

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1127749

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-01-28
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	221 Vicarage Hill Benfleet SS7 1PG
Phone	01268751393
Email	REEVES221@BTINTERNET.COM
Website	www.benfleethethodist.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 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;(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.

Activities: Our mission is to be a powerful spiritual force in the community and a visible expression of God's inclusive love.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Essex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£351,410	£125,291	-	-
2024-08-31	£123,386	£138,465	-	-
2023-08-31	£130,594	£118,278	-	-
2022-08-31	£141,584	£179,056	-	-
2021-08-31	£218,102	£207,788	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alan John Stokes		2017-06-01
Andrew Keyes		2017-06-01
CAROLINE HUGGETT B.ED. HONS		
DOREEN BARTLETT		
Daisy Humphreys		2017-06-01
Diane Norton		
Elixabeth Ann Keyes		2017-06-01
JANICE MARIE GRAY		
RICHARD JOHN REEVES		
ROBERT GRAY		
Rev Zena Smith		2022-09-01
Robin Macdonald		2025-09-01
Rosalind Klass		2022-08-31
SUSAN DOWNER		
Shelagh Stokes		2025-09-01
Stella Holden		2022-08-31
Stephen Decker		2025-09-01
Valerie Ryall		
Valerie Windsor		2022-09-01

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1127749

Accounts

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Registered Charity Number 1127749

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

**Church Office
Benfleet Methodist Church
67 High Road
Benfleet
Essex
SS7 5LH**

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

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BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Introduction

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the SORP applicable to charities. In order to have a better understanding of the nature and activities of the Church readers are advised read the Annual Review which covers all the activities in considerable detail..

Aims and organisation

Our Mission

Our mission is to be a powerful spiritual influence in the community and a visible expression of God's inclusive love.

OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

The past year has a busy one with the Church activities running at a pace. We have sadly lost some dear friends during the year with further details given later in this report. We miss them and remember them with affection and high regard.

We have five strands to our activities at the Church as follows:

Fellowship

Sunday Church services numbers have been holding up well especially taking into account the conflicting demands on everyone's time with families and other commitments. However, there is a good core of members and friends who come along each week.

The Bible Study group continues to meet, albeit small in number, and the monthly Light Worship service attracts a small but regular gathering, followed of course by the Light Lunch.

Pastoral visitors keep in touch with their allocated members either by visiting or telephoning or seeing them in Church, and they continue to bring any concerns to the attention of our Minister or the Stewards.

Worthy of note is the 8.30 am Communion Service held monthly – this service has increased its numbers in recent months which is encouraging. On a summer's morning when the sun shines and the world is peaceful it is a time for gentle meditation and partaking in Holy Communion.

Worship Academy

Benfleet hosts the monthly circuit Worship Academy. Ministers, local preachers, worship leaders are invited but anyone is welcome.

We have been meeting now for over twelve years. Each year we have a program and have had some very interesting speakers. Some speakers attend physically while some months we link up on zoom. We also have folk who cannot come to Benfleet but they have the opportunity to attend via zoom.

All the churches in the Circuit are very grateful to Benfleet for the use of the church and also to Doreen and Shelagh for their super meals.

Youth Work

Fusion and Fusion+

For children and young people has met for most of the year and still attracts high numbers. There is a detailed report on its activities later in the Review.

Uniformed Groups

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are all fully operational and there are full reports on each later in the Review.

Little Bunnies Playgroup

This new group continues to thrive. There is a further report later in the review.

Social care

Music Man Project

The music therapy group meets during term time and continues to provide remarkable support and development for the folk who come to this – their numbers seem to be growing as demand for this kind of help increases. There is a fuller report later in the review

OACS Counselling

This organisation goes back a long way in the life of the Church through the Benfleet Open Door Services, and it is very much an integral part of the Church mission and life. There is a more detailed report later in the review.

Headway Essex

Headway opened their Day Centre (Tuesday to Friday) a couple of years ago. This is a very valuable activity and there is a more detailed review from the Headway team in the Annual Review.

Hope Group

This group continues to flourish providing social and recreational activities for many who otherwise might be at home on their own. Further details later in the Review.

Sunday lunches

Providing food for the body and friendly company for those who live alone or simply want to share a meal with other people.

Whitechapel Mission

We still receive large quantities of clothing which is regularly taken up to the Whitechapel Mission.

Food bank

This activity has changed its style and further information is given later in the Review.

Recreational/sporting activities

Badminton – both the Church Club and the U3A Group continue – further reports later in the review.

Yard Arm Folk Orchestra – this group continues to flourish and provide musical entertainment during the Church Christmas Bazaar which is greatly appreciated and there is a report from them later in the review.

Wesley Art Group – the group is valued by those who attend but sadly the numbers are small. We encourage anyone to come along and see what goes on – see fuller report in the Review.

Wives Club, Women's Fellowship and Ladies Thursday Club – all three groups continue to provide social, spiritual and recreational activities for ladies. Fuller reports appear later in the review.

The Welcome Area

The first phase of our redevelopment completed in 2005 saw the creation of the Welcome Area – the Church's window to the world - and the chance for the world passing the Church to see life and activity taking place.

The area is used very extensively by a whole range of groups, as well as being open every day between 10.00 am and 12 noon for tea and coffee and most importantly the chance to meet someone and engage in conversation.

This is part of our Ministry of Hospitality and Welcoming and is at the heart of the fellowship with the worshipping community being at the heart of all we do.

Plans for 2025/26

2025 represents 148 years since the first Methodist Chapel was built in the Endway (now called School Lane) and we have a rich history of achievement. We need to plan for the next two years to take us up to 150 – a sesquicentennial – so there is a challenge to all members and friends to play their part in the maintenance and growth of Benfleet Methodist Church – the living heart-beat of South Benfleet.

Income trends

All groups using the premises have paid their dues. Fund raising continued on a regular basis.

During the year a legacy was received from the late Rev Dr Martine Stemerick in the sum of £245,000 which was designated at to £100,000 for the provision of food for the Ntunungwe School in Zimbabwe, £100,000 for the work of outreach at Benfleet Methodist Church and £45,000 for the general funds of Benfleet Methodist Church.

Expenditure trends

Expenditure on utilities was well controlled although costs have increased now that the current contracts have expired. The premises have been well maintained to a very high standard but with increased use brings increased wear and tear.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2025 the net current assets of the Church available for general purposes amounted to £97,781 since the greater part of the accumulated funds are invested in the premises. The Stemerick Restricted Legacy Funds at the year-end were £188,707.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Full name of charity	Benfleet Methodist Church
Registration Charity Number	1127749
Date of registration	28 January 2009
Main communication address	Benfleet Methodist Church 67 High Road Benfleet Essex SS7 5LH

The members of the Church Council are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of church office holders and representatives appointed by the church council and the annual church meeting. The full membership is shown in the Appendix A to this report (Page 21)

Church Ministers and officers

Minister	Rev Zena Smith
Church Stewards	Ms Rosalind Klass Mrs D Norton Mrs V Windsor Mr John Stokes Mr Rob Macdonald
Church Council Secretary	Mr Richard Reeves
Church Treasurer	Mrs Val Ryall
Chairman Property Committee	Mr Andy Keyes
Chairman Finance Committee	Mr Richard Reeves
Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Independent examiner	Mr G W Dorrington 43 St Marys Road Benfleet Essex SS7 1NN

Mr Richard Reeves FCA acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the church during the year.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Aims and organisation

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 organisation and resourcing public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Provision of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the Church is the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD)

Day to day management of the church is undertaken by the Church leadership team along with the Church Council and the Church Committees.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by the Methodist Connexion to support effective running of the circuit, especially the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all Church Council members as induction to their role as trustees.

Related parties

The Church is part of the Southend and Leigh Circuit which is a part of the Beds, Essex & Herts District. Internal organisations which are accountable to the Church Council are Wives Club, Women's Fellowship, Badminton Club, Wesley Art Group, Fusion Youth Group, Ladies Thursday Club, Little Bunnies Playgroup, OACS.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Property Committee with professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female 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
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosure and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust
- We will seek to offer 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

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Church is to hold a minimum of six months average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the premises and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the required income.

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements each financial year which 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 trustees have:

Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;

- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Followed applicable accounting standards;
- Prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The 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 the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

So far as each of the trustees is aware there is no relevant information that has not been disclosed to the independent examiner and each of the trustees believes that all steps have been taken that ought to have been taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent examiner have been made aware of that information.

Signed on behalf of the Church Leadership team

Rev Z Smith
Minister



Mr R Reeves
Church Council Secretary



Mrs V Ryall
Church Treasurer



Mrs Diane Norton
Church Steward



8 October 2025

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025

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Benfleet Methodist Church

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024-25 £
Income				
1 Offerings		27,646		27,646
2 Donations and legacy		45,000	200,000	245,000
3 Gift aid		7,198		7,198
4 Interest and investment income		1,953	363	2,316
5 Income from investment properties				0
6 Internal organisations			16,044	16,044
7 Other charitable income		53,206		53,206
8 Total income		135,003	216,407	351,410
Expenditure				
9 Circuit assessment or share		42,792		42,792
10 Grants and donations				0
11 Property maintenance		28,330		28,330
12 Insurance, utilities etc		16,887		16,887
13 Depreciation		2,581		2,581
14 Office expenses		894		894
15 Other expenditure		1,701	11,656	13,357
16 Internal organisations			20,450	20,450
17 Total charitable expenditure		93,185	32,106	125,291
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments				0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties				0
20 Net income/(expenditure)		41,818	184,301	226,119
21 Transfers between funds				0
22 Other gains/(losses)				0
23 Net movement in funds		41,818	184,301	226,119
24 Total funds brought forward		1,731,384	16,163	1,747,547
25 Total funds carried forward		1,773,202	200,464	1,973,666

Benfleet Methodist Church

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes to the ac- counts	General Fund (Unre- stricted) £	Re- stricted Funds £	2023-24 £
Income				
1 Offerings		27,371		27,371
2 Donations	13/1	9,555		9,555
3 Gift aid		7,252		7,252
4 Interest and investment income		2,997		2,997
5 Income from investment properties		-		0
6 Internal organisations			22,718	22,718
7 Other charitable income	13/2	53,493		53,493
8 Total income		100,668	22,718	123,386
Expenditure				
9 Circuit assessment or share		43,512		43,512
10 Grants and donations		-		0
11 Property maintenance		30,280		30,280
12 Insurance, utilities etc		14,484		14,484
13 Depreciation		2,726		2,726
14 Office expenses		1,249		1,249
15 Other expenditure	13/3	21,580		21,580
16 Internal organisations			24,634	24,634
17 Total charitable expenditure		113,831	24,634	138,465
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments				0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties				0
20 Net income/(expenditure)		-13,163	-1,916	-15,079
21 Transfers between funds				0
22 Other gains/(losses)				0
23 Net movement in funds		-13,163	-1,916	-15,079
24 Total funds brought forward		1,744,547	18,078	1,762,625
25 Total funds carried forward		1,731,384	16,163	1,747,547

Benfleet Methodist Church

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2025 £	Totals 2024 £
Fixed Assets					
Church building and other property		1,675,421		1,675,421	1,674,602
Investment properties				0	
Investments				0	
Total fixed assets		1,675,421	0	1,675,421	1,674,602
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments		6,902		6,902	5,460
Loans by the Churches				0	
Investments with TMCP		36,656	188,707	225,363	
Central Finance Board Deposits		54,502		54,502	55,268
Cash at Bank and in hand		2,785	11,757	14,542	19,793
Total current assets		100,845	200,464	301,309	80,521
Current liabilities					
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		3,064		3,064	7,676
Grants payable within 2025-26				0	
Total current liabilities		3,064	0	3,064	7,676
Net current assets/liabilities		97,781	200,464	298,245	72,845
Total assets less current liabilities		1,773,202	200,464	1,973,666	1,747,447
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)					
Grants payable after 2025-26				0	
Loans to the Church				0	
				0	
Net assets		1,773,202	200,464	1,973,666	1,747,447
Funds of the Church					
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,773,202		1,773,202	1,731,384
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				0	
Total Unrestricted Funds				1,773,202	1,731,384
Restricted Funds			200,464	200,464	16,163
Endowment Funds				0	
Total Funds		1,773,202	200,464	1,973,666	1,747,547

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025

1. Basis of accounting and accounting policies

i Accounting standard

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

ii Public benefit entity

Benfleet Methodist Church meets the 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.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments (including properties) are shown at their market value at the end of the year. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Church's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v FRS 102 SORP 2015

These accounts are compliant with FRS102 and with FRS102 SORP 2015. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable charity law in England, this being the Charities Act 2011 and SI 2008/629 (Charities accounting and Reporting Regulations) and, pending the making of replacement Regulations specific to SORP 2015 in accordance with Reg.8(4)(d) of SI 2008/629, the charity trustees have departed from the requirement of Reg.8(5) by following SORP (FRS 102) instead of SORP 2005 to the extent necessary to give a true and fair view in the circumstances.

vi Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2025, the trustees believe that the Church is a going concern.

vii Income recognition

Income is brought into account when there is entitlement and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming. Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. Further information on this matter is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report. If goods are donated, a value will be shown in the SOFA or Notes where the value is considered material.

vii Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

ix VAT

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

x Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at deemed historical cost representing each property's gross carrying value as at 1 September 2015, being that property's cost as far as the redevelopments are concerned and an internal valuation of the original premises remaining after the redevelopment plus any additions thereafter at cost.

No depreciation is provided because the trustees have maintained the buildings such that their values have been maintained.

The Church has made use of the deemed cost option on transitioning to FRS102 as outlined above.

xi Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash (Basic Financial Instruments)

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Church or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit fund balances are shown at their realisable values.

xii Funds

The trustees have adopted a policy for all unrestricted reserves which is attached as a separate document.

2. Payments to trustees

The Church policy is to reimburse members of the CLT and other trustees for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties, including where appropriate travelling expenses, or where they have been requested to undertake certain activities for the Church. The Minister and officers fulfil the primary executive roles within the Church. None of the trustees is an employee of the Church nor was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Church, other than reimbursement of appropriate expenses incurred on behalf of the Church. During the year the sum of £nil was reimbursed in this regard to trustees (2024 - £nil).

3. Premises

The freehold premises comprise the church and the ancillary halls and facilities. The equipment comprises furniture and fitting acquired at the time of the redevelopment plus addition at cost. Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis over five years commencing in the year after acquisition.

4. Debtors and Prepayments

All sums shown as Debtors at 1 September 2024 were received during the year 2024-25. All sums paid in advance at 1 September 2024 were for activities that have been held during 2024-5. It is expected that payments in advance at 31 August 2025 will be expensed during 2025-26

5. Central Finance Board (CFB) and Bank Balances

Monetary balances held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and at CAF Bank are all available on demand without loss of interest.

6. Creditors, Accruals and Income in Advance

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2025 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2026.

7. Funds

General Fund (unrestricted)

The purpose of this fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Church and which have not been designated for other purposes. Some 95% of this fund is held as a freehold property, being the church and ancillary premises

Restricted Funds

These represent funds of Church organisations who report to the Church Council together with other accumulated minor funds and the Legacy Funds.

8. Related Parties

Church trustees, being members of the Church, make regular freewill offerings to support the work and activities of the Church. These are made through regular standing orders, weekly envelopes or cash put into the collection plates. It is neither practical nor appropriate to attempt to segregate these amounts that are given voluntarily.

Related parties include the Methodist Conference, the BE&H District and Churches within the Circuit, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP.

9. Volunteer Contribution

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit and Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. In the Church the principal contribution is by serving on committees of the Church that deal with the mission, property, finance, policy, training and safeguarding. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment. No attempt has been made by this Church to value the non-monetary contributions to the Church in monetary terms.

10. Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year-end (2024 – nil)

11. Lease commitments

The Church has no lease commitments

12. Independent examiner

No fees are payable to the independent examiner.

13 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

	2025	2024	
13/1 Fund raising and legacies			
Fund raising	9,251	9,555	
Legacies	45,000	0	
	54,251	9,555	
13/2 Other charitable income			
Use of premises	43,955	43,393	
Other	0	0	
Grants	0	10,000	
	43,955	53,493	
13/3 Other expenditure			
Youth Work	0	19,820	
Website	448	427	
Sundry	816	917	
Performing rights licence	437	416	
	1,701	21,580	
13/4 Fixed assets	Church building	Equip-ment	Total
Cost or valuation			
Balance brought forward	1,667,550	78,289	1,745,839
Additions		3,300	3,300
Disposals	0	0	0
	1,667,550	81,589	1,749,139
Depreciation			
Balance brought forward	0	71,137	71,137
Released on disposal	0	0	0
Charge for year	0	2,581	2,581
	0	73,718	73,718
Net Book Value			
31 August 2025	1,667,550	7,871	1,675,421
31 August 2024	1,667,550	7,152	1,673,588
13/5 Debtors and prepayments			
Circuit assessment paid in advance	3,537	3,626	
Use of premises	520	986	
Other	1,082	435	
Prepayments	1,762	414	
	6,901	5,451	

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of Treasurer Mrs V Ryall



Date 8 October 2024

Name of Treasurer

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 8 October 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Rev Zena Smith
Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Zena Smith

Date 8 October 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Benfleet Methodist Church

Charity Number 1127749

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Benfleet Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages 11 to 17. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Benfleet Methodist Church

Independent Examiner's Statement

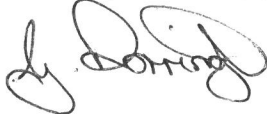
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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

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

Signature of independent examiner G W Dorrington



Name of independent examiner Mr G W Dorrington

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Address
43 St Marys Road
Benfleet
Essex
SS7 1NN

Date 8 October 2025

Church Council Membership

Rev Zena Smith (Chairman)
Mrs Doreen Bartlett
Mr Stephen Decker
Mrs Sue Downer
Mrs Janice Gray
Mr Rob Gray
Mrs Stella Holden
Mrs Daisy Humphreys
Mrs Caroline Huggett
Mr Andy Keyes
Mrs Ann Keyes
Mrs Rosalind Klaas
Mr Robin Macdonald
Mrs Diane Norton
Mr Michael Otchere
Mr Richard Reeves (Secretary)
Mrs Rosemarie Francis
Mrs Val Ryall
Mr John Stokes
Mrs Shelagh Stokes
Mrs Val Windsor

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1127749

Accounts

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH
Registered Charity Number 1127749

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Church Office
Benfleet Methodist Church
67 High Road
Benfleet
Essex
SS7 5LH

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

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BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Introduction

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the SORP applicable to charities. In order to have a better understanding of the nature and activities of the Church readers are advised read the Annual Review which covers all the activities in considerable detail..

Aims and organisation

Our Mission

Our mission is to be a powerful spiritual influence in the community and a visible expression of God's inclusive love.

OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

The past year has seen a period of consolidating activities that all got back up and running post Covid and this was their second year of being back to normal. Probably the most significant addition last year was the opening up of the Welcome Area in the winter months as a Warm Space and mini-foodbank. This was supported by Church members and outside friends and relatives and provided a much needed resource to many in the community. There is a detailed report in the Annual Review.

We have five strands to our activities at the Church as follows:

Fellowship

Sunday Church services numbers have been holding up well especially taking into account the conflicting demands on everyone's time with families and other commitments. However, there is a good hard core of members and friends who come along each week.

The Bible Study group continues to meet, albeit small in number, and the monthly Light Worship service attracts a small but regular gathering, followed of course by the Light Lunch.

Pastoral visitors keep in touch with their allocated members either by visiting or telephoning or seeing them in Church, and they continue to bring any concerns to the attention of our Minister or the Stewards. Worthy of note is the 8.30 am Communion Service held monthly – this service has increased its numbers in recent months which is encouraging

Especially on a summer's morning when the sun shines and the world is peaceful it is a beautiful time for gentle meditation and partaking in Holy Communion.

Messy Church

Starting again after the summer – further details are given in the Annual Review.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Worship Academy

Each month Benfleet hosts the circuit Worship Academy. Ministers, local preachers, worship leaders are invited to attend but anyone is welcome.

It has been meeting now for over ten years. Each year there is a program with some very interesting speakers. Some speakers attend physically while some months there is a link up on zoom, thus folk who cannot come to Benfleet they have the opportunity to attend via zoom.

All the churches in the Circuit are very grateful to Benfleet for the use of the church and also to Doreen and Shelagh for their super meals.

Youth Work

Fusion and Fusion+

For children and young people has met for most of the year and still attracts high numbers. There is a detailed report on its activities in the Annual Review.

Uniformed Groups

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are all back in operation and there are full reports given in the Annual Review.

Little Bunnies Playgroup

This new group which only started in early 2022 is already filled to capacity. Further details are given in the Annual Review.

Benfleet Youth Counselling

A new venture about to start under Janet's guidance – see more details in the Annual Review.

Social care

Music Man Project

The music therapy group – returned to regular meeting during term time and continue to provide remarkable support and development for the folk who come to this – their numbers seem to be growing as demand for this kind of help increases. Special mention must be made of the staff and helpers who support this work – they are just amazing.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

OACS Counselling

This organisation goes back a long way in the life of the Church through the Benfleet Open Door Services, and it is very much an integral part of the Church mission and life. There is a more detailed report given in the Annual Review

Headway Essex

Headway opened their Day Centre (Tuesday to Friday) and numbers have increased over the past year.

This is a very valuable activity and there is a more detailed review from the Headway team in the Annual Review.

Hope Group

This group continues to flourish providing social and recreational activities for many who otherwise might be at home on their own. Further details are given in the Annual Review

Sunday lunches

Providing food for the body and friendly company for those who live alone or simply want to share a meal with other people.

Whitechapel Mission

We still receive large quantities of clothing which is regularly taken up to the Whitechapel Mission.

Food bank and Warm Space

We are now operating the mini-food bank throughout the whole year on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and there is a strong demand from the local community. There is a fuller report on this activity later in the Annual Review.

Recreational and sporting activities

Badminton – both the Church Club and the U3A Group continue – further details are given in the Annual Review.

Yard Arm Folk Orchestra – this group continues to flourish and provide musical entertainment during the Church Christmas Bazaar which is greatly appreciated. There is a report from them in the Annual Review.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Wesley Art Group – the group is valued by those who attend but sadly the numbers are small. We encourage anyone to come along and see what goes on – see fuller report in the Annual Review.

Wives Club, Women's Fellowship and Ladies Thursday Club – all three groups continue to provide social, spiritual and recreational activities for ladies. Fuller reports appear later in the Annual Review.

The Welcome Area

The first phase of our redevelopment completed in 2005 saw the creation of the Welcome Area – the Church's window to the world - and the chance for the world passing the Church to see life and activity taking place.

The area is used very extensively by a whole range of groups, as well as being open every day between 10.00 am and 12 noon for tea and coffee and most importantly the chance to meet someone and engage in conversation.

This is part of our Ministry of Hospitality and Welcoming and is at the heart of the fellowship with the worshipping community being at the heart of all we do.

Plans for 2024/25

2024 represents 147 years since the first Methodist Chapel was built in the Endway (now called School Lane) and we have a rich history of achievement. We need to plan for the next three years to take us up to 150 – a sesquicentennial – so there is a challenge to all members and friends to play their part in the maintenance and growth of Benfleet Methodist Church – the living heart-beat of South Benfleet.

Income trends

All groups using the premises have paid their dues. Fund raising continued on a regular basis and grants were received from the District towards the Youth Work.

Expenditure trends

Expenditure on utilities was well controlled although costs will increase once the current contracts expire in 2025. The premises have been well maintained to a very high standard but with increased use brings increased wear and tear.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2024 the net current assets of the Church available for general purposes amounted to £56,683 since the greater part of the accumulated funds are invested in the premises. Cash at bank and on deposit at the end of the year amounted to £56,683, down from last year reflecting the deficit incurred in the year.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Full name of charity	Benfleet Methodist Church
Registration Charity Number	1127749
Date of registration	28 January 2009
Main communication address	Benfleet Methodist Church 67 High Road Benfleet Essex SS7 5LH

The members of the Church Council are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of church office holders and representatives appointed by the church council and the annual church meeting. The full membership is shown in the Appendix A to this report (Page 22)

Church Ministers and officers

Minister	Rev Zena Smith
Church Stewards	Ms Rosalind Klass Mrs D Norton Mrs V Windsor Mr John Stokes Mr Rob Macdonald
Church Council Secretary	Mr Richard Reeves
Church Treasurer	Mrs Val Ryall
Chairman Property Committee	Mr Andy Keyes
Chairman Finance Committee	Mr Richard Reeves
Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Independent examiner	Mr G W Dorrington 43 St Marys Road Benfleet Essex SS7 1NN

Mr Richard Reeves FCA acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the church during the year.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Aims and organisation

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 organisation and resourcing public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Provision of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the Church is the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD)

Day to day management of the church is undertaken by the Church leadership team along with the Church Council and the Church Committees.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by the Methodist Connexion to support effective running of the circuit, especially the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all Church Council members as induction to their role as trustees.

Related parties

The Church is part of the Southend and Leigh Circuit which is a part of the Beds, Essex & Herts District. Internal organisations which are accountable to the Church Council are Wives Club, Women's Fellowship, Badminton Club, Wesley Art Group, Fusion Youth Group, Ladies Thursday Club, Little Bunnies Playgroup, OACS.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Property Committee with professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female 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
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosure and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust
- We will seek to offer 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

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Church is to hold a minimum of six months average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the premises and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the required income.

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements each financial year which 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 trustees have:

Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;

- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Followed applicable accounting standards;
- Prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The 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 the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

So far as each of the trustees is aware there is no relevant information that has not been disclosed to the independent examiner and each of the trustees believes that all steps have been taken that ought to have been taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent examiner have been made aware of that information.

Signed on behalf of the Church Leadership team

Rev Z Smith
Minister

Mr R Reeves
Church Council Secretary

Mrs V Ryall
Church Treasurer

Mrs Diane Norton
Church Steward

9 October 2024

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024

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Benfleet Methodist Church

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes to the ac- counts	General Fund (Unre- stricted) £	Re- stricted Funds £	2023-24 £
Income				
1 Offerings		27,371		27,371
2 Donations	13/1	9,555		9,555
3 Gift aid		7,252		7,252
4 Interest and investment income		2,997		2,997
5 Income from investment properties		-		0
6 Internal organisations			22,718	22,718
7 Other charitable income	13/2	53,493		53,493
8 Total income		100,668	22,718	123,386
Expenditure				
9 Circuit assessment or share		43,512		43,512
10 Grants and donations		-		0
11 Property maintenance		30,280		30,280
12 Insurance, utilities etc		14,484		14,484
13 Depreciation		2,726		2,726
14 Office expenses		1,249		1,249
15 Other expenditure	13/3	21,580		21,580
16 Internal organisations			24,634	24,634
17 Total charitable expenditure		113,831	24,634	138,465
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments				0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties				0
20 Net income/(expenditure)		-13,163	-1,916	-15,079
21 Transfers between funds				0
22 Other gains/(losses)				0
23 Net movement in funds		-13,163	-1,916	-15,079
24 Total funds brought forward		1,744,547	18,078	1,762,625
25 Total funds carried forward		1,731,384	16,163	1,747,547

Benfleet Methodist Church

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

	Notes to the ac- counts	General Fund (Unre- stricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022-23 £
Income				
1 Offerings		27,480		27,480
2 Donations		9,573		9,573
3 Gift aid		7,806		7,806
4 Interest and investment income		2,584		2,584
5 Income from investment properties		-		0
6 Internal organisations		-	21,312	21,312
7 Other charitable income		61,839		61,839
8 Total income		109,282	21,312	130,594
Expenditure				
9 Circuit assessment or share		44,400		44,400
10 Grants and donations		-		0
11 Property maintenance		24,134		24,134
12 Insurance, utilities etc		14,475		14,475
13 Depreciation		3,036		3,036
14 Office expenses		2,468		2,468
15 Other expenditure		19,301		19,301
16 Internal organisations			10,914	10,914
17 Total charitable expenditure		107,814	10,914	118,728
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments				0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties				0
20 Net income/(expenditure)		1,468	10,398	11,866
21 Transfers between funds				0
22 Other gains/(losses)				0
23 Net movement in funds		1,468	10,398	11,886
24 Total funds brought forward		1,743,079	7,680	1,750,759
25 Total funds carried forward		1,744,547	18,078	1,762,625

Benfleet Methodist Church

**Church
No**

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Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unre- stricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2024 £	Totals 2023 £
Fixed Assets					
Church building and other property	13/4	1,674,702		1,674,702	1,673,588
Investment properties				0	
Investments				0	
Total fixed assets		1,674,702	0	1,674,702	1,673,588
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	13/5	5,460		5,460	6,662
Loans by the Churches					0
Investments with TMCP					0
Central Finance Board Deposits		55,268		55,268	68,799
Cash at Bank and in hand		3,630	16,163	19,793	17,990
Total current assets		64,358	16,163	80,521	93,451
Current liabilities					
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		7,676		7,676	4,414
Grants payable within 2022-23					0
Total current liabilities		7,676		7,676	4,414
Net current assets/liabilities		56,682	16,163	72,845	89,037
Total assets less current liabilities		1,731,384	16,163	1,747,547	1,762,625
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)					
Grants payable after 2022-23				0	
Loans to the Church				0	
				0	
Net assets		1,731,384	16,163	1,747,547	1,762,625
Funds of the Church					
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,731,384		1,731,384	1,744,547
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				0	0
Total Unrestricted Funds				1,747,384	1,744,547
Restricted Funds				16,163	18,078
Endowment Funds				0	0
Total Funds		1,731,384	16,163	1,747,547	1,762,625

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024

1. Basis of accounting and accounting policies

i Accounting standard

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

ii Public benefit entity

Benfleet Methodist Church meets the 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.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments (including properties) are shown at their market value at the end of the year. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Church's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v FRS 102 SORP 2015

These accounts are compliant with FRS102 and with FRS102 SORP 2015. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable charity law in England, this being the Charities Act 2011 and SI 2008/629 (Charities accounting and Reporting Regulations) and, pending the making of replacement Regulations specific to SORP 2015 in accordance with Reg.8(4)(d) of SI 2008/629, the charity trustees have departed from the requirement of Reg.8(5) by following SORP (FRS 102) instead of SORP 2005 to the extent necessary to give a true and fair view in the circumstances.

vi Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2024, the trustees believe that the Church is a going concern.

vii Income recognition

Income is brought into account when there is entitlement and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming. Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. Further information on this matter is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report. If goods are donated, a value will be shown in the SOFA or Notes where the value is considered material.

vii Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

ix VAT

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

x Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at deemed historical cost representing each property's gross carrying value as at 1 September 2015, being that property's cost as far as the redevelopments are concerned and an internal valuation of the original premises remaining after the redevelopment plus any additions thereafter at cost.

No depreciation is provided because the trustees have maintained the buildings such that their values have been maintained.

The Church has made use of the deemed cost option on transitioning to FRS102 as outlined above.

xi Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash (Basic Financial Instruments)

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Church or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit fund balances are shown at their realisable values.

xii Funds

The trustees have adopted a policy for all unrestricted reserves which is attached as a separate document.

2. Payments to trustees

The Church policy is to reimburse members of the CLT and other trustees for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties, including where appropriate travelling expenses, or where they have been requested to undertake certain activities for the Church. The Minister and officers fulfil the primary executive roles within the Church. None of the trustees is an employee of the Church nor was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Church, other than reimbursement of appropriate expenses incurred on behalf of the Church. During the year the sum of £nil was reimbursed in this regard to trustees (2023 - £nil).

3. Premises

The freehold premises comprise the church and the ancillary halls and facilities. The equipment comprises furniture and fitting acquired at the time of the redevelopment plus addition at cost. Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis over five years commencing in the year after acquisition.

4. Debtors and Prepayments

All sums shown as Debtors at 1 September 2023 were received during the year 2023-24. All sums paid in advance at 1 September 2023 were for activities that have been held during 2023-24. It is expected that payments in advance at 31 August 2024 will be expensed during 2024-25

5. Central Finance Board (CFB) and Bank Balances

Monetary balances held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and at CAF Bank are all available on demand without loss of interest.

6. Creditors, Accruals and Income in Advance

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2024 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2025.

7. Funds

General Fund (unrestricted)

The purpose of this fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Church and which have not been designated for other purposes. Some 95% of this fund is held as a freehold property, being the church and ancillary premises

Restricted Funds

These represent funds of Church organisations who report to the Church Council together with other accumulated minor funds.

8. Related Parties

Church trustees, being members of the Church, make regular freewill offerings to support the work and activities of the Church. These are made through regular standing orders, weekly envelopes or cash put into the collection plates. It is neither practical nor appropriate to attempt to segregate these amounts that are given voluntarily.

Related parties include the Methodist Conference, the BE&H District and Churches within the Circuit, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP.

9. Volunteer Contribution

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit and Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. In the Church the principal contribution is by serving on committees of the Church that deal with the mission, property, finance, policy, training and safeguarding. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment. No attempt has been made by this Church to value the non-monetary contributions to the Church in monetary terms.

10. Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year-end (2023 – nil)

11. Lease commitments

The Church has no lease commitments

12. Independent examiner

No fees are payable to the independent examiner.

13 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

	2024	2023	
13/1 Fund raising and donations			
Fund raising	9,555	9,573	
Donations	0	0	
	9,555	9,573	
13/2 Other charitable income			
Use of premises	43,493	42,839	
Other	0	0	
Grants	10,000	19,000	
	53,493	61,839	
13/3 Other expenditure			
Youth Work	19,820	18,826	
Website	427	427	
Sundry	917	200	
Performing rights licence	416	352	
	21,580	19,805	
13/4 Fixed assets	Church building	Equip-ment	Total
Cost or valuation			
Balance brought forward	1,667,550	74,449	1,741,999
Additions		3,840	3,840
Disposals	0	0	0
	1,667,550	78,289	1,745,839
Depreciation			
Balance brought forward	0	68,411	68,411
Released on disposal	0	0	0
Charge for year	0	2,726	2,726
	0	71,137	71,137
Net Book Value			
31 August 2024	1,667,550	7,152	1,674,702
31 August 2023	1,667,550	6,038	1,673,588
13/5 Debtors and prepayments	2024	2023	
Circuit assessment paid in advance	3,626	3,626	
Use of premises	986	1,007	
Other	435	72	
Prepayments	414	1,657	
	5,461	6,362	

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of Treasurer Mrs V Ryall

Date 9 October 2023

Name and address of Treasurer

Mrs V Ryall
14 Orchill Road
Hadleigh
Essex
SS7 2LS

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 9 October 2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Zena Smith
Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Zena Smith

Date 9 October 2024

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the
Benfleet Methodist Church
Charity Number 1127749**

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Benfleet Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 11 to 17. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Benfleet Methodist Church

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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

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

Signature of independent examiner G W Dorrington

Name of independent examiner Mr G W Dorrington

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Address
43 St Marys Road
Benfleet
Essex
SS7 1NN

Date 9 October 2024

Church Council Membership

Rev Zena Smith (Chairman)
Mrs Doreen Bartlett
Mrs Sue Downer
Mrs Janice Gray
Mr Rob Gray
Mrs Stella Holden
Mrs Daisy Humphreys
Mrs Caroline Huggett
Mr Andy Keyes
Mrs Ann Keyes
Mrs Rosalind Klaas
Mrs Diane Norton
Mr Michael Otchere
Mr Richard Reeves (Secretary)
Mrs Marilyn Robinson
Mrs Val Ryall
Mr John Stokes
Mrs Shelagh Stokes
Mrs Val Windsor

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1127749

Accounts

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH
Registered Charity Number 1127749

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Church Office
Benfleet Methodist Church
67 High Road
Benfleet
Essex
SS7 5LH

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

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BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Introduction

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the SORP applicable to charities. In order to have a better understanding of the nature and activities of the Church readers are advised to go to the web site r Annual Review.

Aims and organisation

Our Mission

Our mission is to be a powerful spiritual influence in the community and a visible expression of God's inclusive love.

OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR

The past year has seen a period of consolidating activities that all got back up and running post Covid and this was their second year of being back to normal. Probably the most significant addition last year was the opening up of the Welcome Area in the winter months as a Warm Space and mini-foodbank. This was supported by Church members and outside friends and relatives and provided a much needed resource to many in the community. There is a detailed report in the Annual Review.

We have five strands to our activities at the Church as follows:

Fellowship

Sunday Church services numbers have been holding up well especially taking into account the conflicting demands on everyone's time with families and other commitments. However, there is a good hard core of members and friends who come along each week.

The Bible Study group continues to meet, albeit small in number, and the monthly Light Worship service attracts a small but regular gathering, followed of course by the Light Lunch.

Pastoral visitors keep in touch with their allocated members either by visiting or telephoning or seeing them in Church, and they continue to bring any concerns to the attention of our Minister or the Stewards. Worthy of note is the 8.30 am Communion Service held monthly – this service has increased its numbers in recent months which is encouraging

Especially on a summer's morning when the sun shines and the world is peaceful it is a beautiful time for gentle meditation and partaking in Holy Communion.

Messy Church

Starting again after the summer – further details are given in the Annual Review.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Worship Academy

Each month Benfleet hosts the circuit Worship Academy. Ministers, local preachers, worship leaders are invited to attend but anyone is welcome.

It has been meeting now for over ten years. Each year there is a program with some very interesting speakers. Some speakers attend physically while some months there is a link up on zoom, thus folk who cannot come to Benfleet they have the opportunity to attend via zoom.

All the churches in the Circuit are very grateful to Benfleet for the use of the church and also to Doreen and Shelagh for their super meals.

Youth Work

Fusion and Fusion+

For children and young people has met for most of the year and still attracts high numbers. There is a detailed report on its activities in the Annual Review.

Uniformed Groups

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are all back in operation and there are full reports given in the Annual Review.

Little Bunnies Playgroup

This new group which only started in early 2022 is already filled to capacity. Further details are given in the Annual Review.

Benfleet Youth Counselling

A new venture about to start under Janet's guidance – see more details in the Annual Review.

Social care

Music Man Project

The music therapy group – returned to regular meeting during term time and continue to provide remarkable support and development for the folk who come to this – their numbers seem to be growing as demand for this kind of help increases. Special mention must be made of the staff and helpers who support this work – they are just amazing.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

OACS Counselling

This organisation goes back a long way in the life of the Church through the Benfleet Open Door Services, and it is very much an integral part of the Church mission and life. There is a more detailed report given in the Annual Review

Headway Essex

Headway opened their Day Centre (Tuesday to Friday) and numbers have increased over the past year.

This is a very valuable activity and there is a more detailed review from the Headway team in the Annual Review.

Hope Group (formerly the Monday Club)

This group continues to flourish providing social and recreational activities for many who otherwise might be at home on their own. Further details are given in the Annual Review

Sunday lunches

Providing food for the body and friendly company for those who live alone or simply want to share a meal with other people.

Whitechapel Mission

We still receive large quantities of clothing which is regularly taken up to the Whitechapel Mission.

Food bank and Warm Space

We are now operating the mini-food bank throughout the whole year on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and there is a strong demand from the local community. There is a fuller report on this activity later in the Annual Review.

Recreational and sporting activities

Badminton – both the Church Club and the U3A Group continue – further details are given in the Annual Review.

Yard Arm Folk Orchestra – this group continues to flourish and provide musical entertainment during the Church Christmas Bazaar which is greatly appreciated. There is a report from them in the Annual Review.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Wesley Art Group – the group is valued by those who attend but sadly the numbers are small. We encourage anyone to come along and see what goes on – see fuller report in the Annual Review.

Wives Club, Women's Fellowship and Ladies Thursday Club – all three groups continue to provide social, spiritual and recreational activities for ladies. Fuller reports appear later in the Annual Review.

The Welcome Area

The first phase of our redevelopment completed in 2005 saw the creation of the Welcome Area – the Church's window to the world - and the chance for the world passing the Church to see life and activity taking place.

The area is used very extensively by a whole range of groups, as well as being open every day between 10.00 am and 12 noon for tea and coffee and most importantly the chance to meet someone and engage in conversation.

This is part of our Ministry of Hospitality and Welcoming and is at the heart of the fellowship with the worshipping community being at the heart of all we do.

Plans for 2023/24

2023 represents 146 years since the first Methodist Chapel was built in the Endway (now called School Lane) and we have a rich history of achievement. We need to plan for the next four years to take us up to 150 – a sesquicentennial – so there is a challenge to all members and friends to play their part in the maintenance and growth of Benfleet Methodist Church – the living heart-beat of South Benfleet.

Income trends

All groups using the premises have paid their dues. Fund raising continued on a regular basis and grants were received from the District towards the Youth Work.

Expenditure trends

Expenditure on utilities was well controlled although costs will increase once the current contracts expire in 2025. The premises have been well maintained to a very high standard.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2023 the net current assets of the Church available for general purposes amounted to £70,959 since the greater part of the accumulated funds are invested in the premises. Cash at bank and on deposit at the end of the year amounted to £73,357, down from last year reflecting the repayment of the Circuit grant towards a Mission Enabler.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Full name of charity	Benfleet Methodist Church
Registration Charity Number	1127749
Date of registration	28 January 2009
Main communication address	Benfleet Methodist Church 67 High Road Benfleet Essex SS7 5LH

The members of the Church Council are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of church office holders and representatives appointed by the church council and the annual church meeting. The full membership is shown in the Appendix A to this report (Page 22)

Church Ministers and officers

Minister	Rev Zena Smith
Church Stewards	Mrs Daisy Humphreys Mr Michael Otchere Ms Rosalind Klass Mrs D Norton Mrs V Windsor
Church Council Secretary	Mr Richard Reeves
Church Treasurers	Mrs Val Ryall
Chairman Property Committee	Mr Andy Keyes
Chairman Finance Committee	Mr Richard Reeves
Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Independent examiner	Mr G W Dorrington 43 St Marys Road Benfleet Essex SS7 1NN

Mr Richard Reeves FCA acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the church during the year.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Aims and organisation

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 organisation and resourcing public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Provision of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the Church is the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD)

Day to day management of the church is undertaken by the Church leadership team along with the Church Council and the Church Committees.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by the Methodist Connexion to support effective running of the circuit, especially the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all Church Council members as induction to their role as trustees.

Related parties

The Church is part of the Southend and Leigh Circuit which is a part of the Beds, Essex & Herts District. Internal organisations which are accountable to the Church Council are Wives Club, Women's Fellowship, Badminton Club, Wesley Art Group, Fusion Youth Group, Ladies Thursday Club, Little Bunnies Playgroup, OACS.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Property Committee with professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female 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
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosure and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust
- We will seek to offer 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

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Church is to hold a minimum of six months average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the premises and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the required income.

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements each financial year which 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 trustees have:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Followed applicable accounting standards;
- Prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The 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 the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

So far as each of the trustees is aware there is no relevant information that has not been disclosed to the independent examiner and each of the trustees believes that all steps have been taken that ought to have been taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent examiner have been made aware of that information.

Signed on behalf of the Church Leadership team

Rev Z Smith
Minister

Mr R Reeves
Church Council Secretary

Mrs V Ryall
Church Treasurer

Mrs D Humphreys
Senior Church Steward

11 October 2023

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

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Benfleet Methodist Church

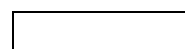
Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes to the ac- counts	General Fund (Unre- stricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022-23 £
Income				
1 Offerings		27,480		27,480
2 Donations		9,573		9,573
3 Gift aid		7,806		7,806
4 Interest and investment income		2,584		2,584
5 Income from investment properties		-		0
6 Internal organisations		-	21,312	21,312
7 Other charitable income		61,839		61,839
8 Total income		109,282	21,312	130,594
Expenditure				
9 Circuit assessment or share		44,400		44,400
10 Grants and donations		-		0
11 Property maintenance		24,134		24,134
12 Insurance, utilities etc		14,475		14,475
13 Depreciation		3,036		3,036
14 Office expenses		2,468		2,468
15 Other expenditure		19,301		19,301
16 Internal organisations			10,914	10,914
17 Total charitable expenditure		107,814	10,914	118,728
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments				0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties				0
20 Net income/(expenditure)		1,468	10,398	11,866
21 Transfers between funds				0
22 Other gains/(losses)				0
23 Net movement in funds		1,468	10,398	11,866
24 Total funds brought forward		1,743,079	7,680	1,750,759
25 Total funds carried forward		1,744,547	18,078	1,762,625

Benfleet Methodist

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2022

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021-22 £
Income				
1 Offerings		25,753		25,753
2 Donations	13/1	11,276		11,726
3 Gift aid		7,454		7,454
4 Interest and investment income		373		373
5 Income from investment properties		-		0
6 Internal organisations			18,282	18,282
7 Other charitable income	13/2	78,446		78,446
8 Total income		123,302	18,282	141,584
Expenditure				
9 Circuit assessment or share		37,428		37,428
10 Grants and donations		450		450
11 Property maintenance		30,853		30,853
12 Insurance, utilities etc		11,133		11,133
13 Depreciation		3,431		3,431
14 Office expenses		925		925
15 Other expenditure	13/3	20,761		20,731
16 Internal organisations			74,075	74,075
17 Total charitable expenditure		104,981	74,075	179,056
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments				0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties				0
20 Net income/(expenditure)		18,321	-55,793	-37,472
21 Transfers between funds				0
22 Other gains/(losses)				0
23 Net movement in funds		18,321	-55,793	-37,472
24 Total funds brought forward		1,724,758	63,473	1,788,231
25 Total funds carried forward		1,743,079	7,680	1,750,759



Benfleet Methodist Church

**Church
No**

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Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unre- stricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2023 £	Totals 2022 £
Fixed Assets					
Church building and other property	13/4	1,673,588		1,673,588	1,668,387
Investment properties				0	
Investments				0	
Total fixed assets		1,673,588	0	1,673,588	1,668,387
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	13/5	6,662		6,662	7,323
Loans by the Churches				0	0
Investments with TMCP				0	0
Central Finance Board Deposits		68,799		68,799	85,556
Cash at Bank and in hand		4,558	13,432	17,990	10,983
Total current assets		80,019	13,432	93,451	103,862
Current liabilities					
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		9,060	-4,646	4,414	21,490
Grants payable within 2022-23				0	
Total current liabilities		9,060	0	4,414	21,490
Net current assets/liabilities		70,959	18,078	89,037	82,372
Total assets less current liabilities		1,744,547	18,078	1,762,625	1,750,759
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)					
Grants payable after 2022-23				0	
Loans to the Church				0	
				0	
Net assets		1,744,547	18,078	1,752,227	1,750,759
Funds of the Church					
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,744,547		1,744,547	1,743,049
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				0	
Total Unrestricted Funds				1,744,547	1,743,049
Restricted Funds			18,078	18,078	7,680
Endowment Funds				0	
Total Funds		1,744,547	18,078	1,762,625	1,750,729

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023

1. Basis of accounting and accounting policies

i Accounting standard

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

ii Public benefit entity

Benfleet Methodist Church meets the 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.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments (including properties) are shown at their market value at the end of the year. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Church's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v FRS 102 SORP 2015

These accounts are compliant with FRS102 and with FRS102 SORP 2015. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable charity law in England, this being the Charities Act 2011 and SI 2008/629 (Charities accounting and Reporting Regulations) and, pending the making of replacement Regulations specific to SORP 2015 in accordance with Reg.8(4)(d) of SI 2008/629, the charity trustees have departed from the requirement of Reg.8(5) by following SORP (FRS 102) instead of SORP 2005 to the extent necessary to give a true and fair view in the circumstances.

vi Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2023, the trustees believe that the Church is a going concern.

vii Income recognition

Income is brought into account when there is entitlement and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming. Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. Further information on this matter is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report. If goods are donated, a value will be shown in the SOFA or Notes where the value is considered material.

vii Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

ix VAT

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

x Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at deemed historical cost representing each property's gross carrying value as at 1 September 2015, being that property's cost as far as the redevelopments are concerned and an internal valuation of the original premises remaining after the redevelopment plus any additions thereafter at cost.

No depreciation is provided because the trustees have maintained the buildings such that their values have been maintained.

The Church has made use of the deemed cost option on transitioning to FRS102 as outlined above.

xi Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash (Basic Financial Instruments)

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Church or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit fund balances are shown at their realisable values.

xii Funds

The trustees have adopted a policy for all unrestricted reserves which is attached as a separate document.

2. Payments to trustees

The Church policy is to reimburse members of the CLT and other trustees for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties, including where appropriate travelling expenses, or where they have been requested to undertake certain activities for the Church. The Minister and officers fulfil the primary executive roles within the Church. None of the trustees is an employee of the Church nor was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Church, other than reimbursement of appropriate expenses incurred on behalf of the Church. During the year the sum of £nil was reimbursed in this regard to trustees (2022 - £nil).

3. Premises

The freehold premises comprise the church and the ancillary halls and facilities. The equipment comprises furniture and fitting acquired at the time of the redevelopment plus addition at cost. Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis over five years commencing in the year after acquisition.

4. Debtors and Prepayments

All sums shown as Debtors at 1 September 2022 were received during the year 2022-23. All sums paid in advance at 1 September 2022 were for activities that have been held during 2022-23. It is expected that payments in advance at 31 August 2023 will be expensed during 2023-24

5. Central Finance Board (CFB) and Bank Balances

Monetary balances held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and at CAF Bank are all available on demand without loss of interest.

6. Creditors, Accruals and Income in Advance

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2023 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2024.

7. Funds

General Fund (unrestricted)

The purpose of this fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Church and which have not been designated for other purposes. Some 95% of this fund is held as a freehold property, being the church and ancillary premises

Restricted Funds

These represent funds of Church organisations who report to the Church Council together with other accumulated minor funds.

8. Related Parties

Church trustees, being members of the Church, make regular freewill offerings to support the work and activities of the Church. These are made through regular standing orders, weekly envelopes or cash put into the collection plates. It is neither practical nor appropriate to attempt to segregate these amounts that are given voluntarily.

Related parties include the Methodist Conference, the BE&H District and Churches within the Circuit, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP.

9. Volunteer Contribution

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit and Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. In the Church the principal contribution is by serving on committees of the Church that deal with the mission, property, finance, policy, training and safeguarding. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment. No attempt has been made by this Church to value the non-monetary contributions to the Church in monetary terms.

10. Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year-end (202 – nil)

11. Lease commitments

The Church has no lease commitments

12. Independent examiner

No fees are payable to the independent examiner.

13 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

	2023	2022	
13/1 Fund raising and donations			
Fund raising	9,573	10,074	
Donations	0	1,202	
	9,573	11,276	
13/2 Other charitable income			
Use of premises	42,839	43,411	
Other	0	18,135	
Grants	19,000	16,900	
	61,839	78,446	
13/3 Other expenditure			
Youth Work	18,826	19,540	
Website	427	339	
Sundry	200	433	
Performing rights licence	352	449	
	19,805	20,761	
13/4 Fixed assets	Church building	Equip-ment	Total
Cost or valuation			
Balance brought forward	1,661,778	71,983	1,733,761
Additions	5,772	2,466	5,772
Disposals	0	0	0
	1,667,550	74,449	1,741,999
Depreciation			
Balance brought forward	0	65,374	65,374
Released on disposal	0	0	0
Charge for year	0	3,037	3,037
	0	68,411	68,411
Net Book Value			
31 August 20223 2023	1,667,550	6,038	1,673,588
31 August 20212 2022	1,661,778	6,609	1,668,387
13/5 Debtors and prepayments	2023	2022	
Circuit assessment paid in advance	3,626	3,700	
Use of premises	1,007	1,340	
Other	72	273	
Prepayments	1,657	2,010	
	6,362	7,323	

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of Treasurer Mrs V Ryall

Date 11 October 2023

Name and address of Treasurer

Mrs V Ryall
14 Orchill Road
Hadleigh
Essex
SS7 2LS

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 11 October 2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Zena Smith
Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Zena Smith

Date 11 October 2023

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the
Benfleet Methodist Church
Charity Number 1127749**

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Benfleet Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 11 to 17. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Benfleet Methodist Church

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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

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

Signature of independent examiner G W Dorrington

Name of independent examiner Mr G W Dorrington

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Address
43 St Marys Rad
Benfleet
Essex
SS7 1NN

Date 11 October 2023

Church Council Membership

Rev Zena Smith (Chairman)
Mrs Doreen Bartlett
Mrs Sue Downer
Mrs Janice Gray
Mr Rob Gray
Mrs Stella Holden
Mrs Daisy Humphreys
Mrs Caroline Huggett
Mr Andy Keyes
Mrs Ann Keyes
Mrs Rosalind Klaas
Mrs Diane Norton
Mr Michael Otchere
Mr Richard Reeves (Secretary)
Mrs Marilyn Robinson
Mrs Val Ryall
Mr John Stokes
Mrs Shelagh Stokes
Mrs Val Windsor

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1127749

Accounts

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Registered Charity Number 1127749

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

**Church Office
Benfleet Methodist Church
67 High Road
Benfleet
Essex
SS7 5LH**

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

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BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Introduction

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the SORP applicable to charities. In order to have a better understanding of the nature and activities of the Church readers are advised to go to the web site.

Aims and organisation

Our Mission

Our mission is to be a powerful spiritual influence in the community and a visible expression of God's inclusive love.

Review of the year

2021/22 has been a near-normal year after several years affected by Covid, and most activities are back and functioning as they did previously. During the Covid period we did not lose any groups or activities on a permanent basis and it is good see everyone back in full swing.

I was glad when they said unto me 'Let us go unto the House of the Lord'.

The worshipping community at Benfleet Methodist Church has been at the very core of everything we have done, whether in the field of fund raising for the new buildings, social activity, outreach or the involvement of the local community sharing the facilities.

At the end of the summer term we saw the Wesley Preschool close its doors for the last time. Ofsted and the officialdom just beat down the teachers and staff, compounded by the extra load from Covid meant that it could not continue. However, it had a long life and was instrumental in the early development of hundreds of children as well as introducing many families to the Church.

But as one door closes so another opens and our friends at Headway, the Brain Injury Charity, were seeking to start up a day centre in the Benfleet area having had the use of the counselling suite as their local offices for some time, so they took over the space and now meet from Tuesday to Friday in Wesley Hall as well as continuing their office occupation upstairs.

Our Youth work stumbled during the year with a change of personnel but this has now been remedied and from the beginning of the 2022/23 year the activities are going ahead with vigour, commitment and enthusiasm.

Our finances remain very sound, the income from the use of the premises covering the costs of maintaining the property and the return to fund raising was evident. Sadly with the passing and removal of several members our Sunday offerings have fallen a little but we remain very grateful that the bulk of our income both from church members and the premises users are paid by standing orders each month.

With the coming our new minister, Rev Zena Smith, in September we have been blessed with someone who identifies with our activities and ways of doing things, but is also able to bring fresh initiatives and ideas which are very well received.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022 continued

Fellowship

Church services, healing services, bible study group have been in operation during the year plus Light Worship followed by a Light Lunch and other social/hospitality opportunities have resumed.

Youth work

Fusion and Fusion plus for children and young people continue to thrive with high attendances. The Fusion+ for the older children has restarted in September which is encouraging.

Little Bunnies – this group started only in September 2021 but is already at capacity

Uniformed groups – Rainbows, Brownies and Guides – these have restarted from September.

The Sunday School has restarted in September – “*from small beginnings*” – and we hope this will continue, alongside the start of Messy Church on a monthly basis.

Social care

Mencap's Music Man project - the music therapy group – continues to do remarkable work with music education service for children and adults with learning disabilities

OACS Counselling service – fully back to face-to-face counselling with four evening sessions each week.

Headway – the Brain Injury Charity – now have their South Essex Day Centre operational within the premises as well as their office use upstairs.

Hope Group – meeting on Mondays with activities for older people including those with early stages of dementia. This is a much needed facility to meet a real local need and the group provides a wonderful caring oversight on the many people who come along.

Sunday lunches – food for the body and company for those on their own – the only downside is the cost of food nowadays but the provision is meeting a need.

Whitechapel Mission – still receiving clothing that is taken up on a regular basis, very often monthly

Recreational and sporting activities

Badminton – Fully back in action with U3A Monday group and the Wednesday evening Church group.

Yard Arm Folk Orchestra – making music for their own and others entertainment

Wesley Art - activities continue for beginners and experienced artists

Wives Club, Women's Fellowship and Ladies Thursday Club – All three groups have been up and running once more.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022 continued

The Welcome Area

The Welcome Area has been open each morning between 10.00 am and 12 noon for tea and coffee and this has been of great benefit to many people – to be able to share some company or to catch up with friends.

The Ministry of Hospitality and Welcoming remains at the heart of the fellowship and the worshipping community is at the heart of all we do. With this in mind we have entered wholeheartedly in the Warm Space project by opening up the Welcome Area for three days each week inviting people to 'Come in out of the cold' and have a cup of tea or coffee, and have some lunch if they wish to. The current financial problems that many face are such that some will go hungry in our community so we are offering a hot lunch at no charge either to eat at the Church or take home to microwave there. We are also now operating a free mini-food bank with no referral requirement stocked most generously by local groups including the other churches and the schools in South Benfleet as well as many Church friends and families.

Plans for 2022/23

Our priority just now is to get the Warm Space project really established with the help of outside volunteers and thus far this has been encouraging.

Beyond that as a Church we will start to carry out our Mission Review to see where we are going and where we will be in the years ahead as we face the very common problem of an ageing congregation. However, our new Children and Families worker has already brought in families through the Little Bunnies, the Sunday School and the Messy Church so we now have a base from which we can grow.

The Church has been a real centre and hub for the whole community and very much used by people who meet on the premises either for worship or for social and recreational purposes. There are many people living locally who would claim that Benfleet Methodist Church was "their" church although they do not attend on a Sunday morning! Not yet – and that is the challenge we have taken up for young and old.

Income trends

All groups using the premises have paid their dues. The balance of the funds remaining in the Wesley Preschool were paid over to the Church in the sum of £18,135. There was a resurgence in fund raising which was encouraging, and grants were received towards the Youth work and Mission Enabler as agreed.

We are very fortunate that the bulk of our Sunday Offerings come by way of standing orders, but we lost a number of contributors during the year through death or removal, so Church offerings and Gift Aid were down by some £1,000.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022 continued

Expenditure trends

Expenditure on utilities was well controlled although gas costs will increase once the current contract expires, but the electricity still runs onto 2025. During the year there were significant upgrades to electrical installations, plus the resurfacing of the artificial grass in the garden.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2022 the net current assets of the Church available for general purposes amounted to £70,692 since the greater part of the accumulated funds are invested in the premises. Cash at bank and on deposit at the end of the year amounted to £92,339, up from last year at £60,728. However, this sum includes restricted funds and creditors of £28,970.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022 continued

Full name of charity	Benfleet Methodist Church
Registration Charity Number	1127749
Date of registration	28 January 2009
Main communication address	Benfleet Methodist Church 67 High Road Benfleet Essex SS7 5LH

The members of the Church Council are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of church office holders and representatives appointed by the church council and the annual church meeting. The full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report

Church Ministers and officers

Minister	Rev Zena Smith
Church Stewards	Mrs Daisy Humphreys Mr Michael Otchere Mrs Marie Howard Ms Rosalind Klass Mrs D Norton Mrs V Windsor
Church Council Secretary	Mr Richard Reeves
Church Treasurers	Mrs Val Ryall and Mrs Rosalind Klass
Chairman Property Committee	Mr Andy Keyes
Chairman Finance Committee	Mr Richard Reeves
Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Independent examiner	Mr G W Dorrington 43 St Marys Road Benfleet Essex SS7 1NN

Mr Richard Reeves FCA acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the church during the year.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022 continued

Aims and organisation

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 organisation and resourcing public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Provision of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD)

Day to day management of the church is undertaken by the Church leadership team along with the Church Council and the Church Committees.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by the Methodist Connexion to support effective running of the circuit, especially the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all Church Council members as induction to their role as trustees.

Related parties

The Church is part of the Southend and Leigh Circuit which is a part of the Beds, Essex & Herts District. Internal organisations which are accountable to the Church Council are Wives Club, Women's Fellowship, Badminton Club, Wesley Art Group, Fusion Youth Group, Ladies Thursday Club, Little Bunnies Playgroup

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Property Committee with professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022 continued

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female 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
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosure and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust
- We will seek to offer 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

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Church is to hold a minimum of six months average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the premises and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the required income.

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements each financial year which 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 trustees have:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Followed applicable accounting standards;
- Prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The 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 the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022 continued

So far as each of the trustees is aware there is no relevant information that has not been disclosed to the independent examiner and each of the trustees believes that all steps have been taken that ought to have been taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent examiner have been made aware of that information.

Signed on behalf of the Church Leadership team

Rev Z Smith
Minister

Mr R Reeves
Church Council Secretary

Mrs V Ryall
Joint Church Treasurer

Mrs D Humphreys
Senior Church Steward

30 October 2022

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022

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Benfleet Methodist

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2022

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021-22 £
Income				
1 Offerings		25,753		25,753
2 Donations	13/1	11,276		11,726
3 Gift aid		7,454		7,454
4 Interest and investment income		373		373
5 Income from investment properties		-		0
6 Internal organisations			18,282	18,282
7 Other charitable income	13/2	78,446		78,446
8 Total income		123,302	18,282	141,584
Expenditure				
9 Circuit assessment or share		37,428		37,428
10 Grants and donations		450		450
11 Property maintenance		30,853		30,853
12 Insurance, utilities etc		11,133		11,133
13 Depreciation		3,431		3,431
14 Office expenses		925		925
15 Other expenditure	13/3	20,761		20,731
16 Internal organisations			74,075	74,075
17 Total charitable expenditure		104,981	74,075	179,056
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments				0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties				0
20 Net income/(expenditure)		18,321	-55,793	-37,472
21 Transfers between funds				0
22 Other gains/(losses)				0
23 Net movement in funds		18,321	-55,793	-37,472
24 Total funds brought forward		1,724,758	63,473	1,788,231
25 Total funds carried forward		1,743,079	7,680	1,750,759

Benfleet Methodist

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020-21 £
Income				
1 Offerings		26,797		26,797
2 Donations	13/1	3,404		744
3 Gift aid		7,530		7,530
4 Interest and investment income		64		64
5 Income from investment properties		-		0
6 Internal organisations			124,843	124,843
7 Other charitable income	13/2	55,464		58,124
8 Total income		93,259	124,843	218,102
Expenditure				
9 Circuit assessment or share		38,993		38,993
10 Grants and donations		1,770		1,770
11 Property maintenance		16,192		16,192
12 Insurance, utilities etc		11,777		11,777
13 Depreciation		2,103		2,103
14 Office expenses		541		541
15 Other expenditure	13/3	20,100		20,100
16 Internal organisations			116,312	116,312
17 Total charitable expenditure		91,476	116,312	207,788
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments				0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties				0
20 Net income/(expenditure)		1,783	8,531	10,314
21 Transfers between funds				0
22 Other gains/(losses)				0
23 Net movement in funds		1,783	8,531	10,314
24 Total funds brought forward		1,722,975	54,942	1,777,917
25 Total funds carried forward		1,724,758	63,473	1,788,231

Benfleet Methodist Church

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2022

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unre- stricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2022 £	Totals 2021 £
Fixed Assets					
Church building and other property	13/4	1,668,387		1,668,387	1,671,818
Investment properties				0	
Investments				0	
Total fixed assets		1,668,387	0	1,668,387	1,671,818
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	13/5	7,323		7,323	7,774
Loans by the Churches				0	
Investments with TMCP				0	
Central Finance Board Deposits		85,556		85,556	48,193
Cash at Bank and in hand		6,783	4,200	10,983	76,008
Total current assets		99,662	4,200	103,862	131,975
Current liabilities					
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		24,970	-3,480	21,490	2,040
Grants payable within 2020-21				0	
Total current liabilities		24,970	-3,480	21,490	2,040
Net current assets/liabilities		74,692	7,680	82,372	62,536
Total assets less current liabilities		1,743,079	7,680	1,750,759	1,788,231
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)					
Grants payable after 2020-21				0	
Loans to the Church				0	
				0	
Net assets		1,743,079	7,680	1,750,759	1,788,231
Funds of the Church					
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,743,079		1,743,079	1,724,758
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				0	
Total Unrestricted Funds				1,743,079	1,724,758
Restricted Funds			7,680	7,680	63,473
Endowment Funds				0	
Total Funds		1,743,079	7,680	1,750,759	1,788,231

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022

1. Basis of accounting and accounting policies

i Accounting standard

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

ii Public benefit entity

Benfleet Methodist Church meets the 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.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments (including properties) are shown at their market value at the end of the year. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Church's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v FRS 102 SORP 2015

These accounts are compliant with FRS102 and with FRS102 SORP 2015. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable charity law in England, this being the Charities Act 2011 and SI 2008/629 *Charities accounting and Reporting Regulations) and, pending the making of replacement Regulations specific to SORP 2015 in accordance with Reg.8(4)(d) of SI 2008/629, the charity trustees have departed from the requirement of Reg.8(5) by following SORP (FRS 102) instead of SORP 2005 to the extent necessary to give a true and fair view in the circumstances.

vi Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2022, the trustees believe that the Church is a going concern.

vii Income recognition

Income is brought into account when there is entitlement and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming. Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. Further information on this matter is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report. If goods are donated, a value will be shown in the SOFA or Notes where the value is considered material.

vii Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

ix VAT

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

x Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at deemed historical cost representing each property's gross carrying value as at 1 September 2015, being that property's cost as far as the redevelopments are concerned and an internal valuation of the original premises remaining after the redevelopment plus any additions thereafter at cost.

No depreciation is provided because the trustees have maintained the buildings such that their values have been maintained.

The Church has made use of the deemed cost option on transitioning to FRS102 as outlined above.

xi Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash (Basic Financial Instruments)

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Church or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit fund balances are shown at their realisable values.

xii Funds

The trustees have adopted a policy for all unrestricted reserves which is attached as a separate document.

2. Payments to trustees

The Church policy is to reimburse members of the CLT and other trustees for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties, including where appropriate travelling expenses, or where they have been requested to undertake certain activities for the Church. The Minister and officers fulfil the primary executive roles within the Church. None of the trustees is an employee of the Church nor was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Church, other than reimbursement of appropriate expenses incurred on behalf of the Church. During the year the sum of £nil was reimbursed in this regard to trustees (2020 - £nil).

3. Premises

The freehold premises comprise the church and the ancillary halls and facilities. The equipment comprises furniture and fitting acquired at the time of the redevelopment plus addition at cost. Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis over five years commencing in the year after acquisition.

4. Debtors and Prepayments

All sums shown as Debtors at 1 September 2021 were received during the year 2021-22. All sums paid in advance at 1 September 2021 were for activities that have been held during 2021-22. It is expected that payments in advance at 31 August 2022 will be expensed during 2022-23

5. Central Finance Board (CFB) and Bank Balances

Monetary balances held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and at CAF Bank are all available on demand without loss of interest.

6. Creditors, Accruals and Income in Advance

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2022 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2023.

7. Funds

General Fund (unrestricted)

The purpose of this fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Church and which have not been designated for other purposes. Some 95% of this fund is held as a freehold property, being the church and ancillary premises

Restricted Funds

These represent funds of Church organisations who report to the Church Council together with other accumulated minor funds plus a specific grant as yet unspent.

8. Related Parties

Church trustees, being members of the Church, make regular freewill offerings to support the work and activities of the Church. These are made through regular standing orders, weekly envelopes or cash put into the collection plates. It is neither practical nor appropriate to attempt to segregate these amounts that are given voluntarily.

Related parties include the Methodist Conference, the BE&H District and Churches within the Circuit, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP.

9. Volunteer Contribution

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit and Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. In the Church the principal contribution is by serving on committees of the Church that deal with the mission, property, finance, policy, training and safeguarding. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment. No attempt has been made by this Church to value the non-monetary contributions to the Church in monetary terms.

10. Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year-end (2021 – nil)

11. Lease commitments

The Church has no lease commitments

12. Independent examiner

No fees payable to the independent examiner.

13. Financial analysis

	2022	2021
13/1 Fund raising and donations		
Fund raising	10,074	2,660
Donations	1,202	744
	11,276	3,404
13/2 Other charitable income		
Use of premises	43,411	29,601
Other	18,135	0
Grants	16,900	0

		78,446	29,601	
13/3	Other expenditure			
	Youth Work	19,540	18,450	
	Website	339	343	
	Sundry	433	703	
	Performing rights licence	449	560	
		20,761	20,056	
13/4	Fixed assets	Church building	Equip -ment	Total
	Cost or valuation			
	Balance brought forward	1,661,778	71,983	1,733,761
	Additions	0	0	0
	Disposals	0	0	0
		1,661,778	71,983	1,733,761
	Depreciation			
	Balance brought forward	0	61,943	61,943
	Released on disposal	0	0	0
	Charge for year	0	3,431	3,431
		0	65,374	65,374
	Net Book Value			
	31 August 2022	1,661,778	6,609	1,668,387
	31 August 2021	1,661,778	10,040	1,671,818
13/5	Debtors and prepayments	2022	2021	
	Circuit assessment paid in advance	3,700	3,119	
	Use of premises	1,340	1,997	
	Other	273	1,489	
	Prepayments	2,010	1,169	
		7,323	7,774	

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of joint treasurer V E Ryall

Date 30 October 2022

Name and address of joint treasurer

Mrs V Ryall
14 Orchill Road
Hadleigh
Essex
SS7 2LS

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 12 October 2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Zena Smith
Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Zena Smith

Date 30 October 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Benfleet Methodist Church

Charity Number 1127749

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Benfleet Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages 11 to 17. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Benfleet Methodist Church

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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

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

Signature of independent examiner G W Dorrington

Name of independent examiner Mr G W Dorrington

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Address
43 St Marys Rad
Benfleet
Essex
SS7 1NN

Date 30 October 2022

Church Council Membership

Rev Zena Smith (Chairman)
Mrs Doreen Bartlett
Mr John Downer
Mrs Sue Downer
Mrs Janice Gray
Mr Rob Gray
Mrs Stella Holden
Mrs Marie Howard
Mrs Daisy Humphreys
Mrs Caroline Huggett
Mr Andy Keyes
Mrs Ann Keyes
Mrs Rosalind Klaas
Mr Vernon Murray
Mrs Diane Norton
Mr Michael Otchere
Mr Richard Reeves (Secretary)
Mrs Marilyn Robinson
Mrs Val Ryall
Mr John Spain
Mr John Stokes
Mrs Shelagh Stokes
Mrs Val Windsor

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1127749

Accounts

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Registered Charity Number 1127749

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

**Church Office
Benfleet Methodist Church
67 High Road
Benfleet
Essex
SS7 5LH**

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

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BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Introduction

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the SORP applicable to charities. In order to have a better understanding of the nature and activities of the Circuit and the constituent churches readers are advised to go to the appropriate web sites.

Aims and organisation

Our Mission

Our mission is to be a powerful spiritual influence in the community and a visible expression of God's inclusive love.

Review of the year

The year under review has been completely overtaken by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst activities were all underway in the autumn of 2019, very soon into 2020 the impact of the lockdown in February hit everyone, and the Church was closed for everything, including worship. The lockdown lasted for much of 2020 with only a temporary respite in June which then ended in December.

During that period the Pastoral Visitors kept in contact with their classes and generally there was a great deal of 'telephone visiting' and keeping in touch. Zoom Church services were started led by our own minister, Rev Chris Sandy, which were shared with Thundersley and Trinity Methodist Churches which were greatly welcomed as a means of keeping corporate worship going, as well as regular 'coffee mornings' on Zoom that allowed members to chat and have quizzes and generally socialise.

The premises were closed and the property stewards effectively locked it down whilst maintaining essential services. As soon as it was possible Preschool re-started, albeit with very few children and only after the building had been declared Covid-19 compliant and with safeguards in place for the children and their leaders.

I was glad when they said unto me 'Let us go unto the House of the Lord'.

The worshipping community at Benfleet Methodist Church has been at the very core of everything we have done, whether in the field of fund raising for the new buildings, social activity, outreach or the involvement of the local community sharing the facilities. As soon as it was allowed Church services recommenced in May 2021, socially distanced which was very strange, but attendances have usually been around forty and on occasions topped that.

To achieve the return to some semblance of normality has entailed a lot of practical work to ensure we complied with government and Methodist regulations for the premises, and grateful thanks go to the Church Stewards and the Property Stewards for this, and also to many members and friends who helped when asked, and followed the rules without grumbling.

When it became possible we saw the resumption of Tuesday Coffee mornings and in May 2021 we resumed coffee morning every day including Saturdays – all Covid-19 compliant. Numbers were not as great but for those who came, it was very welcome. These continue and other activities are being re-introduced as soon as it is permitted and aim to start in the autumn.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021 continued

It must be said that there is a high degree of resilience at Benfleet Methodist Church and its members remain in good heart looking forward to resuming our plans, and not looking at the missed opportunities. The Lord loves a 'cheerful giver' and members and friends have remained cheerful, mainly through the fact that a very high proportion of our Sunday offerings are paid through standing orders, and those which are not when we re-opened there were some sizeable cheques for the missed weeks.

When the first lockdown was announced it was agreed that the users of our premises, themselves all charities, should cease paying their assessments until such time as they recommenced activities. This meant a shortfall in income of some £15,000, which together with a shortfall in fund raising of another £3,000 and slightly lower offerings meant we incurred a deficit for the year of £12,000 in 2019/20. However, we have fared better in 2020/21 with the receipt of some government grants and other one-off benefits and actually achieved a surplus for the year of nearly £2,000.

At this point in our report we would normally comment on the work of the various groups: in the strange circumstances in which we find ourselves, that is not really possible in the same way, but lest we forget them they are listed below:

Fellowship

Church services, healing services, bible study group – Sunday worship and communion have restarted and also the monthly Light Worship followed by a Light Lunch and hopefully other social/hospitality opportunities have resumed.

Youth work

Fusion and Fusion plus for children and young people re-started in October under a slightly different guise – Fusion Film Nights – with sessions in school years and limited numbers.

Wesley Preschool – a real credit to the team – they did a remarkable job during Covid. Sadly they were forced to close permanently at the end of the summer term, very largely because Ofsted do not really like Church groups, especially those who have to set up and put away every day.

Uniformed groups – Rainbows, Brownies and Guides – most have restarted from September.

In October Adanna Johnson joined us as a part-time Children and Families Worker and has started a *Sunday school*. Our aim is for her to work with the Fusion children and the local schools to draw the children in for fun, friendship and faith and through the children to reach out to the parents, so that families will once again be making up our church community.

Social care

Mencap's Music Man project - the music therapy group – restarted at the earliest opportunity and continue to do remarkable work with the handicapped young people.

OACS Counselling service – operating a telephone service since March but planning to return November as counsellors and their clients feel comfortable in a Covid scenario.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021 continued

Headway – the Brain Injury Charity - returned from 'home working' to the premises as their local office from September 2020.

Hope Group (formerly the Monday Lunch Club – forced to close – but re-opening shortly with increased facilities for older people including those with early stages of dementia. This is a much needed facility to meet a real local need

Sunday lunches – food for the body and company for those on their own – restarted in May 2021

Whitechapel Mission – still receiving clothing that is taken up on a regular basis

Recreational and sporting activities

Badminton – greatly missed by the players – restarted late summer 2021

Yard Arm Folk Orchestra – have restarted (but were very generous financially during the shut-down)

Wesley Art - have restarted in the autumn

Wives Club, Women's Fellowship and Ladies Thursday Club – All three groups are now back and functioning as far as possible

The Welcome Area

Like the London theatres, the Welcome Area has been dark and we have not been able to operate our Ministry of Hospitality, not even being able to have a cup of coffee after Church at the moment. The daily coffee mornings have now restarted and are increasing in numbers.

The Ministry of Hospitality and Welcoming remains at the heart of the fellowship and the worshipping community is at the heart of all we do.

Plans for 2021/22

As a Church it is acknowledged that we are an ageing congregation albeit still very busy and active, and we do not have within the fellowship enough people to lead and arrange activities that we would wish to see happen. Accordingly we must bring in the skills and expertise that we lack and meet the financial costs of so doing.

The Church has been a real centre and hub for the whole community and very much used by people who meet on the premises either for worship or for social and recreational purposes. There are many people living locally who would claim that Benfleet Methodist Church was "their" church although they do not attend on a Sunday morning! Not yet – and that is the challenge we have taken up for young and old.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021 continued

The Covid pandemic has brought great upheaval to our Church life. We have seen over the past two years the deaths of eighteen members and friends – not all through Covid – and they were noted and remembered in the Annual Review. However, a forced change to what we do and how we do it is not necessarily a bad thing as it gives the opportunity for fresh thinking, new ideas and renewed vision and energy to get on with our mission. It is a challenge but one that Benfleet Methodist Church can and will rise to as we have done in the past.

Income trends

At the start of the lock-down it was decided that we would cease charging all of our users of the premises since they could not meet. They are all charities themselves, and their sources of voluntary income very largely had dried up. As and when they came back, then the charges were reinstated. However, for the year ended 31 August there was a small increase over 2020.

We are very fortunate that the bulk of our Sunday Offerings come by way of standing orders, so these continued although services were suspended. We are very grateful to all those who give in this way. Once we were able to resume services we found that many of the regular envelope contributors and other regular church attenders put a cheque in to cover the period they had missed. Again, we are most grateful to them. During the period up to the end of August we were only £3,000 short on this source of income.

Our other big source of income is from the fund raising and social events we have and, of course, these just stopped in March. We were around £5,000 short on this source of income in the period.

Expenditure trends

On the expenditure side, obviously costs related to heating, lighting, cleaning and water were all dramatically reduced although some emergency features still use energy so we saw some useful savings. Other maintenance costs continue, including the periodic floor cleaning by professional contractors which is a costly business but necessary to maintain the premises.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2021 the net current assets of the Church available for general purposes amounted to £68,502 since the greater part of the accumulated funds are invested in the premises. Cash at bank and on deposit at the end of the year amounted to £60,728, up from last year at £51,234. However, this sum includes restricted funds of £8,250.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021 continued

Full name of charity	Benfleet Methodist Church
Registration Charity Number	1127749
Date of registration	28 January 2009
Main communication address	Benfleet Methodist Church 67 High Road Benfleet Essex SS7 5LH

The members of the Church Council are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of church office holders and representatives appointed by the church council and the annual church meeting. The full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report

Church Ministers and officers

Minister	Rev Zena Smith (from 1 September 2021)
Church Stewards	Mr Vernon Murray Mr John Stokes Mrs Daisy Humphreys Mr Michael Otchere Mr Peter Wicken Mrs Marie Howard Ms Rosalind Klass Ms Kike Fadiya
Church Council Secretary	Mr Richard Reeves
Church Treasurers	Mrs Val Ryall and Mrs Rosalind Klass
Chairman Property Committee	Mr Andy Keyes
Chairman Finance Committee	Mr Richard Reeves
Investment Bankers	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Independent examiner	Mr G W Dorrington 43 St Marys Road Benfleet Essex SS7 1NN

Mr Richard Reeves FCA acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the church during the year.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021 continued

Aims and organisation

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 organisation and resourcing public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.

The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.

The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.

Taking religious assemblies in local schools.

Provision of Christianity through the staging of events and services.

Provision of chaplaincy services to the local university and other institutions.

Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the circuit is the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD)

Day to day management of the church is undertaken by the Church leadership team along with the Church Council and the Church Committees.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by the Methodist Connexion to support effective running of the circuit, especially the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all Church Council members as induction to their role as trustees.

Related parties

The Church is part of the Southend and Leigh Circuit which is a part of the Beds, Essex & Herts District. Internal organisations which are accountable to the Church Council are Wives Club, Women's Fellowship, Badminton Club, Wesley Art Group, Fusion Youth Group, Ladies Thursday Club, Wesley Preschool

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Property Committee with professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

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

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021 continued

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female 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
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosure and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust
- We will seek to offer 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

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Church is to hold a minimum of five months average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the premises and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the required income.

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are required to prepare financial statements each financial year which 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 trustees have:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Followed applicable accounting standards;
- Prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis.

The 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 the financial statements comply with the law. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021 continued

So far as each of the trustees is aware there is no relevant information that has not been disclosed to the independent examiner and each of the trustees believes that all steps have been taken that ought to have been taken to make them aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the independent examiner have been made aware of that information.

Signed on behalf of the Church Leadership team

Rev Z Smith
Minister

Mr R Reeves
Church Council Secretary

Mrs V Ryall
Joint Church Treasurer

Mr J Stokes
Senior Church Steward

19 January 2022

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021

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Benfleet Methodist

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020-21 £
Income				
1 Offerings		26,797		26,797
2 Donations	13/1	3,404		744
3 Gift aid		7,530		7,530
4 Interest and investment income		64		64
5 Income from investment properties		-		0
6 Internal organisations			124,843	124,843
7 Other charitable income	13/2	55,464		58,124
8 Total income		93,259	124,843	218,102
Expenditure				
9 Circuit assessment or share		38,993		38,993
10 Grants and donations		1,770		1,770
11 Property maintenance		16,192		16,192
12 Insurance, utilities etc		11,777		11,777
13 Depreciation		2,103		2,103
14 Office expenses		541		541
15 Other expenditure	13/3	20,100		20,100
16 Internal organisations			116,312	116,312
17 Total charitable expenditure		91,476	116,312	207,788
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments				0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties				0
20 Net income/(expenditure)		1,783	8,531	10,314
21 Transfers between funds				0
22 Other gains/(losses)				0
23 Net movement in funds		1,783	8,531	10,314
24 Total funds brought forward		1,722,975	54,942	1,777,917
25 Total funds carried forward		1,724,758	63,473	1,788,231

Benfleet Methodist Church

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2020

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2019-20 £
Income				
1 Offerings		30,480		30,480
2 Donations		7,424		7,424
3 Gift aid		8,919		8,919
4 Interest and investment income		402		402
5 Income from investment properties		-		0
6 Internal organisations		-	120,962	120,962
7 Other charitable income	13/2	29,601		29,601
8 Total income		76,826	120,962	197,788
Expenditure				
9 Circuit assessment or share		43,066		43,066
10 Grants and donations		475		475
11 Property maintenance		26,265		26,265
12 Insurance, utilities etc		10,152		10,152
13 Depreciation		2,546		2,546
14 Office expenses		735		735
15 Other expenditure	13/3	5,814		5,814
16 Internal organisations			112,577	112,577
17 Total charitable expenditure		89,053	112,577	201,630
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments				0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties				0
20 Net income/(expenditure)		-12,227	8,385	-3,842
21 Transfers between funds				0
22 Other gains/(losses)				0
23 Net movement in funds		-12,227	8,385	-3,842
24 Total funds brought forward		1,735,202	46,557	1,781,759
25 Total funds carried forward		1,722,975	54,942	1,777,917

Benfleet Methodist Church

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unre- stricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Totals 2021 £	Totals 2020 £
Fixed Assets					
Church building and other property	13/4	1,671,818		1,671,818	1,668,599
Investment properties				0	
Investments				0	
Total fixed assets		1,671,818	0	1,671,818	1,668,599
Current Assets					
Debtors and prepayments	13/5	7,774		7,774	13,342
Loans by the Churches				0	
Investments with TMCP				0	
Central Finance Board Deposits		39,943	8,250	48,193	41,100
Cash at Bank and in hand		12,535	63,473	76,008	10,134
Total current assets		60,252	71,723	131,975	64,576
Current liabilities					
Creditors (due in under 1 year)		7,312	8,250	15,562	2,040
Grants payable within 2020-21				0	
Total current liabilities		7,312	8,250	15,562	2,040
Net current assets/liabilities		52,940	63,473	116,413	62,536
Total assets less current liabilities		1,724,758	63,473	1,788,231	1,731,135
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)					
Grants payable after 2020-21				0	
Loans to the Church				0	
				0	
Net assets		1,724,758	63,473	1,788,231	1,731,135
Funds of the Church					
General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,724,758		1,724,758	1,731,225
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)				0	
Total Unrestricted Funds				1,724,758	1,731,225
Restricted Funds			63,473	63,473	
Endowment Funds				0	
Total Funds		1,724,758	63,473	1,788,231	1,731,225

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021

1. Basis of accounting and accounting policies

i Accounting standard

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

ii Public benefit entity

Benfleet Methodist Church meets the 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.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments (including properties) are shown at their market value at the end of the year. The accruals basis has been used and trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Church's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v FRS 102 SORP 2015

These accounts are compliant with FRS102 and with FRS102 SORP 2015. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable charity law in England, this being the Charities Act 2011 and SI 2008/629 *Charities accounting and Reporting Regulations) and, pending the making of replacement Regulations specific to SORP 2015 in accordance with Reg.8(4)(d) of SI 2008/629, the charity trustees have departed from the requirement of Reg.8(5) by following SORP (FRS 102) instead of SORP 2005 to the extent necessary to give a true and fair view in the circumstances.

vi Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2021, the trustees believe that the Church is a going concern.

vii Income recognition

Income is brought into account when there is entitlement and the amount is reliably measurable once it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming. Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. Further information on this matter is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report. If goods are donated, a value will be shown in the SOFA or Notes where the value is considered material.

vii Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the amount is reliably measurable and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.

ix VAT

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

x Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at deemed historical cost representing each property's gross carrying value as at 1 September 2015, being that property's cost as far as the redevelopments are concerned and an internal valuation of the original premises remaining after the redevelopment plus any additions thereafter at cost.

No depreciation is provided because the trustees have maintained the buildings such that their values have been maintained.

The Church has made use of the deemed cost option on transitioning to FRS102 as outlined above.

xi Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash (Basic Financial Instruments)

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Circuit or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit fund balances are shown at their realisable values.

xii Funds

The trustees have adopted a policy for all unrestricted reserves which is attached as a separate document.

2. Payments to trustees

The Church policy is to reimburse members of the CLT and other trustees for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties, including where appropriate travelling expenses, or where they have been requested to undertake certain activities for the Church. The Minister and officers fulfil the primary executive roles within the Church. None of the trustees is an employee of the Church nor was in receipt of any payment for work undertaken on behalf of the Church, other than reimbursement of appropriate expenses incurred on behalf of the Church. During the year the sum of £nil was reimbursed in this regard to trustees (2020 - £nil).

3. Premises

The freehold premises comprise the church and the ancillary halls and facilities. The equipment comprises furniture and fitting acquired at the time of the redevelopment plus addition at cost. Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis over five years commencing in the year after acquisition.

4. Debtors and Prepayments

All sums shown as Debtors at 1 September 2020 were received during the year 2020-21. All sums paid in advance at 1 September 2020 were for activities that have been held during 2020-21. It is expected that payments in advance at 31 August 2021 will be expensed during 2021-22

5. Central Finance Board (CFB) and Bank Balances

Monetary balances held at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church and at CAF Bank are all available on demand without loss of interest.

6. Creditors, Accruals and Income in Advance

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2021 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2022.

7. Funds

General Fund (unrestricted)

The purpose of this fund is for use at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Church and which have not been designated for other purposes. Some 96% of this fund is held as a freehold property, being the church and ancillary premises

Restricted Funds

These represent funds of Church organisations who report to the Church Council together with other accumulated minor funds plus a specific grant as yet unspent.

8. Related Parties

Church trustees, being members of the Church, make regular freewill offerings to support the work and activities of the Church. These are made through regular standing orders, weekly envelopes or cash put into the collection plates. It is neither practical nor appropriate to attempt to segregate these amounts that are given voluntarily.

Related parties include the Methodist Conference, the BE&H District and Churches within the Circuit, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, CFB and TMCP.

9. Volunteer Contribution

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit and Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. In the Church the principal contribution is by serving on committees of the Church that deal with the mission, property, finance, policy, training and safeguarding. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment. No attempt has been made by this Church to value the non-monetary contributions to the Church in monetary terms.

10. Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year-end (2019 – nil)

11. Lease commitments

The Church has no lease commitments

12. Independent examiner

No fees payable to the independent examiner.

13. Financial analysis

	2021	2020
13/1 Fund raising and donations		
Fund raising	2,660	7,424
Donations	744	0
	3,404	7,424
13/2 Other charitable income		
Use of premises	31,512	29,601
Other	1,250	0

	Grants	22,702	0	
		55,464	29,601	
13/3	Other expenditure			
	Youth Work	18,450	3,645	
	Website	343	1,243	
	Sundry	703	343	
	Performing rights licence	604	560	
		20,100	5,791	
13/4	Fixed assets	Church building	Equip-ment	Total
	Cost or valuation			
	Balance brought forward	1,661,778	66,661	1,728,439
	Additions	0	5,322	0
	Disposals	0	0	0
		1,661,778	71,983	1,733,761
	Depreciation			
	Balance brought forward	0	59,840	59,840
	Released on disposal	0	0	0
	Charge for year	0	2,103	2,103
		0	61,943	61,943
	Net Book Value			
	31 August 2021	1,661,778	10,040	1,671,818
	31 August 2020	1,661,778	6,821	1,668,599
13/5	Debtors and prepayments	2021	2020	
	Circuit assessment paid in advance	3,119	11,141	
	Use of premises	1,997	800	
	Other	1,489	0	
	Prepayments	1,169	1,491	
		7,774	13,377	

BENFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer V E Ryall

Date 19 January 2022

Name and address of joint treasurer

Mrs V Ryall
14 Orchill Road
Hadleigh
Essex
SS7 2LS

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 19 January 2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Zena Smith
Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Zena Smith

Date 19 January 2022

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the
Benfleet Methodist Church
Charity Number 1127749**

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Benfleet Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages 11 to 17. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Benfleet Methodist Church

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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

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

Signature of independent examiner G W Dorrington

Name of independent examiner Mr G W Dorrington

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Address
43 St Marys Rad
Benfleet
Essex
SS7 1NN

Date 19 January 2022

Church Council Membership

Rev Zena Smith (Chairman)
Mrs Doreen Bartlett
Ms Kathy Burrell
Mr John Downer
Mrs Sue Downer
Mrs Janice Gray
Mr Rob Gray
Mrs Stella Holden
Mrs Daisy Humphreys
Mrs Caroline Huggett
Mr Andy Keys
Mrs Ann Keys
Mrs Rosalind Klaas
Mr Vernon Murray
Mrs Diane Norton
Mr Richard Reeves (Secretary)
Mr John Spain
Mr John Stokes
Mrs Shelagh Stokes