

Annual Report of Morpeth Methodist Church and Centre for the Community,

Registration no: 1128303, for the year to 31st August 2023

Administrative Information and Structure

The Church's mission statement is "To make Christ visible in the world". This report will discuss the means in which this is discharged.

The Church comprises the Sanctuary and 5 rooms of various sizes. The address is: Howard Terrace, Morpeth. NE61 1HU. Tel no: 01670 511078.

The Church was opened in 1905, extended in 1986 and reconfigured and further extended in 2005. The Church has 100 confirmed members and approximately an additional 25 adherents.

The Church is a member of the South-East Northumberland Ecumenical Area (SENEA), a federation of Methodist and United Reformed Churches, Newcastle Methodist District and the Northern Synod of the United Reformed Church. Next year SENEA will be disbanded and the Church will be a member of South East Northumberland Circuit.

Our presbyter is Rev Antony Oakley. Darleen Turner is our Office Manager.

The Governing Board is the Church Council, whose members, the trustees, during the year were:

the minister (Antony Oakley), the Leadership Team (Pam Oakley, Vivien Scott, David Simpson, Bridget Rowbottom, John Carss, Jane Greaves, Darleen Turner, Maureen Baker, John Leithead) and elected and ex-officio members (Clive Kemp, Dorothy Potts, Judith Quenet, Pat Folkard, Wendy Garvey, Catherine Wakefield).

The trustees understand their responsibilities described in the document "Managing Trustees and their responsibilities" published by the Methodist Church Property Department resource division.

Church Committees and groups report to the Church Council. Church Council's function and terms of reference are described in pages 516-522 of The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, volume 2 (Methodist Publishing House 2016).

Church Council met four times during the year. The Council's members discussed the management of the Church's activities and made decisions regarding based on their discussions.

This year's Annual Church Meeting was held on 9th July 2023

Aims, Objectives and Delivery

The aims of the Church, as seen on the Charities Commission website, are:

“The provision of regular public acts of worship open to members of the Church and non-members alike. The provision of sacred space (a building) for prayer and contemplation. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups, pastoral work, including visiting the sick”

Morpeth Methodist Church and Centre for the Community also offers facilities for regular meetings of clubs, societies, organisations and focus groups and for special events to the wider community. These are used regularly by both Church groups and groups in the local community.

The Church seeks to pursue its mission statement by “Celebrating Christ, growing in His love, praying and acting for Him and being a Centre acting as a resource for the whole community.

The Church is a member of the South East Northumberland Ecumenical Area. This **was** dissolved on 31st August 2023 and the Church then **became** a member of the South East Northumberland Methodist Circuit.

The Presbyter to the Church is Rev Antony Oakley. In September 2023 Antony became Superintendent Minister of the South East Northumberland Methodist Circuit.

The committees and groups that report to the Annual Church Meeting or Church Council are:

Leadership Group, Pastoral Group, Worship Group and Mission Partnership

The Leadership Group includes the Church stewards. The Church Treasurer reports to this group, as does the Centre Manager

The Centre Manager acts as Safeguarding Officer and Health and Safety Officer. A Church member acts as Church Secretary and another as Church Treasurer

The structural organisation of the Church seeks to cover three broad areas of influence:

- 1) The spiritual, pastoral and social needs of its members.
- 2) The mission of the Church within our community and Area
- 3) The care and development of the physical assets of the Church
- 4) The promotion of the facilities for the benefit of the wider community

Services are held in the Church on Sunday mornings. Tuesday Communion Services are held weekly.

The Church’s activities in our local and wider communities continue.

The Church office staff cover the Centre for the Community during working hours and weekday evenings. They provide a welcome and support to those using the centre. They organise lettings and manage the centre as well as supporting the minister and congregation. Currently we have the Centre Manager, one member of office staff and the janitor employed..

The Church runs groups on a Sunday for children and young people. Junior Church meet weekly in the Church during term time. The 6th Morpeth Beavers, Cubs and Scouts met in the Church meet during the week

Womens Meeting Point and Men's Breakfast Group meet in the Church.

Drop in lunches are usually held weekly on Tuesdays and the Memory Café meets fortnightly in the Church for those with cognitive impairment and their carers. Both of these activities have been well supported and appreciated by those attending.

The Church continues its Mission Partnership with Kamuzinda Victory Christian Church, Uganda. Morpeth and Kamuzinda Churches support each other with regular prayer, meetings and communication. Collections of donations for the benefit of KVCC are held after Sunday services twice a year.

The Church is used as a centre in Morpeth for musical events, including concerts, performances for Morpeth Music Society and performances by bands and choirs.

Comment on the Annual Accounts

The audited accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023 are set out in the attached file. These show that the payments for the use of the premises contain no element of profit nor general overheads (insurance, utilities, cleaning etc). Under normal circumstances, the fees received are approximately equal to the salaries of staff needed to service the use of the premises. This year there was a deficit of £6319 between these figures. There was an increase in expenditure on energy and as the 1986 Church redevelopments age the cost of repairs and maintenance increased.

Most of the expenditure items are self explanatory. By far the largest expense is the Area Assessment which is set by the Area Executive and covers the Church's central overheads, including stipends and other central expenses. There was an increase in expenditure on energy and as the 1986 Church redevelopments age the cost of repairs and maintenance increased.

The accounts show a surplus of £222. We received a bequest of £6469 this year and £1250 was transferred from the account of the 13+ group which has ceased to meet. The Church accounts were balanced this year due to these extraordinary sources of income. It is anticipated that the Church will continue to operate at a deficit and this will be addressed during this year and future years

The Church finances aim to operate on the basis of a balanced annual budget, with outcomes monitored by the Leadership Group. Church Council approved a Reserves Policy holding reserves approximately equal to six months of normal expenditure, in accordance with the recommendation from the Methodist Connexion.

Responsibility for day to day receipts and payments and the presentation of final and interim accounts are the responsibility of the Church Treasurer, David Simpson. He is standing down as treasurer from 31st August 2023. He will be replaced by Lorrie Bronsema.

MORPETH METHODIST CHURCH

Statement of Financial Accounts – 01 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

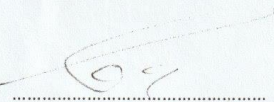
2021/22 (full year) £		2022/23 Out-turn £	2022/23 Forecast £
INCOME			
65,092	Offerings	60,989	62,000
17,863	Gift Aid	18,691	17,000
471	Staff Furlough	0	0
32,213	Lettings	37,017	38,000
0	Donations	1,073	682
8,527	Bequests	6,469	6,268
0	Transfer from 13+ account	1,250	1,250
0	Charitable receipts	1,755	0
6,364	Miscellaneous	3,861	2,400
	Investments – interest & dividends	671	
130,530		131,776	127,600
EXPENDITURE			
64,356	Area Assessment	51,480	51,480
41,694	Salaries and Pensions	43,336	45,250
3,622	Insurances	3,765	3,000
7,331	Energy	14,190	16,000
12,111	Running costs and repairs	11,796	12,000
0	Charitable giving	2,505	0
5,952	Miscellaneous	4,397	6,000
143	Bank charges	85	120
135,209		131,554	133,850
(4,679)	Net income (expenditure)	222	(6,250)
Bank and Reserves			
		As at 31.08.22	As at 31.08.23
	Current Account	21,157	20,708
	Legacies TMCP	16,776	17,277
	Endowment	5,005	5,000
	Central Finance Board	6,682	6,857
		49,620	49,842

D Simpson, 28 September 2023

MORPETH METHODIST CHURCH

I have examined the financial records of the Morpeth Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2023, including the bank records and supporting documentation.

I certify that the attached accounts correctly summarise these transactions including the current reserves in the bank at 31 August 2023.



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George McCowie
Chartered Accountant
McCowie & Co
2 Gosforth Park Avenue
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE12 8EG

Dated: 30 October 2023