the church is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976). Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Model Trusts, and the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD) published by order of the annual conference.

Day to day management of the church is undertaken by the Church Leadership Team, consisting of Stewards and other officers along with the Minister.

The Trustees are appointed ex officio in accordance with Standing Order 610 of CPD, or at the annual General Church Meeting.

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2.5 Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by the Methodist Church of Great Britain to support the effective running of the church and the role of Trustees is given to the Church Trustees when they are asked to complete the declaration of eligibility for newly appointed trustees and at meetings.

2.6 Related Parties

"The Church is part of the Birmingham Circuit which is part of the Birmingham District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The internal organisations linked to this church are: -

1. SMASH (Solihull Methodist Acting & Singing in Harmony), 2. Pushchair Club, 3. Soupa Talks, 4. Badminton Club, 5. ENRG (Youth Club), 6. Men's Coffee Club, 7. Contact Choir, 8. JMA (Junior Mission for All) 9. Shall We Talk (Support for newcomers from Hong Kong) 10. Greener Church Group

2.7 Income trends

The Church income is primarily drawn from the giving of the congregation in weekly offerings in the context of worship and by regular bank standing orders. The latter have seen a steady small decline over recent years and this year that trend has continued. However new people coming to the church predominantly give cash offerings during the service and these have increased with a resultant small increase in the total offerings compared to last year. The most significant change in income has been caused by changes in interest rates which have resulted in a welcome contribution to overall income. External lettings are still significant, raising a similar amount to last year. There has been a reluctance to increase the rates at what has been a difficult time for many, but the plan is to increase lettings rates in the next financial year.

2.8 Expenditure trends

Monitoring expenditure is done using the General fund figures (excluding the depreciation of fixed assets and the interest/charges associated with the Pam Brown legacy). The major item of expenditure is in relation to the assessment paid to the Birmingham Circuit. A significant amount of the Circuit assessment is used to pay the district assessment, Ministers stipends, related costs to Ministers and Family and Community workers and also Youth Workers within the Circuit. £125,000 was paid in 2022/23 representing 60% of our general fund expenditure. As last year, the commitment was to give £120,000 but later in the year Ways and Means Committee approved payment of an additional £5,000.

Energy costs have continued to be high but have remained under a fixed contract and so were budgeted for fairly accurately. The electricity supply contract will need renewing in April 2024 and so budgeting for 2023-24 was more difficult. Wage costs have increased more than could be anticipated at the time of budgeting and this has impacted on cleaning costs as well as office salaries.

27% (£56,019) of the church's expenditure relates to property expenses i.e., heating, lighting, water, insurance, maintenance of grounds, pianos, and organ as well as other repairs and renewals to keep the buildings in good repair. Property expenditure has been more than covered by the total lettings including car park and contributions from church internal organisations enabling the premises to be kept in good order. Other Church expenditure is used firstly to provide and communicate, within the community, the Christian teaching and worship of the Church, and secondly to maintaining an office with all its associated costs.

The budget for 2023/24 starts with a healthy reserve but is set against a background of increasing costs and general giving that has not kept pace in recent years. Again in 2023/24 the church is budgeting for a deficit, i.e. expenditure is more than the income. The Circuit Assessment has been returned to £127,300 and wage increases are also likely to be high. The situation will require careful

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monitoring and already there are thoughts that this may be a year to try to encourage an increase in the offering from the congregation.

2.9 Fund balances including Reserves Policy

Model Trust Legacy

The use of the Model Trust Legacy has continued to support the ministry of the church. Developments with communications within the church have continued with the replacement of the main digital projector and screen with a large monitor and the upgrading of another monitor. It has also enabled the appointment of a full time Youth and Family worker for the church over a 3 year time period. The Church Council have agreed that this legacy should form a guarantor of funds that might be needed but that the church will also aim to encourage giving to increase so that the post may become a permanent one in future.

There are clear needs for future funding to develop buildings and have another person to support the newcomers from Hong Kong so further funds are likely to be allocated in 2023-24.

Unrestricted Funds

The church has substantial property and believes (**as stated in it's Reserves Policy**), that it is prudent to maintain between 3 and 5 months of expenditure in its general unrestricted fund reserves to provide for normal, planned and reactive maintenance costs, in addition to paying the circuit assessment which according to CPD (Constitution, Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church) is the first call on our reserves. On 31st August 2023 General fund reserves (without Model Trust funds) were £112,069. This represents 6.4 months of expenditure. The original budget for 2023/24 is by the 31.08.23 seen as flawed. However even if revised to be more conservative with a £15,000 deficit, it should be possible to maintain reserves within our Reserves Policy.

Model Legacy Unrestricted Fund balance as at 31.08.23 of £191,153 is classed as unrestricted funds.

Designated funds

Balance at 31.08.23 of £99,693 relates to

- Youth & Children's work £3,919
- Property reserve £37,342
- Gifts with no binding obligation £19,904
- Online streaming of services and associated expenses £9,501
- Provision for small mission/community projects £4,795
- Donations and Model Trust funds allocated to Family and Youth Worker £24,232

Details are given in [Note 14](#) of these accounts.

Restricted funds

Balance at 31.08.23 of £16,763 relate to gifts/legacies and other monies that are only used within the terms attached to them.

- £1,562 of the restricted funds is held in the Benevolent Fund which receives donations from the retiring collection after communion services and the Church is able to react immediately to local and worldwide emergency appeals after natural disasters etc.
- The Special collection set aside from the Benevolence Fund last year was sent to All We Can for Ukraine.
- The Church Council has agreed to give money to a carbon offsetting organisation to cover the energy use by the church from carbon sources. The Net Zero fund gives members an opportunity to contribute directly to these costs. It currently holds £212.
- The 2022-23 Church project that the church raised funds for is Building 4 Hope. They seek to bring hope by reaching and supporting vulnerable young adults, focusing on construction

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skills training, help in gaining employment and life skills development. A cheque for £19,668.36 has been handed over and remaining funds (£129) will be transferred soon.

- Other restricted funds amounting to £5,222 relate to monies held for various Church groups and these are released as and when requested by those organisations.
- £9,639 represents the balances held by the internal organisations linked to the church.

Details are given in [Note 14](#) of these accounts.

Endowment fund

Balance at 31.08.23 of £4,747 is restricted. The accumulated interest (£644 at 31.08.23) is restricted to fund children's and youth work. The capital has been invested in a corporate bond through TMCP. The valuation at 31.08.23 was £4,098 with a balance of £4 held by TMCP.

2.10 Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and a Health & Safety officer sits on the Church Council and regularly reviews all aspects of risk management and reports to the Trustees. This position has been filled during the year and a number of proposals for improvements have been made. Stewards continue to work with the Council to prevent/mitigate access issues that may be caused by the development of the Solihull Integrated Transport Hub.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget twice a year to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

A biannual financial review is undertaken to help minimise risks in the income and expenditure processes.

2.11 Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people, and adults.
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people, and adults when they are vulnerable.
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- the selection and training of all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- the response, without delay, to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child, or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- seeking to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

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- challenging any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- offering pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person, or vulnerable adult.

In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

Solihull Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice within our Church premises.

Solihull Methodist Church commits itself through its safeguarding officer and team to the provision of support, advice and training for all volunteers, lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

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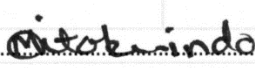
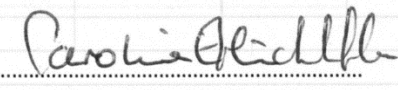
Section 3: Accounts

3.1 Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022-23	Total 2021-22
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
1 Weekly Collections & Standing orders		112,516				112,516	110,188
2 Gift aid including GASDS		27,468	2,750	1,887		32,105	29,081
3 Donations		865	1,000	1,750		3,615	6,316
4 Legacies			16,200			16,200	0
5 Interest and investment income	2,2a	12,407			114	12,521	3,094
6 Internal organisations				20,974		20,974	17,807
7 Other charitable income-collections, donations & charity fundraising activities	3,3a			28,345		28,345	20,105
8 Income from use of premises	4,4a	73,570				73,570	70,471
9 Other Income	5,5a	1,162	73			1,235	1,040
10 Total income		227,988	20,023	52,956	114	301,081	258,102
Expenditure							
11 Circuit assessment or share		125,000				125,000	127,300
12 Salaries, N.I. & Pension Costs	8	16,217	9,092			25,309	13,675
13 Donations to Methodist connexional Funds and other Charities				31,570		31,570	14,049
14 Property repairs and maintenance		36,815	7,800			44,615	38,005
15 Insurance, utilities etc		19,204				19,204	15,676
16 Depreciation		4,400				4,400	4,400
17 Office expenses including advertising, marketing & legal requirements eg copyright licence & audit	6,11	8,680	350	116	12	9,158	9,020
18 Other expenditure-including Christian teaching, worship, activities and fund raising costs		3,695	2,121	8,089		13,905	5,802
19 Internal organisations				21,433		21,433	20,811
20 Total charitable expenditure		214,011	19,363	61,208	12	294,594	248,739
21 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-3,246			-230	-3,475	-5,369
22 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						0	0
23 Net income/(expenditure)		10,731	660	-8,252	-128	3,011	3,995
24 Transfers between funds		-42,620	42,620			0	0
25 Other gains/(losses)						0	0
26 Net movement in funds		-31,889	43,280	-8,252	-128	3,011	3,995
27 Total funds brought forward		4,537,112	56,413	25,015	4,875	4,623,415	4,619,421
28 Total funds carried forward		4,505,223	99,693	16,763	4,747	4,626,426	4,623,415
For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations							
Balance brought forward from last year					2023	2022	
Offerings/Gifts etc - received for External Organisations					190	0	
Offerings/Gifts etc - passed to External Organisations					2,858	2,104	
Balance carried forward					3,048	1,914	
					0	190	

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION
For the year ended 31st August 2023

3.2 Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2023	Totals 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets							
Church buildings & Equipment	9	4,202,000				4,202,000	4,206,400
Investment properties						0	0
Investments	10	73,178			4,098	77,276	80,751
Total fixed assets		4,275,178	0	0	4,098	4,279,276	4,287,151
Current Assets							
Debtors and prepayments	12	43,947		268		44,215	47,069
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes-(TMCP)-Model Trust		117,975				117,975	61,095
TMCP					4	4	4
Central Finance Board Deposits		69,682	100,168	6,658	644	177,152	112,097
Cash at Bank and in hand	12	4,368		257		4,625	110,809
- Other- Internal Organisations	12			9,639		9,639	10,098
Total current assets		235,972	100,168	16,822	648	353,610	341,172
Current liabilities							
Creditors & accruals (due in under 1 year)	13	5,927	475	59		6,461	4,908
Grants payable within 2022-23						0	0
Total current liabilities		5,927	475	59	0	6,461	4,908
Net current assets/liabilities		230,045	99,693	16,763	648	347,149	336,264
Total assets less current liabilities		4,505,222	99,693	16,763	4,747	4,626,425	4,623,415
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2022-23						0	0
Loans to the Church						0	0
						0	0
Total Net Assets		4,505,222	99,693	16,763	4,747	4,626,425	4,623,415
Funds of the Church	14						
General Fund (Unrestricted)		4,505,222				4,505,222	4,537,112
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			99,693			99,693	56,413
Total Unrestricted Funds						4,604,916	4,593,525
Restricted Funds				16,763		16,763	25,015
Endowment Funds					4,747	4,747	4,875
Total Funds		4,505,222	99,693	16,763	4,747	4,626,425	4,623,415
The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Church Council on 04.10.24							
Signed on behalf of the board of Trustees							
							
		Chairperson		Caroline Hinchliffe - Church Treasurer			

SOLIHULL METHODIST CHURCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION
For the year ended 31st August 2023

3.3 Notes to the accounts for the year ending 31/08/23

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared based on historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Church's financial position and activities.

Solihull Methodist Church is a Charity registered in England. The address of the registered office is given in the [charity information](#) of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are detailed in [section 1](#) of this report.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Church becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment 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 Church to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants made by the Church from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Church accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

SOLIHULL METHODIST CHURCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION
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VAT

Since the Church is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

Tangible fixed assets

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes are the custodian trustees for the Church land and premises which is a Model Trust property and they hold the freehold title. Solihull Methodist Trustees are the managing trustees of the buildings and as such they are in the financial statement.

The Church, Church Hall and their contents are shown in the accounts at 2015 deemed values. No depreciation is provided on these assets because the trustees consider the current residual fair values to be not less than their current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The assets have been reviewed for impairment.

In 2018/19 a lift was installed and the total cost of this was capitalised and will be depreciated over 10 years.

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £2,500. (Fixed by Ways & Means committee May 2023)

Investment Properties

Investment properties - no property is currently deemed not to be held for the long term purposes of the charity.

Debtors and Creditors

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Funds

The funds held constitute: Unrestricted Funds comprising of a General Funds held for any purpose of the Church and a Model Trust Legacy held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP): Designated Funds which are unrestricted funds set aside for a future purpose or reserve e.g. Property reserve which is any unspent budget transferred to the next year's property budget. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose including those for internal organisations. There is also an Endowment Fund as listed. Details of each material fund are disclosed in [Note 14](#). Any of the funds may be represented by more than just cash.

SOLIHULL METHODIST CHURCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION
For the year ended 31st August 2023

2. Interest & Investment Income	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total
	£		£	£	£
Central Finance Board	5,788				5,788
Bank Account CAF Cash A/c	107				107
Dividends/Interest -TMCP- Corporate Bond/TIF £4.01	2,254			114	2,368
TMCP - Interest on Model Trust Legacy	4,257				4,257
	12,407	0	0	114	12,521

2a. Interest & Investment Income	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022 Total
	£		£	£	£
Central Finance Board	558				558
Bank Account CAF Cash A/c	19				19
Dividends -TMCP--Corporate Bond				78	78
TMCP - Interest on Model Trust Legacy	2,439				2,439
	3,016	0	0	78	3,094

3. Other Charitable Income	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Café Connect payments			5,000		5,000
Other collections, donations & charity fundraising activities	0		23,345		23,345
	0	0	28,345	0	28,345

3a. Other Charitable Income	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Café Connect payments			5,000		5,000
Other collections, donations & charity fundraising activities			15,105		15,105
	0	0	20,105	0	20,105

4. Income from use of Premises	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total
	£		£	£	£
External lettings of Church & Church Hall	52,309				52,309
Car Park licence	9,626				9,626
Contributions from Church Organisations	10,831				10,831
Donations for Car Park discs from members	805				805
	73,570				73,570

SOLIHULL METHODIST CHURCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION
For the year ended 31st August 2023

4a. Income from use of Premises	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022 Total
	£		£	£	£
External lettings of Church & Church Hall	52,292				52,292
Car Park licence	9,640				9,640
Contributions from Church Organisations	7,338				7,338
Donations for Car Park discs from members	1,201				1,201
	70,471				70,471

5. Other Income	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total
	£		£	£	£
Sponsorship of Church magazine	150				150
Sale of	0	60			60
Miscellaneous receipts	1,012	13			1,025
Total	1,162	73			1,235

5a. Other Income	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2022 Total
	£		£	£	£
Sponsorship of Church magazine	690				690
Money received from Car Parking Solutions for restricting parking					0
Miscellaneous receipts	350				350
Total	1,040	0			1,040

SOLIHULL METHODIST CHURCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION
For the year ended 31st August 2023

	This year 2023	Last year 2022
6. Fees for examination or audit of the accounts		
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts	£ 2,760	2,634
Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor	£ -	-
7. Payment to Trustees		
Payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Church by agreement with the Church Council Meeting	£ -	-
Names of trustees remunerated for other services:		
Number of trustees who were paid expenses		
There were no trustees who were paid expenses		
Total amount paid	£	
8. Paid employees		
Staff Costs paid during the year were:		
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind	£ 22,433	12,350
Employer's National Insurance costs	£ 1,430	486
Pension costs	£ 836	741
Pension accrual	£ 475	
Furlough paymts reimbursed	£	
Salary admin.costs- Apprentice Levy & Payroll administration costs	£ 135	98
Total staff costs	£ 25,309	13,675
Average number of staff employed during the year were:	1	1

No employee received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 (£70,000) upwards.

SOLIHULL METHODIST CHURCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION
For the year ended 31st August 2023

9. Tangible Fixed Assets
(General Fund Unrestricted)

	Church (non investment) land and buildings	Other non investment land and buildings	Investment properties (land and buildings)	Other fixed assets including pipe organ	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Payments on account and assets under construction	Total
Cost or valuation	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	3,718,996			415,000	90,000		4,223,996
Additions							
Revaluations (+/-)							
Disposals (-)							
Transfers (+/-)							
Balance carried forward	3,718,996			415,000	90,000		4,223,996

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward	17,596						17,596
Depreciation charge for year (lift)	4,400						4,400
Revaluations (+/-)							
Disposals (-)							
Transfers (+/-)							
Balance carried forward	21,996						21,996

Net book value

Brought forward	3,701,400	-	-	415,000	90,000	-	4,206,400
Carried forward	3,697,000	-	-	415,000	90,000	-	4,202,000

SOLIHULL METHODIST CHURCH
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10. Investments

The funds that support the various funds are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month. These are regarded as medium and long term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and polity as determined by the Methodist Conference.

Analysis of investment movements

The Model Trust held by TMCP holding the Unrestricted funds of the Pam Brown Legacy has an investment purchased through TMCP, a CFB Managed Fund Bond.

Within the Lambert Trust which is the only endowment fund that the Church has an investment - a Corporate Bond purchased through TMCP in the year 2014/15.

Change in investment values

	£	£	£
	Unrestricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total of Investments
Carrying (market) value at beginning of year	76,423	4,328	80,751
Add: additions to investments at cost			
Less: disposals at carrying value			
Net gain/-loss on revaluation	-3,246	-230	-3,475
Carrying (market) value at end of year	73,178	4,098	77,276

11. Leasing Commitments

A 5 year lease was taken out on a Ricoh phocopier/scanner commencing 01/12/2018

Committed to be paid:

Expiring within 1 year

Between 2 and 5 years

2023 2022

117	468
117	117
117	585

During the year 2022/23 £468 was expensed through the SoFA in relation to operating leases

SOLIHULL METHODIST CHURCH
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12. Analysis of current assets (all funds)

	This year 2023	Last year 2022
	£	£
<u>Debtors and prepayments</u>		
Pre paid assessments	30,000	30,000
Prepayments on insurance etc	2,880	2,690
Other debtors	11,335	14,378
Total debtors and prepayments	44,215	47,068

Analysis of cash at bank

Bank Balance held in MCA		84,000
Bank balance held in HSBC	654	6,085
Bank balance held in CAF Bank	3,971	20,724
Total Cash at Bank	4,625	110,809

<u>Internal Organisations</u>	Opening balance 01/09/22	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Closing balances 31/08/23
SMASH	7065	10274	10471	-197	6,868
Pushchair Club	1343	1215	1499	-284	1,059
Soupa Talks	295	5890	5272	618	913
Badminton	59	820	816	4	63
Men's Coffee	61	1534	1554	-20	41
Contact Choir	1195	520	1020	-500	695
ENRG	80		80	-80	
Junior Mission for All (JMA)		721	721		
TOTAL	10,098	20,974	21,433	-459	9,639

13. Analysis of current liabilities and long term creditors

	This year 2023	Last year 2022
	£	£
Trade Creditors	2,341	741
Accruals	4120	3977
Agency Collections		190
	6,461	4,908

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14. Detailed analysis of individual fund movements 2022/23

Unrestricted Funds

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Revaluation gains/losses	Closing Balance	Fund Purpose
General	4,537,112	227,987	214,011	-42,620	-3,246	4,505,222	The main fund for the running and maintaining a place of worship and fellowship within the community. There is a Model Trust legacy (held at TMCP) with a balance at 31.08.23 of £191,153.06 which is classed as unrestricted Funds
Totals	4,537,112	227,987	214,011	-42,620	-3,246	4,505,222	

Designated

Unrestricted Funds

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Revaluation gains/losses	Closing Balance	Fund Purpose
Youth and Family Worker		1,000	9,768	33,000		24,232	To fund new salaried worker for young people & families
Youth & Children's	2,129		411	2,201		3,919	For Youth & Children's work.
Byles Legacy	384		26	-359			Closed for fund simplification
A. Carrington Gift	2,197			-2,197			Closed for fund simplification
Blue Cross	1,041	13	1,000	-54			Completed function. £1,000 towards Spring Harvest then fund closed.
S. Bailey Gift	280			-280			Closed for fund simplification
Mullineux Legacy	2,201			-2,201			Closed for fund simplification. Transferred to Youth & Childrens with the same purpose
Legacies Unrestricted		18,950	1,936	2,889		19,904	New fund combining R. Bywell, B. Ellis & M. Bryan legacies and closed unrestricted funds.
Streaming Online Services and	15,664	60	6,223			9,501	£6,223 in continuing upgrades. Mainly new screens.
Small mission projects Fund	4,795					4,795	Provision for small mission/community projects
Property Reserve Fund	27,722			9,620		37,342	Unspent property budget c/fwd to next year.
Totals	56,413	20,023	19,363	42,620		99,693	

Restricted Funds

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Revaluation gains/losses	Closing Balance	Fund Purpose
Special Collection	1000		1000				Sent to All we Can for Ukraine
Church Internal Organisations	10,098	20,974	21,433			9,639	Social, Learning & Devotional Groups within the Church. Detailed breakdown Note 13
Easter Offering		366	366				Collection 4 Methodist church world mission fund
ENRG		393	46			348	Activities fund for Enrg
Fellowship Lunch & Catering Fund	99	2,552	977			1,674	Catering at Church events such as Church lunches etc
Green Church Fund	558	354	428			484	Promoting a greener Church & Community
Benevolence Fund	1,559	6,609	6,607			1,562	To respond to appeals/emergencies/natural disasters for help both local & international
Shall We Talk	1,991	5,999	5,504			2,486	Group supporting new migrants from HK
Net Zero	79	313	180			212	To support carbon offsetting
Sweet Project		230				230	Works with children, families and vulnerable adults to provide protection, safeguarding, empowerment, problem-solving skills and support.
Church Project Fund 2018/19	3,832		3,832			0	Final installment made to a charity which has brought a Syrian family to Birmingham
Church Project. Building 4 Hope	5,798	12,831	19,668	1,167		129	Supporting people into work.
Church Christmas Card Donations		2,335	1,167	-1,167			Donations received for entry in Church Christmas card and money raised given to the Benevolent Fund & B4Hope
Totals	25,015	52,956	61,208			16,763	

Endowment Funds

Restricted Fund Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Revaluation gains/losses	Closing Balance	Fund Purpose
Lambert Youth Bequest	4,875	114	12		-230	4,747	Youth work
Totals	4,875	114	12		-230	4,747	

Total of all funds

4,626,425

Reasons for transfer between funds

The transfers are between the different classes of funds and balance each other out in total.

SOLIHULL METHODIST CHURCH
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15. Related party transactions

	2022/23						
	Name of related party	Relationship	Description of transaction	Income from related party during the year	Payments to related party during the year	Loans to / (from) related party during the year	Amounts owed by / (to) related party as on 31-Aug-2022
				£	£	£	£
from General fund	Birmingham Methodist Circuit	One of the churches within the Birmingham Circuit	Annual Donation/ Assessment		<u>125,000</u>		
from Easter Offering Fund	Methodist World Mission Fund	Connexional Fund	Collection made		<u>366</u>		
from Benevolence Fund	All We Can (Methodist Relief & Dev Fund)	Connexional Fund	Donations for Ukraine, Turkey/Syria earthquake appeals and an unassigned gift.		<u>2,500</u>		
from Benevolence Fund	Methodist Ministers Housing society	Connexional Fund	Donation		<u>500</u>		
	Total			0	128,366	0	0
	2021/22						
	Name of related party	Relationship	Description of transaction	Income from related party during the year	Payments to related party during the year	Loans to / (from) related party during the year	Amounts owed by / (to) related party as on 31-Aug-2021
				£	£	£	£
from General fund	Birmingham Circuit	One of the churches within the Birmingham Circuit	Annual Donation/ Assessment		<u>127,300</u>		
from Easter Offering Fund	Methodist World Mission Fund	Connexional Fund	Collection made		<u>589</u>		
from Benevolence Fund	All We Can (Methodist Relief & Dev Fund)	Connexional Fund	Donation to Haiti Appeal		<u>500</u>		
from Benevolence Fund	Methodist World Mission Fund	Connexional Fund	Donation to work in Sri Lanka		<u>500</u>		
	Total			0	128,389	0	0

SOLIHULL METHODIST CHURCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION
For the year ended 31st August 2023

Appendix A

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

MINISTER(S)

Rev Molly Chitokwindo

(Also Superintendents of Circuit - Revs. A. Richards (until 1.06.23), Rev Farai Mapamula (from 1.09.22), Rev Cleopas Sibanda (from 1.09.22)

COMMUNITY WORKER

Mrs Diane Webb

CHURCH STEWARDS

Mr N. Howard Pitman Staight (until 11.06.23)

Mrs Catherine Coleman (until 11.06.23)

Mrs Karen J. Robertson, Mr Peter J. Austin,

Mrs Elizabeth J. Pickles, Mr Glen Mullineux

Mrs Alison Faulkner (from 11.06.23)

SENIOR OFFICERS

CHURCH TREASURER

Miss Caroline E. Hinchliffe

COUNCIL SECRETARY

Mrs Helen J. Banks

SECRETARY OF PASTORAL COMMITTEE

Mrs Christine L. Cooke

OFFICERS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMITTEES

Ade Gbadebo (Vestry Assistant) (from 30.07.23)

Yone Shein Yan (Vestry Assistant) (from 30.07.23)

Mrs Abi R Godfree (Children, youth and family worker) (from 11.06.23)

Mrs Jennifer Kitson (Church Safeguarding Officer)

Rev. Christine Giles (Pastoral Co-ordinator)

Mrs Margery Benson (Pastoral Committee Representative)

Mr Christopher Tucker (Ways & Means Committee Officer)

Mr David A. Grey (Ways & Means Committee Representative) (from 01.06.22)

Mr Jonathan Tuckey (Property Committee Officer)

Mr Richard G. Burr (Property Committee Representative) (from 11.06.23)

Mr Lawrence J. Day (Health & Safety Officer) (from 06.02.23)

Mr Kevin D. Allen (Communications Committee Representative) (from 06.02.23)

Mrs Jane Garnett (Young Families Representative)

Mrs Pamela M. Beattie (Catering Committee representative)

Mrs Judith Farndon (Other Interests Representative)

Mrs Marjorie A. Roper (Churches together in Solihull)

Mrs Sue K. Kelley (Greener Church Representative) (from 01.06.22)

Mrs Fiona Beadle (Church Life and Mission Committee) (from 01.06.22)

REPRESENTATIVES ELECTED BY THE GENERAL CHURCH MEETING

Mrs Abi R Godfree (until 11.06.23)

Mrs Cathy Coleman (from 11.06.23)

Mr Alan Faulkner

Mrs Susan V. Bates

Mr Andrew D. Hunt

Mrs Deborah M Install (from 11.06.23)

Mr Tim J. Weatherup (until 11.06.23)

Mr Richard G. Burr (until 11.06.23)

Mrs Sandra Ker

Miss Jackie M. Farmer (until 11.06.23)

Mrs Ann M. Polson

Mr Roger Wellings (from 11.06.23)

Mrs C. Joy Wadsworth

Mr Derek R. Giles

Mrs Judy A. Lingard

Mr Graham S. Mackenzie

Mr Lawrence J. Day (until 06.02.23)

Mrs Sian L. Musgreave-Spiby

CIRCUIT STEWARD REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs Sharon Clutterbuck (from 01/09/22)

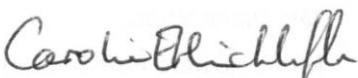
SOLIHULL METHODIST CHURCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION
For the year ended 31st August 2023

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church Council

Signature of Treasurer

	Date
Caroline Hinchliffe	04/03/24
445 Streetsbrook Road, Solihull, B91 1QZ	

Name and address of Treasurer

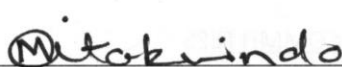
Presentation to the Church Council for approval.

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 Aug 2023 were, presented to the Church Council at its meeting on 5th February 2024 and were approved.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Date of meeting


Rev. Molly Chitokwindo
4th March 2024

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They 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.

Statement of Disclosure to the Independent Auditor

- a) So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information of which the independent examiner is unaware and:
- b) The trustees have taken all steps that ought to have been taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the independent auditor is aware of that information.

SOLIHULL METHODIST CHURCH
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION
For the year ended 31st August 2023

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF
SOLIHULL METHODIST CHURCH

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Solihull Methodist Church (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

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Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Wallace Crooke
Chartered Accountants &
Registered Auditors
20 Birmingham Road
Walsall
West Midlands
WS1 2LT

Date: 04/03/24

Wallace Crooke is eligible for appointment as auditor of the Trust by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006