

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

Registration no: 1128303, for the year to 31st August 2024

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 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, Maureen Baker, Lorrie Bronsema, Paul Crook) 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 19th May 2024

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 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 meet in the Church 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 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 2024 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 £23914.18 was transferred from reserve accounts in order to meet expenses.

Most of the expenditure items are self explanatory. 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 £4480.07. The Church accounts were balanced this year due to transfers from reserves as above. 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 Council has considered the financial position of the Church. We cannot continue with our current financial deficit. It has been determined that we cannot afford regular employees in the Centre. This has been discussed appropriately with our 3 employees who have accepted redundancy from 23rd September 2024. Church Council is continuing to

consider further changes in the foreseeable financial years to maintain the financial stability of the Church.

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, Lorrie Bronsema.

Income

Offerings		
Regular	50415.00	
Envelopes	4938.75	
Collection plate	<u>1932.32</u>	57286.07
Gift Aid		15459.55
Lettings		41693.68
Donations		3878.51
Charitable Donatons		
Christian Aid	143.00	
Kamuzinda	772.50	
MWIB	201.30	
Action4Children	264.02	
Methodist Homes	<u>219.20</u>	1600.02
Miscellaneous		1952.06
Bank Interest		404.03
Transfer from reserves		
Deposit acc (CFB)	6000.00	
TMCP	<u>17914.18</u>	23914.18

Total Income **146188.10**

Expenditure

Area assessment		51480.00
Salaries & Pensions		47033.28
Insurance		3332.34
Utilities		13573.01
Repairs & Operational Expenditure		18806.74
Charitable Donations		
Christian Aid	143.00	
Kamuzinda	772.50	
MWIB	<u>363.30</u>	1278.80
Miscellaneous		1574.12
Bank charges		129.74
transfer to deposit account (CFB)		4500.00

Total Expenditure **141708.03**

Net Income 4480.07

Closing Bank	25188.36
Opening Bank	<u>20708.29</u>
	4480.07

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.

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 CH Horton

Name of independent examiner CHRISTOPHER MARK HORTON

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner A.C.I.B.

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A

Address 18 SHIRE ROAD NETHERTON PARK

MORPETH Post Code NE61 6GQ

Date 07/07/2025

* delete or circle as appropriate