

MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1128694

Details

Other names	MRMC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-03-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Methodist Church 69 Marlborough Road St. Albans Hertfordshire AL1 3XG
Phone	01727836470
Email	info@mrmc.org.uk
Website	www.mrmc.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: Marlborough Road Methodist Church is a congregation of Christians meeting in centre of St Albans. We seek to worship God through a number of activities such as:maintaining a Methodist presence in the city centreholding creative acts of worship related to Methodist traditions and relevant to modern lifesharing the Christian Gospelsustaining, challenging and developing Christian faith

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.
- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£107,705	£126,735	-	-
2024-08-31	£154,352	£157,421	-	-
2023-08-31	£137,618	£168,759	-	-
2022-08-31	£161,605	£154,546	-	-
2021-08-31	£154,573	£135,474	-	-
2020-08-31	£148,708	£120,207	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Jervis Daniel Yovan	Chair	2023-09-01
Abiodun Idowu Osibodu		2022-05-01
CARL ANTHONY WALSH MEREDITH		2013-12-30
DIANA LILIAN CHURCHER		2014-04-27
Deacon Nigel George Perrott		2022-10-21
ERMA PROFIT		2017-05-01
FRANCES BATES		2016-05-01
Ian David Gilbert		
JAMES ANDREW JOHNSTONE		2017-05-01
JANIS LYNNE GILBERT		
Joanne Godfrey		2026-04-26
Judith Head		2018-01-01
MRS JENNIFER EVERS		2013-10-15
Margaret Anne Dodd		2024-04-24
Paul John Bates		2023-05-01
RONA MARY WIGHTMAN		

MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1128694

Accounts

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Registered Charity No 1128694

Trustees Annual Report for year ending August 2025



The Methodist Church
Marlborough Road
St Albans
AL1 3XG

Reference Information and Administration

The managing trustees

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Revd J Daniel Yovan	Chair, Presbyter St Albans section	
2	Deacon Nigel Perrott	Deacon (Cornerstone House)	
3	Janis Gilbert	Church Steward	To April 2025
4	Idy Osibodu	Church Steward	
5	Marjorie Wilson	Church Steward	
6	Paul Bates	Church Steward	
7	Maggie Dodd	Church Steward	
8	Carl Meredith	Treasurer	
9	Judith Head	Pastoral Co-ordinator	
10	Rona Wightman	Secretary to Church Council – to October 2024, then co-opted to council	
11	Frances Bates	Representative from General Church Meeting	
12	Andrew Johnstone	Representative from General Church Meeting	
13	Erma Profit	Representative from General Church Meeting	
14	Jenny Evers	Pastoral Visitors' Representative	
15	Di Churcher	Pastoral Visitors' Representative	
16	Ian Gilbert	Senior Property Steward	

Trustees for the charity

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) are custodian trustees.

Appointed advisers

We appoint an Auditor each year to check our accounts.

Structure, governance and management

The charity's trusts

Our governing document is the Methodist Church Act 1976.

The charity is constituted as a trust.

Trustees are selected in accordance with the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. Representatives are elected by the Annual General Church Meeting. Other trustees are appointed by Church Council by virtue of their role. There is also provision in the CPD for trustees to be co-opted by Church Council.

Governance

As a Methodist Church, we are a Church within a Circuit, in our case the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit. The Circuits fall within Districts, our Circuit is in the Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts District. The Methodist Church is a Connexional Church, that is, we see ourselves as part of an interconnected 'body' that offers mutual encouragement and support.

Connexional systems, requirements and guidance help us minimise risks; our Circuit Meetings and Church Council and committees consider any specific issues for us to deal with.

Our safeguarding policy is reviewed annually.

Trustees are required to familiarise themselves with CC3 *The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do*. Our Circuit arranges annual Trustee training sessions.

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The purposes of the Methodist Church are 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.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Our main activity is the holding of regular (weekly) public acts of worship, open to members of the church and non-members alike.

Pastoral work includes visiting the sick, frail or housebound and those bereaved.

We run a weekly drop-in toddler group for pre-school children and their carers and a weekly drop-in coffee morning that is mainly attended by older people.

Our premises are used by a number of community groups for cultural, educational and physical activity.

We support other charities in the UK financially and with prayer.

We continue working jointly with Hatfield Road Methodist Church (Charity No 1173147) to employ a full-time Anna Chaplain. The post was set up as full-time for five years, from April 2021, now restructured to part-time post over a longer period. The Employer is Hatfield Road Methodist Church.

Our trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Local churches, circuits and districts are not defined as external grant-making bodies.

Our activity is carried out by volunteers with support of stipendiary and supernumerary presbyters, our deacon, the Anna Chaplain, and administrative staff provided by the circuit. During this year we have used a contractor to provide lettings management.

Achievements and Performance 2024-25

Marlborough Road Methodist Church (MRMC) is an open and diverse congregation of Christians set near the centre of St. Albans. Our Calling is to:

Worship

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

Learning and Caring

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

Service

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

Evangelism

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ

Most of our activities fall under more than one heading!

Church and Circuit Resources

We have maintained our Membership numbers at just under 100 and we are supported by around 30 non-member Friends of the congregation. It remains a concern that most of our Members are older and becoming less able to carry out voluntary roles. This year our long-serving Senior Steward and Church Council Secretary have stepped down. We continued to use a contractor to manage premises lettings.

We are very grateful to all the volunteers undertaking tasks and roles, especially to our church stewards who oversee Sunday worship and other church activities and the property team who oversee the maintenance of our late Victorian premises.



Our minister is Revd Daniel Yovan, presbyter for the two St Albans section churches. In the spring of 2025 he had a sabbatical period. Our circuit deacon is Nigel Perrott, based at Cornerstone House in Salisbury Village on the western edge of Hatfield where he supports the local community and he is actively supporting the St Albans section churches too.

We are growing our relationship with our sisters and brothers at Hatfield Road Methodist Church (HRMC), with regular joint stewards meetings and shared worship. Pictured left are members from both churches taking part in the Alban Procession in June 2025.

The St Albans Anna Chaplaincy is a joint project, with HRMC as Employer of the St Albans Anna Chaplain, Maggie Dodd. We are grateful to the HRMC Safeguarding Officer for overseeing safeguarding at MRMC also.

We are a church in a circuit, and we are also supported by the other Circuit ministers, by the circuit administrator and by the circuit volunteers. We are particularly grateful to the editors of *The Reporter*, bringing us monthly information and news across the circuit, and to the circuit Ministers and Local Preachers who continue to prepare the weekly 'at home' service that is emailed or posted with our notice sheet to support and include those who find it difficult to attend Sunday worship at church.

As our people resources are limited we try to make as much use as practical of our premises in service to our community and to support our activities. Lettings are an important source of income. We are glad that community support groups are among the users of our premises, including Alcoholics Anonymous, St Albans Family Centre Service and the Winter Beds Projects.

This year we have been considering a potential mission project to convert the hall to a soft play community café, various options have been researched. A decision was made to carry out some refurbishment of the hall to better serve existing use as well as future development.

Worship

We hold services of worship most Sundays at 10.30am, led by our minister and other circuit or visiting presbyters, our deacon, and circuit and visiting local preachers. We are appreciative of two Lay Readers from St Peter's who regularly lead worship at Marlborough Road.

We have regular joint services with Hatfield Road Methodist Church, alternating between our two church locations.

We continue our longstanding relationship with St Peters (Church of England), with several special services each year held at one or other of the churches – the Covenant Service in January, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Aldersgate Sunday and St Peter's Patronal Festival.

A new worship event this year was the Praise in the Park on Sunday 24th August at 11am, a joint celebration by HRMC, MRMCM, the Salvation Army and the Church of God of Prophecy, held in Clarence Park.

Our joint ministry with St Peter's to provide a monthly Holy Communion service in three local retirement complexes has continued.

Bible Study

The Bible Study group meets fortnightly in the lounge of the retirement flats across the road from the church.

Thinking Lunches

The format is a speaker then discussion on (usually) the first Thursday of the month. The audience bring their own drinks and snacks. The lunches are free to attend, donations are invited to cover costs and any surplus is donated to a charity chosen by the speaker. Our seating is comfortable, the topics are challenging. Attendance numbers have still not recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Our 24/25 programme was:



Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Thursday 3 October 2024, Matt Ceaser, Just Money Movement
'Money: What is it good for?' (use of money, a biblical perspective).

Thursday 7 November 2024, Revd John Churcher
The Justice and Peace of Jesus in a World on Fire

Thursday 5th December 2024, Rev Caroline Weaver
'The vilest offender...? seeking and finding God in prison' (Prison Chaplaincy)

Thursday 6th February 2025, Geoff Sutton, Associate Director of Step
'What Youth Need' - how to make a positive difference to young people.

Thursday 6th March 2025, Becca Byass, Engagement Officer, 'All We Can'
'Words Create Worlds' - an exploration of how the stories we tell shape the actions we take.

Thursday 3rd April 2025, Rev Peter Crumpler
'Trust in a sceptical world' - who do you trust to tell you the truth - and how can we build trust within society.

Thursday 1st May 2025, Sophie Lawrence, Community Protection Herts CC
'Prevent: a Home Office programme' - helping people vulnerable to radicalisation move away from extremism.

Thursday 5th June 2025, Tim Wood, Chief Executive, Through the Roof
How a Christian charity changes the lives of disabled people around the world.

Toddlers

This group is highly regarded, however, it was proving difficult to fill the volunteer rota and in July 2025 the group closed. This is viewed as a temporary measure pending refurbishment of the hall and development of the soft play mission project, which would have a new approach to mission and service involving pre-school children.

Children and young people

One of our teenagers assisted the church stewards for six months as the Volunteering section of his Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The young people across the circuit enjoy quarterly meet-ups and several of them went to 3 Generate, the Methodist Church annual youth gathering.

Chatterbox coffee morning

This is a drop-in coffee morning with 'regulars' who appreciate the companionship and stimulating conversations, as well as 'occasionals' who turn up from time to time and those who do just walk in off the street - Chatterbox takes place in the vestibule, so is visible to those passing by. Although the charges for drinks and biscuits and sometimes cake are modest, there is a gradual build up of surplus funds, from which this year we have donated to Christian Aid and All We Can.



Anna Chaplaincy – spiritual care for older people

A joint initiative by the two St Albans Methodist churches appointed Maggie Dodd to the post of **Anna Chaplain** in March 2021. She was the first Anna Chaplain in Hertfordshire and the first full-time Anna Chaplain in the country. This year she has continued to develop Anna Chaplaincy in the local area, leading an expanding team of Anna Chaplains and Anna Friends, active in St Albans, Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City and now reaching Bedford.

At the start of this reporting year Maggie had 18 months left of a 5 year appointment. With the approval of funders, her appointment has been modified to run for three years as a part time post with a remit to progressively restructure work undertaken to allow for handover to the continuing team.

Maggie leads a monthly Afternoon Worship at Hatfield Road Methodist Church and 'CAMEO' - a lunch with speaker and / or activity at the Salvation Army, around the corner from MRMC. Both of these involve some optional crafting as well as tea and chat.

The 'Love to Care Homes' project this year saw 800 crafted sheep made by churches, schools and community groups being delivered to residents just before Christmas.

Maggie compiles a directory of activities and support for seniors, twice a year, distributed via churches, libraries and GP surgeries.



Maggie speaks locally and nationally and writes articles for the local newspaper about Anna Chaplaincy and related topics such as digital exclusion of older people.

Holiday at Home

MRMC, HRMC, St Peter's and St Albans URC once again joined forces to welcome guests for a Holiday@Home, aimed at those who may not be in a position to 'get away for a break'. As well as churchgoers, several visitors came from nearby retirement/sheltered housing, while others were wider contacts made through the Anna Chaplaincy.

Two days at Marlborough Road, and two at Hatfield Road (Wednesday was a rest day for the volunteers!) provided fellowship, food and fun. Some holiday makers attended just for one day, others for more, and a few every day. Transport was provided if needed. Guests were treated to a range of activities and entertainment including:



- The Sound Of Music in 45 minutes from the HRMC Music Group supplemented by three Sunday Club children and our 15 year-old violinist
- a 1970's sing-a-long session with the HRMC Music Group
- two sessions from The Jumping Fleas ukulele band
- craft activities (flowers, art, ceramics, etc)
- seated exercises to music
- Scrabble, Rummikub, bingo, dominoes, jigsaws and quizzes
- memory boxes from the 1950s and 1980s

New this year was the Call to Mind board game, designed to stimulate memories and encourage conversations, particularly for people with dementia. The game involves players answering questions from coloured cards that cover topics from their life experiences. As we found, this gave guests the opportunity to talk about their past lives, as well as their likes, dislikes and preferences.

The scrumptious lunches were all provided by our volunteers and always comprised at least two main course choices, and three or more desserts. Similarly, there was no shortage of tasty homemade cakes.

Attendance was up on last year and feedback was very positive. As in previous years, it was a joy to hear the number of connections established through common interest, background or neighbourhood - connections that can continue through the year.

Organisations we regularly support

- Action for Children – a national charity founded by a Methodist minister, supporting children living in poverty. Members of the congregation have 'lantern' collecting boxes, although the difficulty of gathering them in during lockdown meant that the lantern box holders donated direct instead, and we have continued this practice. There is an annual collection at church on Action for Children Sunday in July.
- All We Can – the Methodist Development and Relief Fund works with local organisations to help people experiencing poverty and injustice, and also responds to humanitarian emergencies. We are a Partner Church, and each year a different country is featured. In January 2025 our All We Can rep took part in the All We Canuary fundraiser. She did all the Cycling the Circuit she could - in six outings between 2 January and 3 February, covering 99 miles in total, she visited all the circuit churches and her supporters donated just over £400. In March the All We Can Engagement Officer led a lively Thinking Lunch.

- Christian Aid – the Christian Aid Week house to house collections have not resumed. We raised money through collections at church and direct individual donations.
- FEED – a foodbank run by the Vineyard Church in St Albans. We have a monthly collection of items at church, and we publicise other ways for our church members to contribute.
- Fund for Human Need – a Methodist-affiliated charity that provides small emergency grants to individuals who are destitute and vulnerable. We hold a quarterly benevolence collection to top up our church benevolence fund and any overspill goes to the Fund for Human Need.
- The Living Room – has centres in Hertfordshire, including St Albans, helping people overcome addiction. We hold a retiring collection at the Aldersgate Sunday service in May, one of our joint services with St Peter's church.
- Methodist Homes – a housing and care charity, we hold a collection on Methodist Homes Sunday.

Our building serving the community

A significant and very visible asset for our church is our building: the worship space itself, the hall and the church foyer and also, tucked away at the back, a small lounge. The continued high cost of energy remained a concern. Whilst the premises hire is an important source of income for the church, we balance that with a desire to welcome and support people in need, and our rates are set accordingly.

We are very grateful to the volunteers who support this aspect of our mission by meeting users and hirers, invoicing, programming the heating control system, assessing risks and monitoring safety issues, overseeing building maintenance work and carrying out small maintenance tasks, keeping the garden looking lovely, and supporting our paid Lettings Officer.

Our premises were sought for the Winter Beds project, and between December and March up to five clients spent the night on our hall. The project is managed by the Open Door charity and supported by community volunteers.

Inevitably repairs have been needed, with expenditure on a boiler replacement, roof repairs to the hall and corridor and repairs to a vandalised noticeboard.

We are planning a more thorough refurbishment of the Hall as part of a developing a 'toddler play café' mission project. We intend to sell the former caretaker's cottage, currently let to a long-term tenant, to help fund this mission project, our property steward has worked closely with the tenant to determine a suitable time to conclude the tenancy, likely to be the second half of 2026.

Eco Church

Our recycling collections at church have reduced, for the very good reason that more items can be recycled at supermarkets. We transfer dental products and blister packs to a local Eco-business and transfer wax to a church in Harpenden. Our 'eco-corner' displays local information on recycling and other environmental matters.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We continue to be conscious of EDI issues and take steps to develop our awareness and actions through our membership of Inclusive Church and Methodist Church initiatives and guidance. Our Thinking Lunches are often addressing Peace and Justice topics. We are a Fair Trade Church.

“We believe in inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.”
Extract from Inclusive Church vision statement.

Website, Social Media and publications

We are grateful to a church member with graphical design skills and website expertise for keeping our website welcoming, informative and up to date.

Three church members keep our Facebook page going.

We are grateful to the volunteers who compile and distribute our weekly *Notes*.

Inter-Church relations

We have continued to work closely with Hatfield Road Methodist Church. The church stewards hold regular joint meetings, which they have found very helpful for brainstorming and mutual support. We are grateful to the Hatfield Road Safeguarding Officer for now acting also for MRMC. Holiday at Home has been a joint activity since 2019.

The **Church of God of Prophecy** have worshipped on our premises for many years, we are glad that God is praised here on Sunday afternoons as well as Sunday mornings!

We continue to value our close relationship with **St Peter's** Church of England, begun in 2003 to mark the Anglican-Methodist covenant.

New this year was **Praise in the Park**, a joint service in Clarence park featuring the Salvation Army band and worshippers from MRMC, HRMC and St Paul's Hatfield Road.

Churches Together in St Albans (CTSA) seeks to help churches to work and to grow together.

CTSA have three forums a year as well as other events such as the Cross Procession, Unity at the Cross, 24 Hour Prayer for Thy Kingdom Come, Carols at the Clock Tower, and the service of prayer for Christian Unity each January. Meetings are open to all.

MRMC is always open for the annual September CTSA City Centre Prayer Walk, when a short prayer and pause is held in each location.

Each church has CTSA reps who can vote at the AGM. Maggie Dodd in her role as Anna Chaplain is a member of the CTSA Enabling Group, made up of members of several different churches and meeting about 4 times a year.

Financial review

The Church's policy on Reserves is to maintain a reserve in the general fund to cover a month's running costs and to hold a sensible reserve in the repair, organ and cottage funds to cover emergency repair works.

Our principal sources of funds are voluntary donations, lettings and fund-raising.

Our expenditure goes entirely in support of our key objectives and activities.

Our investment policy has been maintained through the moral and ethical policies of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Please refer to our Accounts for more details.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the foregoing report.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rona Wightman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rona Wightman
Trustee

June 2026

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 Aug 2025

St Albans & Welwyn Circuit	Circuit No. 34/13
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1128694
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If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number	
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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Reverend Jervis Daniel Yovan

Treasurer:

Carl Meredith

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024-25
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
1 Offerings		52,666				52,666
2 Donations		996		660		1,656
3 Gift aid		10,121		148		10,269
4 Interest and investment income		1,174				1,174
5 Income from investment properties		41,221				41,221
6 Internal organisations			719			719
7 Other charitable income						-
8 Total income		106,178	719	808	-	107,705
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		69,000				69,000
10 Grants and donations		3,530				3,530
11 Property maintenance		18,405				18,405
12 Insurance, utilities etc		16,688				16,688
13 Depreciation						-
14 Office expenses		6,132				6,132
15 Other expenditure		2,603		9,733		12,336
16 Internal organisations			644			644
17 Total charitable expenditure		116,358	644	9,733	-	126,735
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		(10,180)	75	(8,925)	-	(19,030)
21 Transfers between funds		1,824	(1,824)			-
22 Other gains/(losses)						-
23 Net movement in funds		(8,356)	(1,749)	(8,925)	-	(19,030)
24 Total funds brought forward		46,379	5,716	40,902	-	92,997
25 Total funds carried forward		38,023	3,967	31,977	-	73,967

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023-24 £
Income						
1 Offerings		70,266		3		70,269
2 Donations		12,294		9,800		22,094
3 Gift aid		18,129		159		18,288
4 Interest and investment income		1,617	8			1,625
5 Income from investment properties		39,137				39,137
6 Internal organisations			2,606			2,606
7 Other charitable income				333		333
8 Total income		141,443	2,614	10,295	-	154,352
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		74,000				74,000
10 Grants and donations		3,580		5,130		8,710
11 Property maintenance		26,453				26,453
12 Insurance,utilities etc		28,364				28,364
13 Depreciation						-
14 Office expenses		-				-
15 Other expenditure		1,701		17,347		19,048
16 Internal organisations			846			846
17 Total charitable expenditure		134,098	846	22,477	-	157,421
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		7,345	1,768	(12,182)	-	(3,069)
21 Transfers between funds						-
22 Other gains/(losses)						-
23 Net movement in funds		7,345	1,768	(12,182)	-	(3,069)
24 Total funds brought forward		39,034	3,948	53,084	-	96,066
25 Total funds carried forward		46,379	5,716	40,902	-	92,997

Notes	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2025	Totals 2024
Account	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Church building and other property		2,000,000			2,000,000	2,000,000
Investment properties		575,000			575,000	575,000
Investments					-	
Total fixed assets		2,575,000	-	-	2,575,000	2,575,000

Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments		21,995			21,995	37,891
Loans by the Churches					-	-
Investments with TMCP					-	-
Central Finance Board Deposits		-	175	18,702	18,877	31,990
Cash at Bank and in hand		21,626	3,794	13,276	38,696	28,207
Total current assets		43,621	3,969	31,978	79,568	98,088

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)		5,601			5,601	5,091
Grants payable within 2018-19					-	-
Total current liabilities		5,601	-	-	5,601	5,091
Net current assets/liabilities		38,020	3,969	31,978	73,967	92,997

Total assets less current liabilities		2,613,020	3,969	31,978	-	2,648,967	2,667,997
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2018-19					-	-	-
Loans to the Church					-	-	-
Net assets		2,613,020	3,969	31,978	-	2,648,967	2,667,997

Funds of the Church

Funds of the Church							
General Fund (Unrestricted)		2,613,020			2,613,020	2,621,377	
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			3,969		3,969	5,717	
Total Unrestricted Funds					2,616,989	2,627,094	
Restricted Funds				31,978	31,978	40,903	
Endowment Funds					-		
Total Funds		2,613,020	3,969	31,978	-	2,648,967	2,667,997

Signed



CARL MEREDITH
Church Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Church which are Unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

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

Incoming Resources

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

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants made by the Church from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Church accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Church

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £10,000.

Property assets are stated at current fair value. The current fair value of the main church premises is evaluated by the trustees at 2025 deemed values, with reference to estimated resale value as vacant possession. The current fair value of the residential investment property is evaluated by the trustees with reference to comparable property sale transactions in the locality and to advice received from the letting agent engaged to manage the property on behalf of the trustees. Both properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors primarily constitute amounts owing by HMRC in respect of gift aid claims.

Creditors

Creditors include both trade creditors and donations to be paid to charities from the church General Reserve as determined by Church Council following confirmation of the full year income and expenditure.

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Church, in either the current or prior

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

There were no fees paid or payable to the independent examiner for reporting on the accounts or for other services, in either the current or prior year.

6 Paid employees

The church did not employ any staff during the current or prior year.

7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the 31 st August 2025 there are no capital commitments.

No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2025.

8 For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Balance brought forward from last year	967	1,117
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	1,652	1,968
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	1,992	2,118
Balance carried forward	627	967

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Main church premises	Residential investment property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000
Additions	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers * (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year (-)	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-

Net book value

Brought forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000
Carried forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000

10 Loans

The Church currently has no loans and has not held any loans during the current or prior year.

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
Restricted Funds					
Benevolent Fund	298	-	-		298
Lay Worker Fund	40,605	6,008	14,933		31,680
Total Restricted	40,903	6,008	14,933	-	31,978
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	23,401	95,130	116,358		2,173
Major Repair Fund	10,317	-			10,317
Organ Repair Fund	6,373	-			6,373
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	6,286	11,048	-		17,334
Internal Organisations	5,717	719	644		5,792
Total Unrestricted	52,094	106,897	117,002	-	41,989
Total Funds	92,997	112,905	131,935	-	73,967

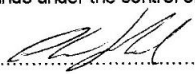
****Comparative analysis of restricted and designated funds 2023-24

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
Restricted Funds					
Benevolent Fund	445	3	150		298
Cornerstone Project	4,646	334	4,980		-
Lay Worker Fund	47,993	9,959	17,347		40,605
Total Restricted	53,084	10,296	22,477	-	40,903
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	8,129	129,397	114,125		23,401
Major Repair Fund	10,091	226			10,317
Organ Repair Fund	5,813	560			6,373
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	15,000	11,260	19,974		6,286
Internal Organisations	3,949	2,613	845		5,717
Total Unrestricted	42,982	144,056	134,944	-	52,094
Total Funds	96,066	154,352	157,421	-	92,997

Name of Church: Marlborough Road Methodist Church No: 34/13

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.

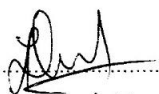
Signature of treasurer  Date 24/2/26

Name and address of treasurer CARL MEREDITH

31 CANNEY ST, ALBS ST ALBANS Post Code AL3 5JR

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were ~~not~~^{will be} presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 24.10.25 ~~2026~~

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting J. David Yoon Date 24.10.25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Charity Number 1128694

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Marlborough Road Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages 1. to ...7 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church: Marlborough Road Methodist Church No: 34/13

Name of Church: Marlborough Road Methodist Church No: 34/13

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.

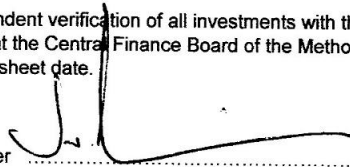
Signature of independent examiner

Name of independent examiner

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Address

Date



JOHN NEIL ROBINSON

M.A. A.C.A.

5 HARMER DELL WELWYN

HERTS

Post Code AL6 0BE

10/3/26

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 Aug 2025

St Albans & Welwyn Circuit	Circuit No. 34/13
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1128694
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If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number	
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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Reverend Jervis Daniel Yovan

Treasurer:

Carl Meredith

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024-25
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
1 Offerings		52,666				52,666
2 Donations		996		660		1,656
3 Gift aid		10,121		148		10,269
4 Interest and investment income		1,174				1,174
5 Income from investment properties		41,221				41,221
6 Internal organisations			719			719
7 Other charitable income						-
8 Total income		106,178	719	808	-	107,705
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		69,000				69,000
10 Grants and donations		3,530				3,530
11 Property maintenance		18,405				18,405
12 Insurance, utilities etc		16,688				16,688
13 Depreciation						-
14 Office expenses		6,132				6,132
15 Other expenditure		2,603		9,733		12,336
16 Internal organisations			644			644
17 Total charitable expenditure		116,358	644	9,733	-	126,735
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		(10,180)	75	(8,925)	-	(19,030)
21 Transfers between funds		1,824	(1,824)			-
22 Other gains/(losses)						-
23 Net movement in funds		(8,356)	(1,749)	(8,925)	-	(19,030)
24 Total funds brought forward		46,379	5,716	40,902	-	92,997
25 Total funds carried forward		38,023	3,967	31,977	-	73,967

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023-24
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
1 Offerings		70,266		3		70,269
2 Donations		12,294		9,800		22,094
3 Gift aid		18,129		159		18,288
4 Interest and investment income		1,617	8			1,625
5 Income from investment properties		39,137				39,137
6 Internal organisations			2,606			2,606
7 Other charitable income				333		333
8 Total income		141,443	2,614	10,295	-	154,352
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		74,000				74,000
10 Grants and donations		3,580		5,130		8,710
11 Property maintenance		26,453				26,453
12 Insurance,utilities etc		28,364				28,364
13 Depreciation						-
14 Office expenses		-				-
15 Other expenditure		1,701		17,347		19,048
16 Internal organisations			846			846
17 Total charitable expenditure		134,098	846	22,477	-	157,421
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		7,345	1,768	(12,182)	-	(3,069)
21 Transfers between funds						-
22 Other gains/(losses)						-
23 Net movement in funds		7,345	1,768	(12,182)	-	(3,069)
24 Total funds brought forward		39,034	3,948	53,084	-	96,066
25 Total funds carried forward		46,379	5,716	40,902	-	92,997

Notes Account	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2025	Totals 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Church building and other property		2,000,000			2,000,000	2,000,000
Investment properties		575,000			575,000	575,000
Investments					-	
Total fixed assets		2,575,000	-	-	2,575,000	2,575,000

Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments		21,995			21,995	37,891
Loans by the Churches					-	-
Investments with TMCP					-	-
Central Finance Board Deposits		-	175	18,702	18,877	31,990
Cash at Bank and in hand		21,626	3,794	13,276	38,696	28,207
Total current assets		43,621	3,969	31,978	79,568	98,088

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)		5,601			5,601	5,091
Grants payable within 2018-19					-	-
Total current liabilities		5,601	-	-	5,601	5,091
Net current assets/liabilities		38,020	3,969	31,978	73,967	92,997

Total assets less current liabilities		2,613,020	3,969	31,978	-	2,648,967	2,667,997
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2018-19					-	-	-
Loans to the Church					-	-	-
Net assets		2,613,020	3,969	31,978	-	2,648,967	2,667,997

Funds of the Church

Funds of the Church							
General Fund (Unrestricted)		2,613,020			2,613,020	2,621,377	
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			3,969		3,969	5,717	
Total Unrestricted Funds					2,616,989	2,627,094	
Restricted Funds				31,978	31,978	40,903	
Endowment Funds					-		
Total Funds		2,613,020	3,969	31,978	-	2,648,967	2,667,997

Signed



CARL MEREDITH
Church Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Church which are Unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

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

Incoming Resources

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

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants made by the Church from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Church accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Church

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There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Church, in either the current or prior

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There were no fees paid or payable to the independent examiner for reporting on the accounts or for other services, in either the current or prior year.

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At the 31 st August 2025 there are no capital commitments.

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Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	1,652	1,968
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Balance carried forward	627	967

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Main church premises	Residential investment property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000
Additions	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers * (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year (-)	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-

Net book value

Brought forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000
Carried forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000

10 Loans

The Church currently has no loans and has not held any loans during the current or prior year.

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
Restricted Funds					
Benevolent Fund	298	-	-		298
Lay Worker Fund	40,605	6,008	14,933		31,680
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Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	23,401	95,130	116,358		2,173
Major Repair Fund	10,317	-			10,317
Organ Repair Fund	6,373	-			6,373
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	6,286	11,048	-		17,334
Internal Organisations	5,717	719	644		5,792
Total Unrestricted	52,094	106,897	117,002	-	41,989
Total Funds	92,997	112,905	131,935	-	73,967

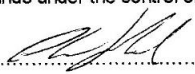
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Total Unrestricted	42,982	144,056	134,944	-	52,094
Total Funds	96,066	154,352	157,421	-	92,997

Name of Church: Marlborough Road Methodist Church No: 34/13

Declarations and Scrutiny

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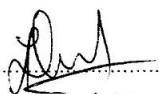
Signature of treasurer  Date 24/2/26

Name and address of treasurer CARL MEREDITH

31 CANNEY ST, ALBS ST ALBANS Post Code AL3 5JR

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were ~~not~~^{will be} presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 24.10.25 ~~2026~~

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting J. David Yoon Date 24.10.25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Charity Number 1128694

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Marlborough Road Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages 1. to ...7 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church: Marlborough Road Methodist Church No: 34/13

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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:

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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.

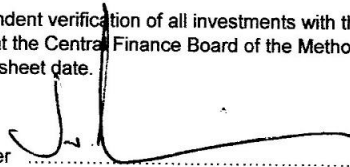
Signature of independent examiner

Name of independent examiner

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Address

Date



JOHN NEIL ROBINSON

M.A. A.C.A.

5 HARMER DELL WELWYN

HERTS

Post Code AL6 0BE

10/3/26

MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1128694

Accounts

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Registered Charity No 1128694

Trustees Annual Report for year ending August 2024



The Methodist Church
Marlborough Road
St Albans
AL1 3XG

Reference Information and Administration

The managing trustees

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Revd J Daniel Yovan	Chair, Presbyter St Albans section	
2	Deacon Nigel Perrott	Deacon (Cornerstone House)	
3	Ann Scorer	Church Steward	To April 2024
4	Janis Gilbert	Church Steward	
5	Idy Osibodu	Church Steward	
6	Marjorie Wilson	Church Steward	
7	Paul Bates	Church Steward	
8	Maggie Dodd	Church Steward	From April 2024
9	Carl Meredith	Treasurer	
10	Judith Head	Pastoral Co-ordinator	
11	Rona Wightman	Secretary to Church Council	
12	Frances Bates	Representative from General Church Meeting	
13	Andrew Johnstone	Representative from General Church Meeting	
14	Erma Profit	Representative from General Church Meeting	
15	Jenny Evers	Pastoral Visitors' Representative	
16	Di Churcher	Pastoral Visitors' Representative	
17	Ian Gilbert	Senior Property Steward	

Trustees for the charity

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) are custodian trustees.

Appointed advisers

We appoint an Auditor each year to check our accounts.

Structure, governance and management

The charity's trusts

Our governing document is the Methodist Church Act 1976

The charity is constituted as a trust.

Trustees are selected in accordance with the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. Representatives are elected by the Annual General Church Meeting. Other trustees are appointed by Church Council by virtue of their role. There is also provision in the CPD for trustees to be co-opted by Church Council.

Governance

As a Methodist Church, we are a Church within a Circuit, in our case the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit. The Circuits fall within Districts, our Circuit is in the Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts District. The Methodist Church is a Connexional Church, that is, we see ourselves as part of an interconnected 'body' that offers mutual encouragement and support.

Connexional systems, requirements and guidance help us minimise risks; our Circuit Meetings and Church Council and committees consider any specific issues for us to deal with.

Our safeguarding policy is reviewed annually.

Trustees are required to familiarise themselves with CC3 *The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do*. Our Circuit arranges annual Trustee training sessions.

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The purposes of the Methodist Church are 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.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Our main activity is the holding of regular (weekly) public acts of worship, open to members of the church and non-members alike.

Pastoral work includes visiting the sick, frail or housebound and those bereaved.

We run a weekly drop-in toddler group for pre-school children and their carers and a weekly drop-in coffee morning that is mainly attended by older people.

This year we started a monthly 'Saturday Club' for primary age children, an afternoon of activities and snacks.

Our premises are used by a number of community groups for cultural, educational and physical activity.

We support other charities in the UK financially and with prayer.

We continue working jointly with Hatfield Road Methodist Church (Charity No 1173147) to employ a full-time Anna Chaplain. The post is for five years, from April 2021. The Employer is Hatfield Road Methodist Church.

Our trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Local churches, circuits and districts are not defined as external grant-making bodies.

Our activity is carried out by volunteers with support of stipendiary and supernumerary presbyters, our deacon, the Anna Chaplain, and administrative staff provided by the circuit. During this year we have used a contractor to provide lettings management.

Achievements and Performance 2023-24

Marlborough Road Methodist Church (MRMC) is an open and diverse congregation of Christians set near the centre of St. Albans. Our Calling is to:

Worship

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

Learning and Caring

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

Service

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

Evangelism

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ

Most of our activities fall under more than one heading!

Church and Circuit Resources

This year we welcomed our new presbyter, Revd Daniel Yovan. Daniel has charge of both Methodist congregations in the St Albans section.

The picture shows (left to right):

Revd David Jebb, Superintendent & Hertsmere section;

Revd David Chapman, Beds, Essex & Herts District Chair;

Revd Daniel Yovan, St Albans section

Revd Rosemary Mutopo, Welhat section

Deacon Nigel Perrot, Cornerstone House.



Alan Sharp was presented with a certificate marking his 60 years as a Local Preacher at the Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meeting in September. In August he was celebrated by ArtServe for 64 years of church organ playing for both the Methodist Church and Anglican Churches in London and Hertfordshire.

We continue to appreciate the support and missional work of Nigel Perrott, the Circuit Deacon, based in the St Albans section. Nigel works out of Cornerstone House in Salisbury Village on the western side of Hatfield, where he is carrying out mission work on the estate, as well as supporting the two St Albans Methodist congregations.

Our Anna Chaplain continues to expand the work of Anna Chaplaincy locally as well as serving and supporting the local older community.

An ongoing concern for our church is the demographic of the congregation, which is skewed heavily towards older people. Gradually there are fewer people able to take on the voluntary roles that help deliver our mission. Our finances are also affected as older donors die or move away to be with family. This year the number of members dropped below 100. However, we do have children and younger people in the congregation, and four of them became church members this year.

We are very grateful to all the volunteers undertaking tasks and roles, especially to our church stewards who oversee Sunday worship and other church activities and the property team who oversee the maintenance of our late Victorian premises..

Living and worshipping still affected after the pandemic

For many people, including those associated with this church, the pandemic has affected their health and wellbeing and how they live their lives, through the illness and its consequences and through long-lasting effects on our way of life.

We have continued to use Zoom for some meetings and fellowships, and our circuit continues to prepare a weekly 'at home' service that is emailed or posted with our notice sheet.

Worship

For much of the year our worship was shared with St Peter's (Church of England), a congregation with which we have established a close relationship stemming from the Anglican – Methodist Covenant of 2003. Their church was undergoing a major renovation, mainly to deal with problems arising from the Victorian refurbishment. The two congregations shared Sunday morning worship at Marlborough Road from 30 July 2023 to 28 April 2024.

Our services were enhanced by the larger numbers and by the organist and choir of St Peter's. Additional clergy not only spread the preaching load, it enabled more regular Junior Church sessions. Spending more time together has enriched our already solid relationship.

We were already grateful to two Lay Readers from St Peter's who regularly lead worship at Marlborough Road. There are several special services each year which are established as united services held at one or other of the churches – the Covenant Service in January, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Aldersgate Sunday and St Peter's Patronal Festival. This pattern will continue following the shared worship period.

Once St Peter's had returned to their refurbished building our stewards have been trying out different worship styles with our much smaller congregation, particularly in terms of seating layout.

Our joint ministry with St Peter's to provide a monthly Holy Communion service in three local retirement complexes has continued.

Bible Study

The Bible Study group meets fortnightly in the lounge of the retirement flats across the road from the church.

Thinking Lunches

The format is a speaker then discussion on (usually) the first Thursday of the month. The audience bring their own drinks and snacks. The lunches are free to attend, donations are invited to cover costs and any surplus is donated to a charity chosen by the speaker. Our seating is comfortable, the topics are challenging. Attendance numbers have still not recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Our 23/24 programme was:

October 2023

Rev Pearl Roper, Pastor New Testament Church of God & Councillor Jennifer Murray

'The story and legacy of the 'Windrush' generation and the challenges that remain'



November 2023

George Woods – Methodist Local Preacher and Chief Business Office St. John's Ambulance UK
'Building on a 1000 years of history'

December 2023

Natalie Liley – Local Campaigner
'Why do we need foodbanks in St Albans area?'

February 2024

Rev Peter Crumpler – Retired Anglican Vicar, Background in Journalism and Communications
'Distinguishing fact from fiction – truth in a modern age'

March 2024

Reverend Daniel Yovan, St Albans Methodist Minister
'How Christianity came to my village in India, and my call to ministry'

April 2024

Liz Needham – St. Albans for Refugees
'The reality of a refugee's experience - How we can help'

May 2024

The Very Reverend Jo Kelly-Moore, Dean of St Albans
'Saints in Colour'

June 2024

Major Heather Poxon – National Territorial Environment for the Salvation Army
'Understanding and Tackling the Climate Emergency and building a sustainable future'

Toddlers

This group is highly regarded locally and has been at capacity on several occasions. We do rely on a relatively small number of regular volunteers to keep the doors open.

Children and young people

A new initiative this year has been 'Club Saturday', a monthly afternoon of games, crafts and pizza that launched in February 2024. The club is for primary age children, and this provides a next step for 'toddler families' as the children get older.

We are delighted that premises users include two Brownie packs and Family Centre support sessions.

Chatterbox coffee morning

This is a drop-in coffee morning with 'regulars' who appreciate the companionship and stimulating conversations, as well as 'occasionals' who turn up from time to time and those who do just walk in off the street - Chatterbox takes place in the vestibule, so is visible to those passing by. Although the charges for drinks and biscuits and sometimes cake are modest, there is a gradual build up of surplus funds, from which this year we have donated to Christian Aid and All We Can.

Fellowship Groups

Only two of our four fellowship monthly groups were still running at the end of this year, "St Stephen's" and the "Readers". These are opportunities for companionship, mutual support and stimulation discussion. Tuesday Fellowship ceased in January and Marlborough Men ceased regular meetings in March 2024.

Cornerstone House & Diaconal Work

This manse is Deacon Nigel's base for community work and evangelism on the Salisbury Village estate. Part of the downstairs has been formed into a Community Room where Nigel hosts twice weekly 'drop-ins'. Many of those attending struggling with debt, family breakdowns and other difficulties, and Nigel has been forging links with local support services as well as drawing on his own experiences of debt counselling and foodbank operating.

Nigel has gradually built up other community events such as 'Bacon & Coffee' informal sessions for pre-schooler families, a Mum and Baby group, evening kids' fun sessions, and monthly film nights and other one-off events such as a day trip to Legoland. He has built up the facilities at Cornerstone House, including insulating the conservatory to enable year-round use of the space, including enjoying the new soft play and sensory equipment.

He has developed links with other churches and youth leaders in the area to develop prayer meetings, Bible studies and other activities. He is also building relationships between groups at Cornerstone, MRMC and HRMC – for example, the Legoland trip included participants from all three locations.

Nigel also instigated missional activity in the St Albans section and he is leading us in developing a project to convert our hall to a soft play and community café facility to serve local families and young people. More and more offices are being converted to residential use, so there is a growing need for a community space.

Anna Chaplaincy – spiritual care for older people

A joint initiative by the two St Albans Methodist churches appointed Maggie Dodd to the post of **Anna Chaplain** in March 2021. She was the first Anna Chaplain in Hertfordshire and the first full-time Anna Chaplain in the country.



The pandemic-delayed Anna Chaplain Commissioning Service took place at MRMC on 22 October 2023 with the Mayor and Mayoress in attendance. The preacher was Debbie Thrower, the founder of Anna Chaplaincy. The delay meant that as well as commissioning Maggie Dodd, two volunteer Anna Chaplains (from St Peter's and from St Mary's with St Leonards) were also commissioned and our church member Jane Perrott was commissioned as an Anna Friend.

Group Photograph from Left to Right

Rev Mark Dearnley, Vicar, St Peter's; Rev Wendy Sellers, Vicar, St Leonard's, Sandridge;

Rev Daniel Yovan, Presbyter, Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road Methodist Churches;

Mrs Jane Perrott, MRMCM / Cornerstone, Anna Friend;

Mrs Maggie Dodd, Anna Chaplaincy Lead;

Mr Peter Curtis, St Peter's, Anna Chaplain;

Rev Canon Dr Ruth Goatly, St Mary's Marshalswick & St Leonards Sandridge & Jersey Farm, Anna Chaplain;

Mayor Anthony Rowlands, Mayoress Annie Stevenson, St Albans City and District Council;

Debbie Thrower, Anna Chaplaincy Founder and Pioneer

Rev David Jebb, Superintendent, St Albans & Welwyn Methodist Circuit, Methodist Ecumenical Officer for Hertfordshire

Venerable Charles Hudson, Archdeacon of St Albans

St Albans Anna Chaplains lead worship in seven St Albans care homes and one in Hatfield, and connections with local clergy are being made. The worship use the 'Messy Vintage' model. A new project being piloted this year is an arts project linking a care home with a local primary and a local secondary school.

Maggie leads a monthly Afternoon Worship at Hatfield Road Methodist Church and 'CAMEO' - a lunch with speaker and / or activity at the Salvation Army, around the corner from MRMCM. Both of these involve some optional crafting as well as tea and chat.

The 'Love to Care Homes' project this year saw 600 crafted angels made by churches, schools and community groups being delivered to residents just before Christmas.

A new initiative is the Chance to Chat on Mondays at Morrisons supermarket, run with support from Hatfield Road Methodist Church and St Paul's CofE.

Maggie compiles a directory of activities and support for seniors, twice a year, distributed via churches, libraries and GP surgeries.

Maggie speaks locally and nationally and writes articles for the local newspaper about Anna Chaplaincy and related topics such as digital exclusion of older people.

Holiday at Home



This joint initiative involving MRMC, Hatfield Road MC and St Peter's was enjoyed by over 60 guests in August. The holiday takes place over four days, two at each of the Methodist churches. The participants were treated to a range of activities: performances by ukulele band, 'The Jumping Fleas', a sing-a-long session, craft activities that ranged from 'bear-hug' cards to painting and flower arranging, Bingo, seated exercises, Scrabble, Rummikub and quizzes.

The sun shone (mostly!), the welcome was warm, and the food was amazing! Cottage pie, gardeners pie, poached salmon, marmalade chicken, creamy tortellini bake, a range of salads and vegetables, and traditional fish n' chips. Puddings included pavlova, fruit crumble, sticky toffee pudding, fruit salads, trifle, ice cream, white chocolate cheesecake and lemon tart.

Several guests confided they rarely saw other people or managed to get out and about due to mobility issues, so it was a joy to see their confidence grow and new connections made. It's hoped a number may be able to attend the weekly Friday Day Care group at Hatfield Road, enabling them to feel less isolated.

Organisations we regularly support

- Action for Children – a national charity founded by a Methodist minister, supporting children living in poverty. Members of the congregation have 'lantern' collecting boxes, although the difficulty of gathering them in during lockdown meant that the lantern box holders donated direct instead, and we have continued this practice. There is an annual collection at church on Action for Children Sunday in July.
- All We Can – the Methodist Development and Relief Fund, works with local organisations to help people experiencing poverty and injustice, and also responds to humanitarian emergencies. We are a Partner Church, and each year a different country is featured. For 2024 the featured partner organisation is the Self-Help Initiative For Sustainable Development (SHIFSD) in Liberia
- Christian Aid – the Christian Aid Week house to house collections did not resume. We raised money through collections at church and direct individual donations.
- FEED – a foodbank run by the Vineyard Church in St Albans. We have a monthly collection of items at church, and we publicise other ways for our church members to contribute.
- Fund for Human Need – a Methodist-affiliated charity that provides small emergency grants to individuals who are destitute and vulnerable. We hold a quarterly benevolence collection to top up our church benevolence fund and any overspill goes to the Fund for Human Need.
- The Living Room – has centres in Hertfordshire, including St Albans, helping people overcome addiction. We hold a retiring collection at the Aldersgate Sunday service in May, one of our joint services with St Peter's church.
- Methodist Homes – a housing and care charity, we hold a collection on Methodist Homes Sunday.

Our building serving the community

A significant and very visible asset for our church is our building: the worship space itself, the hall and the church foyer and also, tucked away at the back, a small lounge. The continued high cost of energy remained a concern. Whilst the premises hire is an important source of income for the church, we balance that with a desire to welcome and support people in need, and our rates are set accordingly.

We are very grateful to the volunteers who support this aspect of our mission by meeting users and hirers, invoicing, programming the heating control system, assessing risks and monitoring safety issues, overseeing building maintenance work and carrying out small maintenance tasks, keeping the garden looking lovely, checking the receipts and paying the bills.

Our volunteer lettings officer stepped down in the spring, Deacon Nigel filled in while a replacement was sought, he found this helpful in getting to know community users of the premises. However, it is quite an onerous task, and with no volunteer replacement available, we now have a paid Lettings Officer.

We have installed a defibrillator on the outside of the building.

Eco Church

Our June Thinking Lunch is on an environmental theme and is included in the Sustainable St Albans SustFest community programme of events.



Our church is quite well known locally for its recycling efforts and we featured in the Green Christian St Albans display at the SustFest Expo. We are not official collectors but we act as a collection point and then pass materials on to local registered Terracycle collectors. Our recycling station is in the corridor between the church and the hall and includes dental products, crisp and snack packets and coffee pouches.

The picture on the left shows two bales of crisp packets being dropped off (by bicycle) to a local collector.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We continue to be conscious of EDI issues and take steps to develop our awareness and actions through our membership of Inclusive Church and Methodist Church initiatives and guidance. Our Thinking Lunches are often addressing Peace and Justice topics. We are a Fair Trade Church.

“We believe in inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.”
Extract from Inclusive Church vision statement.

Website, Social Media and publications

Our website had a makeover this year, with core content being retained but with a fresh layout and excellent graphics. We are grateful to a church member with graphical design skills and website expertise!

We have two social media accounts, on Twitter¹ and Facebook. We find the former is useful for gathering news and information from national organisations, the latter is more of a local ‘shop window’.

Our bi-monthly church magazine the *Marlborough Round* ceased publication with the December / January issue when the co-editors stepped down and no replacements came forward.

We are grateful to the volunteers who compile and distribute our weekly *Notes*.

Inter-Church relations

We have continued to work closely with Hatfield Road Methodist Church, the bonds being strengthened by the Lay Worker project and now having the same minister. The church stewards hold regular joint meetings, which they have found very helpful for brainstorming and mutual support. We are grateful to the Hatfield Road Safeguarding Officer for now acting also for MRM. Holiday at Home has been a joint activity since 2019.

The **Church of God of Prophecy** have worshipped on our premises for many years, we are glad that God is praised here on Sunday afternoons as well as Sunday mornings!

We continue to value our close relationship with **St Peter’s** Church of England, which became even closer this year with shared weekly worship for the duration of the St Peter’s refurbishment project.

¹ We deactivated our Twitter account in 2025

Churches Together in St Albans (CTSA) seeks to help churches to work and to grow together.

CTSA have three forums a year as well as other events such as the Cross Procession, Unity at the Cross, 24 Hour Prayer for Thy Kingdom Come, Carols at the Clock Tower, and the service of prayer for Christian Unity each January. Meetings are open to all.

MRMC is always open for the annual September CTSA City Centre Prayer Walk, when a short prayer and pause is held in each location.

Each church has CTSA reps who can vote at the AGM. Maggie Dodd in her role as Anna Chaplain is a member of the CTSA Enabling Group, made up of members of several different churches and meeting about 4 times a year.

Financial review

The Church's policy on Reserves is to maintain a reserve in the general fund to cover a month's running costs and to hold a sensible reserve in the repair, organ and cottage funds to cover emergency repair works.

Our principal sources of funds are voluntary donations, lettings and fund-raising.

Our expenditure goes entirely in support of our key objectives and activities.

Our investment policy has been maintained through the moral and ethical policies of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Please refer to our Accounts for more details.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the foregoing report.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rona Wightman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rona Wightman
Trustee

June 2025

CHURCH
ACCRUALS
ACCOUNTS

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Marlborough Road Methodist Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 Aug 2024

St Albans & Welwyn Circuit	Circuit No. 34/13
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1128694
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If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number	
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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Reverend Jervis Daniel Yovan

Treasurer:

Carl Meredith

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023-24 £
Income						
1 Offerings		70,266		3		70,269
2 Donations		12,294		9,800		22,094
3 Gift aid		18,129		159		18,288
4 Interest and investment income		1,617	8			1,625
5 Income from investment properties		39,137				39,137
6 Internal organisations			2,606			2,606
7 Other charitable income				333		333
8 Total income		141,443	2,614	10,295	-	154,352
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		74,000				74,000
10 Grants and donations		3,580		5,130		8,710
11 Property maintenance		26,453				26,453
12 Insurance,utilities etc		28,364				28,364
13 Depreciation						-
14 Office expenses		-				-
15 Other expenditure		1,701		17,347		19,048
16 Internal organisations			846			846
17 Total charitable expenditure		134,098	846	22,477	-	157,421
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		7,345	1,768	(12,182)	-	(3,069)
21 Transfers between funds						-
22 Other gains/(losses)						-
23 Net movement in funds		7,345	1,768	(12,182)	-	(3,069)
24 Total funds brought forward		39,034	3,948	53,084	-	96,066
25 Total funds carried forward		46,379	5,716	40,902	-	92,997

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
1 Offerings		59,627		2		59,629
2 Donations		11,952		11,057		23,009
3 Gift aid		14,061				14,061
4 Interest and investment income		1,138				1,138
5 Income from investment properties		38,956				38,956
6 Internal organisations			654			654
7 Other charitable income				171		171
8 Total income		125,734	654	11,230	-	137,618
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		79,833				79,833
10 Grants and donations		1,950				1,950
11 Property maintenance		44,656				44,656
12 Insurance,utilities etc		20,956				20,956
13 Depreciation						-
14 Office expenses		-				-
15 Other expenditure		2,573		18,438		21,011
16 Internal organisations			353			353
17 Total charitable expenditure		149,968	353	18,438	-	168,759
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		(24,234)	301	(7,208)	-	(31,141)
21 Transfers between funds						-
22 Other gains/(losses)						-
23 Net movement in funds		(24,234)	301	(7,208)	-	(31,141)
24 Total funds brought forward		63,268	3,647	60,292	-	127,207
25 Total funds carried forward		39,034	3,948	53,084	-	96,066

Notes to the
Accounts

	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2024	Totals 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets						
Church building and other property	2,000,000				2,000,000	2,000,000
Investment properties	575,000				575,000	575,000
Investments					-	-
Total fixed assets	2,575,000	-	-	-	2,575,000	2,575,000
Current Assets						
Debtors and prepayments	37,891				37,891	53,686
Loans by the Churches					-	-
Investments with TMCP					-	-
Central Finance Board Deposits	-	168	31,822		31,990	21,332
Cash at Bank and in hand	13,577	5,549	9,081		28,207	24,035
Total current assets	51,468	5,717	40,903	-	98,088	99,053
Current liabilities						
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	5,091				5,091	2,987
Grants payable within 2018-19					-	-
Total current liabilities	5,091	-	-	-	5,091	2,987
Net current assets/liabilities	46,377	5,717	40,903	-	92,997	96,066
Total assets less current liabilities	2,621,377	5,717	40,903	-	2,667,997	2,671,066
Long term liabilities						
(due after more than one year)						
Grants payable after 2018-19					-	-
Loans to the Church					-	-
Net assets	2,621,377	5,717	40,903	-	2,667,997	2,671,066
Funds of the Church						
General Fund (Unrestricted)	2,621,377				2,621,377	2,614,033
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)		5,717			5,717	3,949
Total Unrestricted Funds					2,627,094	2,617,982
Restricted Funds			40,903		40,903	53,084
Endowment Funds					-	-
Total Funds	2,621,377	5,717	40,903	-	2,667,997	2,671,066

Signed

Church Treasurer


CARL MEREDITH

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Church which are Unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

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

Incoming Resources

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

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants made by the Church from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Church accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Church

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £10,000. Property assets are stated at current fair value. The current fair value of the main church premises is evaluated by the trustees at 2022 deemed values, with reference to estimated resale value as vacant possession. The current fair value of the residential investment property is evaluated by the trustees with reference to comparable property sale transactions in the locality and to advice received from the letting agent engaged to manage the property on behalf of the trustees. Both properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors primarily constitute amounts owing by HMRC in respect of gift aid claims.

Creditors

Creditors include both trade creditors and donations to be paid to charities from the church General Reserve as determined by Church Council following confirmation of the full year income and expenditure.

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Church, in either the current or prior year.

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

There were no fees paid or payable to the independent examiner for reporting on the accounts or for other services, in either the current or prior year.

6 Paid employees

The church did not employ any staff during the current or prior year.

7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the 31 st August 2024 there are no capital commitments.

No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2024.

8 For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Balance brought forward from last year	1,117	-
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	1,968	3,208
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	2,118	2,091
Balance carried forward	967	1,117

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Main church premises	Residential investment property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000
Additions	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers * (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year (-)	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-

Net book value

Brought forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000
Carried forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000

10 Loans

The Church currently has no loans and has not held any loans during the current or prior year.

11 Analysis of funds

2023-24

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
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Restricted Funds

Benevolent Fund	445	3	150		298
Cornerstone Project	4,646	334	4,980		-
Lay Worker Fund	47,993	9,959	17,347		40,605
Total Restricted	53,084	10,296	22,477	-	40,903

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund	8,129	129,397	114,125		23,401
Major Repair Fund	10,091	226			10,317
Organ Repair Fund	5,813	560			6,373
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	15,000	11,260	19,974		6,286
Internal Organisations	3,949	2,613	845		5,717
Total Unrestricted	42,982	144,056	134,944	-	52,094

Total Funds	96,066	154,352	157,421	-	92,997
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""Comparative analysis of restricted and designated funds 2022-23

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
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Restricted Funds

Benevolent Fund	442	3			445
Cornerstone Project	4,365	6,000	5,719		4,646
Lay Worker Fund	55,486	5,228	12,721		47,993
Total Restricted	60,293	11,231	18,440	-	53,084

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund	23,479	114,273	149,128	19,505	8,129
Major Repair Fund	18,493	144		(8,546)	10,091
Organ Repair Fund	6,294	359	840		5,813
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	15,000	10,959		(10,959)	15,000
Internal Organisations	3,648	654	353		3,949
Total Unrestricted	66,914	126,389	150,321	-	42,982

Total Funds	127,207	137,620	168,761	-	96,066
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Name of Church: Marlborough Road Methodist Church No: 34/13

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  Date 4/2/25

Name and address of treasurer CARL MEREDITH
31 CANWOL ST Post Code AL3 5JR

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were ~~will be~~ presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 4 FEB 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev J. Donald Yoxon Date 4/2/25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Charity Number 1128694

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Marlborough Road Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 4 to 7. 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church: Marlborough Road Methodist Church No: 34/13

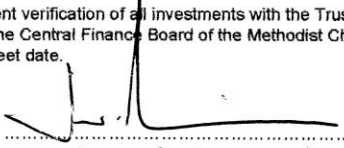
Independent Examiner's Statement

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 

Name of independent examiner J. ROBINSON

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

Address 5, RIVER DELL

WELWYN HERTS Post Code AL6 0BE

Date 10/2/15

CHURCH
ACCRUALS
ACCOUNTS

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Marlborough Road Methodist Church
--

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 Aug 2024

St Albans & Welwyn Circuit	Circuit No. 34/13
---------------------------------------	--------------------------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1128694
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If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number	
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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Reverend Jervis Daniel Yovan

Treasurer:

Carl Meredith

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023-24 £
Income						
1 Offerings		70,266		3		70,269
2 Donations		12,294		9,800		22,094
3 Gift aid		18,129		159		18,288
4 Interest and investment income		1,617	8			1,625
5 Income from investment properties		39,137				39,137
6 Internal organisations			2,606			2,606
7 Other charitable income				333		333
8 Total income		141,443	2,614	10,295	-	154,352
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		74,000				74,000
10 Grants and donations		3,580		5,130		8,710
11 Property maintenance		26,453				26,453
12 Insurance,utilities etc		28,364				28,364
13 Depreciation						-
14 Office expenses		-				-
15 Other expenditure		1,701		17,347		19,048
16 Internal organisations			846			846
17 Total charitable expenditure		134,098	846	22,477	-	157,421
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		7,345	1,768	(12,182)	-	(3,069)
21 Transfers between funds						-
22 Other gains/(losses)						-
23 Net movement in funds		7,345	1,768	(12,182)	-	(3,069)
24 Total funds brought forward		39,034	3,948	53,084	-	96,066
25 Total funds carried forward		46,379	5,716	40,902	-	92,997

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022-23
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
1 Offerings		59,627		2		59,629
2 Donations		11,952		11,057		23,009
3 Gift aid		14,061				14,061
4 Interest and investment income		1,138				1,138
5 Income from investment properties		38,956				38,956
6 Internal organisations			654			654
7 Other charitable income				171		171
8 Total income		125,734	654	11,230	-	137,618
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		79,833				79,833
10 Grants and donations		1,950				1,950
11 Property maintenance		44,656				44,656
12 Insurance,utilities etc		20,956				20,956
13 Depreciation						-
14 Office expenses		-				-
15 Other expenditure		2,573		18,438		21,011
16 Internal organisations			353			353
17 Total charitable expenditure		149,968	353	18,438	-	168,759
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		(24,234)	301	(7,208)	-	(31,141)
21 Transfers between funds						-
22 Other gains/(losses)						-
23 Net movement in funds		(24,234)	301	(7,208)	-	(31,141)
24 Total funds brought forward		63,268	3,647	60,292	-	127,207
25 Total funds carried forward		39,034	3,948	53,084	-	96,066

Notes to the
Accounts

	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2024	Totals 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets						
Church building and other property	2,000,000				2,000,000	2,000,000
Investment properties	575,000				575,000	575,000
Investments					-	-
Total fixed assets	2,575,000	-	-	-	2,575,000	2,575,000
Current Assets						
Debtors and prepayments	37,891				37,891	53,686
Loans by the Churches					-	-
Investments with TMCP					-	-
Central Finance Board Deposits	-	168	31,822		31,990	21,332
Cash at Bank and in hand	13,577	5,549	9,081		28,207	24,035
Total current assets	51,468	5,717	40,903	-	98,088	99,053
Current liabilities						
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	5,091				5,091	2,987
Grants payable within 2018-19					-	-
Total current liabilities	5,091	-	-	-	5,091	2,987
Net current assets/liabilities	46,377	5,717	40,903	-	92,997	96,066
Total assets less current liabilities	2,621,377	5,717	40,903	-	2,667,997	2,671,066
Long term liabilities						
(due after more than one year)						
Grants payable after 2018-19					-	-
Loans to the Church					-	-
Net assets	2,621,377	5,717	40,903	-	2,667,997	2,671,066
Funds of the Church						
General Fund (Unrestricted)	2,621,377				2,621,377	2,614,033
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)		5,717			5,717	3,949
Total Unrestricted Funds					2,627,094	2,617,982
Restricted Funds			40,903		40,903	53,084
Endowment Funds					-	-
Total Funds	2,621,377	5,717	40,903	-	2,667,997	2,671,066

Signed

Church Treasurer


CARL MEREDITH

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Church which are Unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

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

Incoming Resources

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

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants made by the Church from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Church accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Church

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £10,000. Property assets are stated at current fair value. The current fair value of the main church premises is evaluated by the trustees at 2022 deemed values, with reference to estimated resale value as vacant possession. The current fair value of the residential investment property is evaluated by the trustees with reference to comparable property sale transactions in the locality and to advice received from the letting agent engaged to manage the property on behalf of the trustees. Both properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors primarily constitute amounts owing by HMRC in respect of gift aid claims.

Creditors

Creditors include both trade creditors and donations to be paid to charities from the church General Reserve as determined by Church Council following confirmation of the full year income and expenditure.

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Church, in either the current or prior year.

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

There were no fees paid or payable to the independent examiner for reporting on the accounts or for other services, in either the current or prior year.

6 Paid employees

The church did not employ any staff during the current or prior year.

7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the 31 st August 2024 there are no capital commitments.

No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2024.

8 For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Balance brought forward from last year	1,117	-
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	1,968	3,208
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	2,118	2,091
Balance carried forward	967	1,117

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Main church premises	Residential investment property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000
Additions	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers * (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year (-)	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-

Net book value

Brought forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000
Carried forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000

10 Loans

The Church currently has no loans and has not held any loans during the current or prior year.

11 Analysis of funds

2023-24

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
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Restricted Funds

Benevolent Fund	445	3	150		298
Cornerstone Project	4,646	334	4,980		-
Lay Worker Fund	47,993	9,959	17,347		40,605
Total Restricted	53,084	10,296	22,477	-	40,903

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund	8,129	129,397	114,125		23,401
Major Repair Fund	10,091	226			10,317
Organ Repair Fund	5,813	560			6,373
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	15,000	11,260	19,974		6,286
Internal Organisations	3,949	2,613	845		5,717
Total Unrestricted	42,982	144,056	134,944	-	52,094

Total Funds	96,066	154,352	157,421	-	92,997
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""Comparative analysis of restricted and designated funds 2022-23

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
-----------	-----------------	--------------------	--------------------	-----------	-----------------

Restricted Funds

Benevolent Fund	442	3			445
Cornerstone Project	4,365	6,000	5,719		4,646
Lay Worker Fund	55,486	5,228	12,721		47,993
Total Restricted	60,293	11,231	18,440	-	53,084

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund	23,479	114,273	149,128	19,505	8,129
Major Repair Fund	18,493	144		(8,546)	10,091
Organ Repair Fund	6,294	359	840		5,813
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	15,000	10,959		(10,959)	15,000
Internal Organisations	3,648	654	353		3,949
Total Unrestricted	66,914	126,389	150,321	-	42,982

Total Funds	127,207	137,620	168,761	-	96,066
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Name of Church: Marlborough Road Methodist Church No: 34/13

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  Date 4/2/25

Name and address of treasurer CARL MEREDITH
31 CANWOL ST Post Code AL3 5JR

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were ~~will be~~ presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 4 FEB 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev J. Donald Yoxon Date 4/2/25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Charity Number 1128694

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Marlborough Road Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 4 to 7. 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.

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Name of Church: Marlborough Road Methodist Church No: 34/13

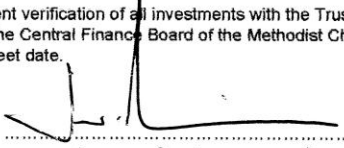
Independent Examiner's Statement

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:

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- 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 

Name of independent examiner J. ROBINSON

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

Address 5, RIVER DELL

WELWYN HERTS Post Code AL6 0BE

Date 10/2/15

MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

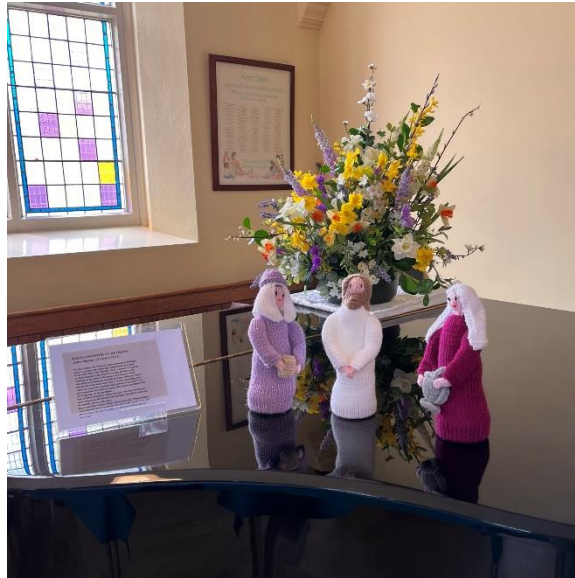
England & Wales - Charity number 1128694

Accounts

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Registered Charity No 1128694

Trustees Annual Report for year ending August 2023



**The Methodist Church
Marlborough Road
St Albans
AL1 3XG**

Marlborough Road celebrated its 125th Anniversary this year.
The current building was opened on 30th June 1898 succeeding four previous dedicated meeting places, the first being a converted outbuilding at the back of a Baker's Yard on what is now 'Romeland' (adjacent to the Cathedral) and certified for Methodist Worship in 1794.
Our Church Anniversary service was held on Sunday 25th June 2023.

Reference Information and Administration

The managing trustees

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Revd Andrew Prout	Chair, Presbyter St Albans section	
2	Deacon Nigel Perrott	Deacon (Cornerstone House)	
3	Ann Scorer	Church Steward	
4	Janis Gilbert	Church Steward	
5	Theresa Tetteh	Church Steward	To April 2023
6	Idy Osibodu	Church Steward	
7	Marjorie Wilson	Church Steward	
8	Paul Bates	Church Steward	From April 2023
9	Carl Meredith	Treasurer	
10	Judith Head	Pastoral Co-ordinator	
11	Celia Hudson	Pastoral Co-ordinator assistant	
12	Rona Wightman	Secretary to Church Council	
13	Frances Bates	Representative from General Church Meeting	
14	Andrew Johnstone	Representative from General Church Meeting	
15	Erma Profit	Representative from General Church Meeting	
16	Jenny Evers	Pastoral Visitors' Representative	
17	Di Churcher	Pastoral Visitors' Representative	
18	Ian Gilbert	Senior Property Steward	

Trustees for the charity

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) are custodian trustees.

Appointed advisers

We appoint an Auditor each year to check our accounts.

Structure, governance and management

The charity's trusts

Our governing document is the Methodist Church Act 1976

The charity is constituted as a trust.

Trustees are selected in accordance with the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. Representatives are elected by the Annual General Church Meeting. Other trustees are appointed by Church Council by virtue of their role. There is also provision in the CPD for trustees to be co-opted by Church Council.

Governance

As a Methodist Church, we are a Church within a Circuit, in our case the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit. The Circuits fall within Districts, our Circuit is in the Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts District. The Methodist Church is a Connexional Church, that is, we see ourselves as part of an interconnected 'body' that offers mutual encouragement and support.

Connexional systems, requirements and guidance help us minimise risks; our Circuit Meetings and Church Council and committees consider any specific issues for us to deal with.

Our safeguarding policy is reviewed annually.

Trustees are required to familiarise themselves with CC3 *The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do*. Our Circuit arranges annual Trustee training sessions.

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The purposes of the Methodist Church are 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.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Our main activity is the holding of regular public acts of worship, open to members of the church and non-members alike.

Pastoral work includes visiting the sick and bereaved.

We run a weekly drop-in toddler group for pre-school children and their carers and a weekly drop-in coffee morning that is mainly attended by older people.

Our premises are used by a number of community groups for cultural, educational and physical activity.

We support other charities in the UK financially and with prayer.

We continue working jointly with Hatfield Road Methodist Church (Charity No 1173147) to employ a full-time Anna Chaplain. The post is for five years, from April 2021. The Employer is Hatfield Road Methodist Church.

Our trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Local churches, circuits and districts are not defined as external grant-making bodies.

Our activity is carried out by volunteers with support of stipendiary and supernumerary presbyters, the Anna Chaplain, and administrative staff provided by the circuit.

Achievements and Performance 2022-23

Marlborough Road Methodist Church (MRMC) is an open and diverse congregation of Christians set near the centre of St. Albans. Our Calling is to:

Worship

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

Learning and Caring

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

Service

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

Evangelism

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ

Most of our activities fall under more than one heading! This year we continued to adjust and adapt to the ongoing circumstances resulting from Covid-19 pandemic.

This was a transitional year as the first stage of the Circuit's 'The Way Forward' plan came into effect, with Revd Andrew Prout, presbyter of Hatfield Road, St Albans, taking on responsibility for Marlborough Road as well. This would be for one year only, as Andrew would be moving to a new station from September 2023.

Another part of The Way Forward is the new arrangement for Cornerstone House, where the Circuit's Deacon is based. Cornerstone House is located in the large residential area and industrial area developed northwest of Hatfield on the site of the former de Havilland factory. Since September 2021 has been under the St Albans section for administration and support; this year there was also a change of personnel, with Deacon Nigel Perrott taking up station in our Circuit at the start of the reporting year.

We have been getting to know two other new staff members in the Circuit, as three presbyters retired or moved to new posts during 2022/23 and two new presbyters, one of whom is our new Circuit Superintendent, took up their station at the start of this reporting year.

Church and Circuit Resources



We have had a considerable change in Circuit personnel, with only Revd Andrew Prout remaining in the Circuit. In September 2022 we welcomed (left to right):

Revd David Jebb,
Circuit Superintendent & Presbyter for Hertsmere Section;

Revd Rosemary Mutopo,
Presbyter for Welwyn Hatfield Section;

Deacon Nigel Perrott,
Deacon based in St Albans Section.

An ongoing concern for our church is the demographic of the congregation, which is skewed heavily towards older people. Gradually there are fewer people able to take on the voluntary roles that deliver our mission.

Living and worshipping still affected after the pandemic

Although vaccines have greatly mitigated the threat of Covid-19, the pandemic has left its mark on our people and our community. For many people, including those associated with this church, the pandemic has affected their health and wellbeing and how they live their lives, through the illness itself and through side effects of measures needed to try and tackle the dangerous and highly infectious virus.

It has particularly affected members and Anna Chaplaincy work in residential care.

We have continued to use Zoom for some meetings and fellowships, and our circuit continues to prepare a weekly 'at home' service that is emailed or posted with our notice sheets.

Worship

Our Covid-19 precautions have enabled us to continue in-person Sunday morning worship; we have also continued to distribute the Circuit's weekly 'home worship' service sheet.

In the winter we were approached by St Peter's (Church of England), a congregation with which we have established a close relationship stemming from the Anglican – Methodist Covenant of 2003. Their church refurbishment project had been developed partly to deal with building issues arising from the Victorian refurbishment of this very old church building, and as the floor was to be entirely renewed, the congregation would not have access to the building for some months. Could they share worship with us?

We are already grateful for two Lay Readers from St Peters who regularly lead worship at Marlborough Road. There are several special services each year which are established as united services – the Covenant Service in January, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Aldersgate Sunday and St Peter's Patronal Festival.

We were honoured to be asked and of course we said yes, and there followed some months of intricate work on legal considerations and practical arrangements, thank you to the clergy, stewards and property committee for resolving these matters.

The welcoming service on 30 July 2023 was poignant as it was also the last morning service that would be led at Marlborough Road by Revd Andrew Prout before he left the Circuit.

Thinking Lunches

The format is a speaker then discussion on (usually) the first Thursday of the month. The audience bring their own drinks and snacks. The lunches are free to attend, donations are invited to cover costs and any surplus is donated to a charity chosen by the speaker. Our seating is comfortable, the topics are challenging. Attendance numbers are lower than before the pandemic. Our 22/23 programme was:

September – Lionel Wallace, High Sheriff of Hertfordshire

Beautiful Minds – youth mental health and wellbeing in Hertfordshire

October – David Jonathan, Grassroots Luton

Celebrating Difference, Staying Faithful -Building Peace and Reconciliation Together with Different Faith in Luton

November – Doral Hayes, Churches Together in England

What's Unity got to do with me? The role and potential of ecumenical work in the church today

December – Deacon Nigel Perrott, Cornerstone House
Who and what is a deacon in the Methodist Church

January – Revd Dr Leslie Griffiths (pictured, with Revd David Jebb and Revd Andrew Prout)
New Year, New Hope?

February – Maggie Dodd, Anna Chaplain, St Albans
Anna Chaplaincy and the importance of spiritual care in later life

March – Peter Berners-Lee, Chair, St Albans Churches Together
Physics and faith – Uncertainty and Meaning

April – meeting cancelled as speaker was ill

May – Jerome Phelps, Debt Justice
The Growing Global South Debt Crisis

June – Rachie Ross, Operation Noah
For the Love of God and Creation, let's clean up the Church's money, shall we?



Toddlers

The Toddler group had paused after the Children and Families Worker left in June 2022. There is normally a summer break in any case. With no replacement Worker appointment possible, the group restarted in October 2022 thanks to the efforts of the volunteers increasing their commitment to weekly involvement, supported by a rota of 'coffee helpers'. This group is popular with the community and has been full house on several occasions.

Children and young people

Half Term Holiday Fun sessions for primary school children were held at HRMC in the October and February half term holidays. Deacon Nigel also organised three 'Stay and Play' summer holiday morning craft sessions for families at MRMC.

We are delighted that premises users include two Brownie packs and Family Centre support sessions.

Chatterbox coffee morning

This is a drop-in coffee morning with 'regulars' who appreciate the companionship and stimulating conversations, as well as 'occasionals' who turn up from time to time and those who do just walk in off the street - Chatterbox takes place in the vestibule, so is visible to those passing by. Although the charges for drinks and biscuits and sometimes cake are modest, there is a gradual build up of surplus funds, from which this year we have donated to Christian Aid and All We Can.

Cornerstone House & Diaconal Work

This manse is Deacon Nigel's base for community work and evangelism. Part of the downstairs has been formed into a Community Room where Nigel hosts twice weekly 'drop-ins'. Many of those attending struggling with debt, family breakdowns and other difficulties, and Nigel has been forging links with local support services as well as drawing on his own experiences of debt counselling and foodbank operating.

Nigel has gradually built up other community events such as 'Bacon & Coffee' informal sessions for pre-schooler families, a Mum and Baby group, evening kids' fun sessions, and monthly film nights and other one-off events such as a day trip to Legoland. He has built up the facilities at Cornerstone House, including insulating the conservatory to enable year-round use of the space, including enjoying the new soft play and sensory equipment.

He has developed links with other churches and youth leaders in the area to develop prayer meetings, Bible studies and other activities. He is also building relationships between groups at Cornerstone, MRMC and HRMC – for example, the Legoland trip included participants from all three locations.



Nigel also instigated missional activity in the St Albans section and he organised **The Knitted Bible** exhibition that was held at MRMC in May – see cover picture. This was an opportunity to share Bible stories with people who may not attend to church, and was a joy for those already familiar with Bible stories.

Organisations we regularly support

- Action for Children – a national charity founded by a Methodist minister, supporting children living in poverty. Members of the congregation have 'lantern' collecting boxes, although the difficulty of gathering them in during lockdown meant that the lantern box holders donated direct instead, and we have continued this practice. There is an annual collection at church on Action for Children Sunday in July.
- All We Can – the Methodist Development and Relief Fund, works with local organisations to help people experiencing poverty and injustice, and also responds to humanitarian emergencies such as disastrous flooding in Pakistan, persistent and severe drought in East Africa and Tropical Cyclone Freddie that swept across Malawi. We are a Partner Church, and each year a different local project is featured. For 2023 the featured organisation was Eagles, an organisation that supports communities in Malawi to build resilience and take the initiative to solve the problems they face by identifying the resources they have and using them to transform their circumstances.
- Christian Aid – the Christian Aid Week house to house collections did not resume. We raised money through collections at church and direct individual donations.
- FEED – a foodbank run by the Vineyard Church in St Albans. We have a monthly collection of items at church, and we publicise other ways for our church members to contribute.
- Fund for Human Need – a Methodist-affiliated charity that provides small emergency grants to individuals who are destitute and vulnerable. We hold a quarterly benevolence collection to top up our church benevolence fund and any overspill goes to the Fund for Human Need.
- The Living Room – has centres in Hertfordshire, including St Albans, helping people overcome addiction. We hold a retiring collection at the Aldersgate Sunday evening service, held this year on 21 May 2023. It is a joint service with St Peter's church.
- Methodist Homes – a housing and care charity, we hold a collection on Methodist Homes Sunday, this year 11 June 2023.

Our building serving the community

A significant and very visible asset for our church is our building: the worship space itself, the hall and the church foyer and also, tucked away at the back, a small lounge. In the spring our Lettings Officer considered the many ways in which our bricks and mortar benefit our local community, and also help to maintain the church. A concern this year has of course been the huge increase in energy costs and the cost of living, a problem for us and for the people who use our premises. Whilst the premises hire is an important source of income for the church, we balance that with a desire to welcome and support people in need, and our rates are set accordingly.

In the Letting's Officer's words:

".... meeting was with a couple of young people who were looking to set up a "young person's Alcoholics Anonymous ("AA") meeting" (young in this context being under 30). Both of the young people were members of the two, weekly AA meetings we have on our premises. Between them the groups comprise over sixty people. It was very affecting to hear these young people talk so passionately about how the meetings had helped to change the path of their lives, how it was not just the support offered by MRMC in making our premises available (at heavily discounted rates) that was appreciated but that they were treated with respect and made to feel welcome. Small gestures such as giving a group its own cupboard in the kitchen made them feel like they belonged and were part of the community at MRMC.

"Every day we have groups using our premises. This ranges from the two Brownie packs on Monday and Tuesday evenings, fitness classes, dog training classes, a folk club with dancing on Friday's, u3a monthly with a wide range of activities, the historical society (SAHAAS) with lectures. We have two toddler groups, a coffee morning, a music group for babies, PlayBall for kids on Saturday mornings, children's birthday parties most weekends. We have two AA groups and a third is to start next month. We rent concert and rehearsal space to prestigious choirs such as Imperial Male Voice, Voix de Vivre and St Albans Choir. Yet again this summer we will support the St Albans Organ Festival. The Church of God of Prophecy holds a service every Sunday afternoon on our premises. And yes, we still have room for plenty of one-off requests and potential new partners."

We are very grateful to the volunteers who support this aspect of our mission by meeting users and hirers, invoicing, programming the heating control system, assessing risks and monitoring safety issues, overseeing building maintenance work and carrying out small maintenance tasks, keeping the garden looking lovely, checking the receipts and paying the bills.



Lay Workers

The Lay Workers Project is a joint initiative by the two St Albans Methodist Churches.

Our **Children and Families Worker** moved on to a new post in Derbyshire in June 2022 and efforts to recruit a replacement have been unsuccessful.

We appointed Maggie Dodd to the post of **Anna Chaplain** in March 2021 and she began work in late April 2021. She is the first Anna Chaplain in Hertfordshire and the first – and still the only - full-time Anna Chaplain in the country.

The past year has seen the continuation of Afternoon Services, often in 'Messy Vintage' format, at the two St Albans Methodist Churches and other local churches. A new 'Memory Worship' monthly service for people living with dementia and their carers has been introduced at one of the churches. The service involves the senses, with music, creativity and hospitality. Maggie continued to take services in turn with Canon Margaret Tinsley from St Peter's at retirement flats.

Maggie has continued to work with care homes to establish (or re-establish following Covid-19) regular worship. This has involved also forming relationships with people from local churches, lay and clergy, to support care home worship local to them. The Messy Vintage format is always enjoyed, and a new Songs and Praise format has been developed. This year six care homes in St Albans and one in Hatfield, near Cornerstone House, have started worship sessions in addition to the two existing homes that Maggie was already engaged with. An initiative at Harvest Festival brought children from a local primary school into an adjacent care home, an intergenerational event which was very much enjoyed by all involved and was repeated with carol singing at Christmas. There is potential to extend this inter-generational activity to other locations. Maggie has also been asked to lead Thanksgiving Services for care home residents, this is a growing ministry to the care home workers, residents and families.



At Christmastime Maggie led a second successful campaign to 'send love to care homes' in St Albans by creating knitted/felt and wooden hearts. Thirteen churches were involved, including both MRMC and HRMC, the Cathedral, seven CofE churches, the Baptist and URC churches, as well as various Rainbow and Brownie units and craft groups. Over 600 hearts were created, collected, wrapped and delivered to 12 care homes in St Albans and the surrounding villages. Some lovely posts were shared by care homes on their Facebook pages about the hearts – they were cherished and often hung alongside the stars we created last year for them.



Maggie helps with the Holiday at Home four day 'summer club' for seniors, organised for a number of years now by a team from MRMC, HRMC and St Peter's, held at the two Methodist Churches. Pictured above are holidaymakers being entertained at MRMC by the HRMC Music Group.

The Spring Diary of Anna Chaplaincy linked events for seniors was followed up with the St Albans Churches Groups, Services and Events for Seniors booklet covering summer and autumn. These were distributed via local churches and similar outlets. It was also handed out at surgeries by Social Prescribers, which means the information reaches people who might not otherwise have found out what churches offer.



An important part of Maggie's work is spreading the word about Anna Chaplaincy. This has included giving talks across a wide variety of settings, including a National Connexional Webinar, The Abbey Women's Group, St Paul's Lunch Club, St Alban's Diocese Vocations Day, Churches Together in Hemel Hempstead, Redbourn Churches Together in Lent, St Albans Salvation Army CAMEO group, Rickmansworth Deanery Synod, a Thinking Lunch at MRMC, Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church, Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church Lent talk, leading a Free Church Service at St Albans Cathedral, having a stand at the first Cathedral Charity Showcase event. Maggie also meets with interested local clergy and church workers. She writes regular 'Faith Focus' articles for the Herts Advertiser local newspaper.

Maggie continues to recruit people to help with Anna Chaplaincy, either as volunteers who help with services and activities, or with a commitment to Anna Chaplaincy as an Anna Friend, with the associated training and support from the Anna Chaplaincy Network. Maggie herself delivers training, over the summer she worked with two Methodist Homes for the Aged (MHA) Chaplains in Hitchin to provide a course series on Spiritual Care for people who spiritually support older people. Attendees included people from churches in St Albans, and from the Hitchin and Bedford area.

Eco Church

Our Church magazine always features EcoTips from A Rocha, the Eco Church organisation. These general tips are augmented by local information, such as repair services for outdoor clothing, local supermarket and other retailer recycling schemes and refill providers.

Our own recycling efforts paused during the pandemic and restarted this year. We collected for various Terracycle schemes - we pass our items on to registered Terracycle collections at local churches, schools and community groups.

This year we twinned our bins, having previously twinned our toilets.



Our June Thinking Lunch is on an environmental theme and is included in the Sustainable St Albans SustFest community programme of events.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



In this Windrush 75 year (1948 – 2013) we unveiled a plaque commemorating the late Cyril Roper who was born in Nevis. The plaque particularly celebrates Cyril's work in raising awareness of prostate cancer, a disease that particularly affects men of Caribbean heritage.

We continue to be conscious of EDI issues and take steps to develop our awareness and actions through our membership of Inclusive Church and Methodist Church initiatives and guidance. Our Thinking Lunches are often addressing Peace and Justice topics. We are a Fair Trade Church.

“We believe in inclusive church – a church which celebrates and affirms every person and does not discriminate.”
Extract from Inclusive Church vision statement.

Inter-Church relations

We have continued to work closely with Hatfield Road Methodist Church, the bonds being strengthened by the Lay Workers project and now having the same minister. The church stewards hold regular joint meetings, which they have found very helpful for brainstorming and mutual support. Holiday at Home has been a joint activity since 2019.

The **Church of God of Prophecy** have worshipped on our premises for many years, we are glad that God is praised here on Sunday afternoons as well as Sunday mornings!

Sharing a minister with HRMC has widened our network of churches that we have a particular link to. Many of our members attended the **Windrush Recognition and Appreciation Service** held in July at Hatfield Road Methodist Church and led by the **New Testament Church of God**. The service was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress and two District Councillors.

We continue to value our close relationship with **St Peter's** Church of England, which became even closer this year when we began to share weekly worship for the duration of the St Peter's refurbishment project.



Screenshot from the service on 30th July 2023 with church leaders from St Peter's, MRMC, New Testament Church of God and Church of God of Prophecy.

Churches Together in St Albans (CTSA) seeks to help churches to work and to grow together. CTSA have three forums a year as well as other events such as the Cross Procession, Unity at the Cross, 24 Hour Prayer for Thy Kingdom Come, Carols at the Clock Tower, and the service of prayer for Christian Unity each January. Meetings are open to all. MRMC is always open for the annual September CTSA City Centre Prayer Walk, when a short prayer and pause is held in each location. Each church has CTSA reps who can vote at the AGM. Maggie Dodd in her role as Anna Chaplain is a member of the CTSA Enabling Group, made up of members of several different churches and meeting about 4 times a year.

It is always a delight to welcome participants in the **Historic Churches Bike n Hike**, held in September. Nobody need to use the pump, we are happy to say. This year we additionally welcomed visitors to the History Fair organised by the St Albans & Hertfordshire Architectural & Archaeological Society.



Financial review

The Church's policy on Reserves is to maintain a reserve in the general fund to cover a month's running costs and to hold a sensible reserve in the repair, organ and cottage funds to cover emergency repair works.

In this financial year our reserves have been depleted by the huge increase – from £4,500 to £18,000 - - in energy prices. We also incurred significant planned and unplanned maintenance expenditure on the church premises and the adjacent cottage owned by the church.

We recorded a net deficit this financial year. However, we expect to remain financially viable for the foreseeable future.

Our principal sources of funds are voluntary donations, lettings and fund-raising. We have been experiencing a reduction in member donations over the last year or so due to death or re-location of some regular givers. A one-off legacy donation this year was very welcome.

Our expenditure goes entirely in support of our key objectives and activities.

Our investment policy has been maintained through the moral and ethical policies of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Please refer to our Accounts for more details.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the foregoing report.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rona Wightman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rona Wightman
Church Council Secretary

June 2024

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Marlborough Road Methodist Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 Aug 2023

St Albans & Welwyn Circuit	Circuit No. 34/13
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1128694
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If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number	
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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Reverend Daniel Jervis

Treasurer:

Carl Meredith

Name of Church

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Circuit No 34/13

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022-23 £
Income						
1 Offerings		59,627		2		59,629
2 Donations		11,952		11,057		23,009
3 Gift aid		14,061				14,061
4 Interest and investment income		1,138				1,138
5 Income from investment properties		38,956				38,956
6 Internal organisations			654			654
7 Other charitable income				171		171
8 Total income		125,734	654	11,230	-	137,618
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		79,833				79,833
10 Grants and donations		1,950				1,950
11 Property maintenance		44,656				44,656
12 Insurance,utilities etc		20,956				20,956
13 Depreciation						-
14 Office expenses		-				-
15 Other expenditure		2,573		18,438		21,011
16 Internal organisations			353			353
17 Total charitable expenditure		149,968	353	18,438	-	168,759
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
20 Net income/(expenditure)	-	24,234	301	- 7,208	-	- 31,141
21 Transfers between funds						-
22 Other gains/(losses)						-
23 Net movement in funds	-	24,234	301	- 7,208	-	- 31,141
24 Total funds brought forward		63,268	3,647	60,292	-	127,207
25 Total funds carried forward		39,034	3,948	53,084	-	96,066

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021-22 £
Income						
1 Offerings		69,982				69,982
2 Donations		19,127		25,668		44,795
3 Gift aid		15,836				15,836
4 Interest and investment income		195				195
5 Income from investment properties		29,815				29,815
6 Internal organisations			757			757
7 Other charitable income				225		225
8 Total income		134,955	757	25,893	-	161,605
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		84,000				84,000
10 Grants and donations		4,466				4,466
11 Property maintenance		18,909				18,909
12 Insurance,utilities etc		10,142				10,142
13 Depreciation						-
14 Office expenses		764				764
15 Other expenditure		3,440		32,572		36,012
16 Internal organisations			253			253
17 Total charitable expenditure		121,721	253	32,572	-	154,546
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		13,234	504	- 6,679	-	7,059
21 Transfers between funds	-	21,149		21,149		-
22 Other gains/(losses)						-
23 Net movement in funds	-	7,915	504	14,470	-	7,059
24 Total funds brought forward		71,183	3,143	45,822	-	120,148
25 Total funds carried forward		63,268	3,647	60,292	-	127,207

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2023	Totals 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Church building and other property	2,000,000				2,000,000	2,000,000
Investment properties	575,000				575,000	575,000
Investments					-	
Total fixed assets	2,575,000	-	-	-	2,575,000	2,575,000

Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments	48,290		5,396		53,686	37,185
Loans by the Churches					-	-
Investments with TMCP					-	-
Central Finance Board Deposits	-	159	21,173		21,332	44,076
Cash at Bank and in hand	-	6,270	3,790	26,515	24,035	55,700
Total current assets	42,020	3,949	53,084	-	99,053	136,961

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	2,987				2,987	9,754
Grants payable within 2018-19					-	-
Total current liabilities	2,987	-	-	-	2,987	9,754
Net current assets/liabilities	39,033	3,949	53,084	-	96,066	127,207

Total assets less current liabilities	2,614,033	3,949	53,084	-	2,671,066	2,702,207
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)						
Grants payable after 2018-19					-	-
Loans to the Church					-	-
					-	-
Net assets	2,614,033	3,949	53,084	-	2,671,066	2,702,207

Funds of the Church

General Fund (Unrestricted)	2,614,033				2,614,033	2,638,266
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)		3,949			3,949	3,648
Total Unrestricted Funds					2,617,982	2,641,914
Restricted Funds			53,084		53,084	60,293
Endowment Funds				-	-	
Total Funds	2,614,033	3,949	53,084	-	2,671,066	2,702,207

Signed

Church Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Church which are Unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

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

Incoming Resources

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

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants made by the Church from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Church accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Church

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £10,000.

Property assets are stated at current fair value. The current fair value of the main church premises is evaluated by the trustees at 2022 deemed values, with reference to estimated resale value as vacant possession. The current fair value of the residential investment property is evaluated by the trustees with reference to comparable property sale transactions in the locality and to advice received from the letting agent engaged to manage the property on behalf of the trustees. Both properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors primarily constitute amounts owing by HMRC in respect of gift aid claims.

Creditors

Creditors include both trade creditors and donations to be paid to charities from the church General Reserve as determined by Church Council following confirmation of the full year income and expenditure.

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Church, in either the current or prior year.

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

There were no fees paid or payable to the independent examiner for reporting on the accounts or for other services, in either the current or prior year.

6 Paid employees

The church did not employ any staff during the current or prior year.

7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the 31 st August 2023 there are no capital commitments.

No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2023.

8 For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Balance brought forward from last year	3,606	564
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	3,208	5,998
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	5,697	2,956
Balance carried forward	1,117	3,606

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Main church premises	Residential investment property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000
Additions	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers * (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year (-)	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-

Net book value

Brought forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000
Carried forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000

10 Loans

The Church currently has no loans and has not held any loans during the current or prior year.

11 Analysis of funds

2022-23

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
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Restricted Funds

Benevolent Fund	442	3			445
Cornerstone Project	4,365	6,000	5,719		4,646
Lay Worker Fund	55,486	5,228	12,721		47,993
Total Restricted	60,293	11,231	18,440	-	53,084

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund	23,479	114,273	149,128	19,505	8,129
Major Repair Fund	18,493	144		8,546	10,091
Organ Repair Fund	6,294	359	840		5,813
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	15,000	10,959		10,959	15,000
Internal Organisations	3,648	654	353		3,949
Total Unrestricted	66,914	126,389	150,321	-	42,982

Total Funds	127,207	137,620	168,761	-	96,066
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""Comparative analysis of restricted and designated funds 2021-22

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
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Restricted Funds

Benevolent Fund	442				442
Cornerstone Project	-	8,235	3,870		4,365
Lay Worker Fund	45,381	17,658	28,702	21,149	55,486
Total Restricted	45,823	25,893	32,572	21,149	60,293

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund	31,454	125,454	114,657	18,772	23,479
Major Repair Fund	18,475	18			18,493
Organ Repair Fund	6,251	43			6,294
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	15,000	9,441	7,064	2,377	15,000
Internal Organisations	3,145	756	253		3,648
Total Unrestricted	74,325	135,712	121,974	21,149	66,914

Total Funds	120,148	161,605	154,546	-	127,207
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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.

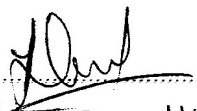
Signature of treasurer  Date 15/2/2024

Name and address of treasurer CARL MEREDITH

31 CANNON ST. ST ALBANS Post Code AL3 5JR

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 15/2/2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev J. Daniel Young Date 15/2/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Charity Number 1128694

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Marlborough Road Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 2 to 7. 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church: Marlborough Road Methodist Church No: 34/13

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 

Name of independent examiner J. J. ROBINSON

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

Address 5 HARMER DELL WELWYN

HERTS Post Code AL6 0BE

Date 14/3/24

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Marlborough Road Methodist Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 Aug 2023

St Albans & Welwyn Circuit	Circuit No. 34/13
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1128694
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If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number	
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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Reverend Daniel Jervis

Treasurer:

Carl Meredith

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022-23	
		£	£	£	£	£	
Income							
1 Offerings		59,627		2		59,629	
2 Donations		11,952		11,057		23,009	
3 Gift aid		14,061				14,061	
4 Interest and investment income		1,138				1,138	
5 Income from investment properties		38,956				38,956	
6 Internal organisations			654			654	
7 Other charitable income				171		171	
8 Total income		125,734	654	11,230	-	137,618	
Expenditure							
9 Circuit assessment or share		79,833				79,833	
10 Grants and donations		1,950				1,950	
11 Property maintenance		44,656				44,656	
12 Insurance,utilities etc		20,956				20,956	
13 Depreciation						-	
14 Office expenses		-				-	
15 Other expenditure		2,573		18,438		21,011	
16 Internal organisations			353			353	
17 Total charitable expenditure		149,968	353	18,438	-	168,759	
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-	
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-	
20 Net income/(expenditure)	-	24,234	301	-	7,208	-	31,141
21 Transfers between funds						-	
22 Other gains/(losses)						-	
23 Net movement in funds	-	24,234	301	-	7,208	-	31,141
24 Total funds brought forward		63,268	3,647	60,292	-	127,207	
25 Total funds carried forward		39,034	3,948	53,084	-	96,066	

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021-22 £
Income						
1 Offerings		69,982				69,982
2 Donations		19,127		25,668		44,795
3 Gift aid		15,836				15,836
4 Interest and investment income		195				195
5 Income from investment properties		29,815				29,815
6 Internal organisations			757			757
7 Other charitable income				225		225
8 Total income		134,955	757	25,893	-	161,605
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		84,000				84,000
10 Grants and donations		4,466				4,466
11 Property maintenance		18,909				18,909
12 Insurance,utilities etc		10,142				10,142
13 Depreciation						-
14 Office expenses		764				764
15 Other expenditure		3,440		32,572		36,012
16 Internal organisations			253			253
17 Total charitable expenditure		121,721	253	32,572	-	154,546
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		13,234	504	- 6,679	-	7,059
21 Transfers between funds	-	21,149		21,149		-
22 Other gains/(losses)						-
23 Net movement in funds	-	7,915	504	14,470	-	7,059
24 Total funds brought forward		71,183	3,143	45,822	-	120,148
25 Total funds carried forward		63,268	3,647	60,292	-	127,207

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2023	Totals 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Church building and other property		2,000,000			2,000,000	2,000,000
Investment properties		575,000			575,000	575,000
Investments					-	
Total fixed assets		2,575,000	-	-	2,575,000	2,575,000

Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments		48,290		5,396	53,686	37,185
Loans by the Churches					-	-
Investments with TMCP					-	-
Central Finance Board Deposits		-	159	21,173	21,332	44,076
Cash at Bank and in hand	-	6,270	3,790	26,515	24,035	55,700
Total current assets		42,020	3,949	53,084	99,053	136,961

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)		2,987			2,987	9,754
Grants payable within 2018-19					-	-
Total current liabilities		2,987	-	-	2,987	9,754
Net current assets/liabilities		39,033	3,949	53,084	-	127,207

Total assets less current liabilities		2,614,033	3,949	53,084	-	2,671,066	2,702,207
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2018-19						-	-
Loans to the Church						-	-
						-	-
Net assets		2,614,033	3,949	53,084	-	2,671,066	2,702,207

Funds of the Church

General Fund (Unrestricted)		2,614,033			2,614,033	2,638,266
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			3,949		3,949	3,648
Total Unrestricted Funds					2,617,982	2,641,914
Restricted Funds				53,084	53,084	60,293
Endowment Funds					-	
Total Funds		2,614,033	3,949	53,084	-	2,702,207

Signed

Church Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Church which are Unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

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

Incoming Resources

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

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants made by the Church from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Church accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Church

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £10,000.

Property assets are stated at current fair value. The current fair value of the main church premises is evaluated by the trustees at 2022 deemed values, with reference to estimated resale value as vacant possession. The current fair value of the residential investment property is evaluated by the trustees with reference to comparable property sale transactions in the locality and to advice received from the letting agent engaged to manage the property on behalf of the trustees. Both properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors primarily constitute amounts owing by HMRC in respect of gift aid claims.

Creditors

Creditors include both trade creditors and donations to be paid to charities from the church General Reserve as determined by Church Council following confirmation of the full year income and expenditure.

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Church, in either the current or prior year.

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

There were no fees paid or payable to the independent examiner for reporting on the accounts or for other services, in either the current or prior year.

6 Paid employees

The church did not employ any staff during the current or prior year.

7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the 31 st August 2023 there are no capital commitments.

No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2023.

8 For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Balance brought forward from last year	3,606	564
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	3,208	5,998
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	5,697	2,956
Balance carried forward	1,117	3,606

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Main church premises	Residential investment property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000
Additions	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers * (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year (-)	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-

Net book value

Brought forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000
Carried forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000

10 Loans

The Church currently has no loans and has not held any loans during the current or prior year.

11 Analysis of funds

2022-23

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
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Restricted Funds

Benevolent Fund	442	3			445
Cornerstone Project	4,365	6,000	5,719		4,646
Lay Worker Fund	55,486	5,228	12,721		47,993
Total Restricted	60,293	11,231	18,440	-	53,084

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund	23,479	114,273	149,128	19,505	8,129
Major Repair Fund	18,493	144		8,546	10,091
Organ Repair Fund	6,294	359	840		5,813
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	15,000	10,959		10,959	15,000
Internal Organisations	3,648	654	353		3,949
Total Unrestricted	66,914	126,389	150,321	-	42,982

Total Funds	127,207	137,620	168,761	-	96,066
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""Comparative analysis of restricted and designated funds 2021-22

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
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Restricted Funds

Benevolent Fund	442				442
Cornerstone Project	-	8,235	3,870		4,365
Lay Worker Fund	45,381	17,658	28,702	21,149	55,486
Total Restricted	45,823	25,893	32,572	21,149	60,293

Unrestricted Funds

General Fund	31,454	125,454	114,657	18,772	23,479
Major Repair Fund	18,475	18			18,493
Organ Repair Fund	6,251	43			6,294
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	15,000	9,441	7,064	2,377	15,000
Internal Organisations	3,145	756	253		3,648
Total Unrestricted	74,325	135,712	121,974	21,149	66,914

Total Funds	120,148	161,605	154,546	-	127,207
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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.

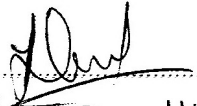
Signature of treasurer  Date 15/2/2024

Name and address of treasurer CARL MEREDITH

31 CANNON ST. ST ALBANS Post Code AL3 5JR

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 15/2/2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev J. David Youn Date 15/2/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Charity Number 1128694

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Marlborough Road Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 2 to 7. 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church: Marlborough Road Methodist Church No: 34/13

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 

Name of independent examiner J. J. ROBINSON

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

Address 5 HARMER DELL WELWYN

HERTS

Post Code AL6 0BE

Date 14/3/24

MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1128694

Accounts

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Registered Charity No 1128694

Trustees Annual Report for year ending August 2022



FAIRTRADE

The Methodist Church
Marlborough Road
St Albans
AL1 3XG

Reference Information and Administration

The managing trustees

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Rosemary Fletcher	Chair	
2	Revd Andrew Prout	Presbyter (Hatfield Road Methodist Church)	
3	Deacon Linda Kinchenton	Deacon (Cornerstone House)	
4	Janis Gilbert	Church Steward	
5	Theresa Tetteh	Church Steward	
6	Ann Scorer	Church Steward	
7	Carl Meredith	Treasurer	
8	Celia Hudson	Pastoral Co-ordinator	
9	Rona Wightman	Secretary to Church Council	
10	Frances Bates	Representative from General Church Meeting	
11	Jenny Evers	Representative from General Church Meeting	
12	Andrew Johnstone	Representative from General Church Meeting	
13	Erma Profit	Representative from General Church Meeting	
14	Mike Scorer	Representative from General Church Meeting	April 2022
15	Marjorie Wilson	Representative from General Church Meeting	
16	Di Churcher	Pastoral Visitors' Representative	
17	Judith Head	Safeguarding Officer	
18	Ian Gilbert	Senior Property Steward	
19	James Rowley	Secretary to Finance and Property committee	

Trustees for the charity

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) are custodian trustees.

Appointed advisers

We appoint an Auditor each year to check our accounts.

Structure, governance and management

The charity's trusts

Our governing document is the Methodist Church Act 1976

The charity is constituted as a trust.

Trustees are selected in accordance with the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. Representatives are elected by the Annual General Church Meeting. Other trustees are appointed by Church Council by virtue of their role. There is also provision in the CPD for trustees to be co-opted by Church Council.

Governance

As a Methodist Church, we are a Church within a Circuit, in our case the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit. The Circuits fall within Districts, our Circuit is in the Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts District. The Methodist Church is a Connexional Church, that is, we see ourselves as part of an interconnected 'body' that offers mutual encouragement and support.

Connexional systems, requirements and guidance help us minimise risks; our Circuit Meetings and Church Council and committees consider any specific issues for us to deal with.

Our safeguarding policy is reviewed annually.

Trustees are required to familiarise themselves with CC3 *The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do*. Our Circuit arranges annual Trustee training sessions.

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The purposes of the Methodist Church are 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.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Our main activity is the holding of regular public acts of worship, open to members of the church and non-members alike.

Pastoral work includes visiting the sick and bereaved.

We run a weekly drop-in toddler group for pre-school children and their carers and a weekly drop-in coffee morning that is mainly attended by older people.

Our premises are used by a number of community groups for cultural, educational and physical activity.

We support other charities in the UK financially and with prayer.

We have been working jointly with Hatfield Road Methodist Church (Charity No 1173147) to employ two Lay Workers: a three-year post for a Children and Families Worker and a five year post for an Anna Chaplain. The Children and Families Worker was appointed in June 2020 but tendered her resignation effective from June 2022, this was for personal reasons and we wish her well. Our Anna Chaplain was appointed in April 2021. The Employer is Hatfield Road Methodist Church.

Our trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Local churches, circuits and districts are not defined as external grant-making bodies.

Nearly all of our activity is carried out by volunteers with support of stipendiary and supernumerary presbyters and the lay workers, and administrative staff provided by the circuit.

Achievements and Performance 2021-22

Marlborough Road Methodist Church is an open and diverse congregation of Christians set near the centre of St. Albans. Our Calling is to:

Worship

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

Learning and Caring

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

Service

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

Evangelism

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ

Most of our activities fall under more than one heading! This year we continued to adjust and adapt to the ongoing pandemic situation as we worked towards anticipated changes. We also had to cope with the unexpected losses of two key people.

A significant theme this year throughout Methodism has been Justice, Dignity and Solidarity, and this has been a thread running through our activities. We became a Fair Trade church some years ago, this year we added EcoChurch (Bronze) and Inclusive Church to our badge collection.

Church and Circuit Resources

This year we implemented the first changes under 'The Way Forward' plan for our Circuit that was drawn up during 2020/21. Under this plan, from September 2022 there would be one presbyter looking after both Methodist Churches in St Albans and the Deacon based in Salisbury Village, a housing estate on the St Albans side of Hatfield, would be part of the St Albans section.

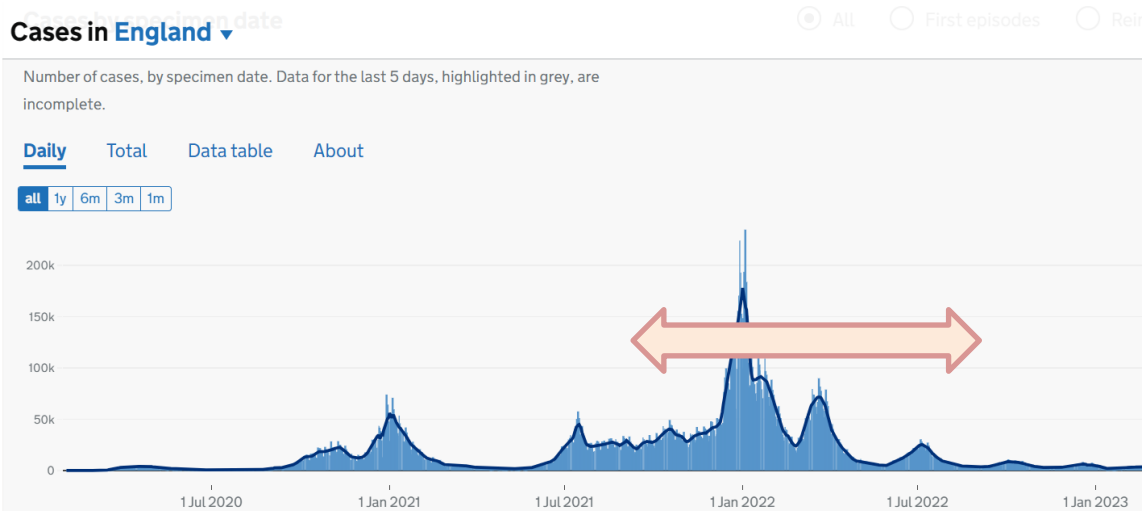
The De Havilland Project in Salisbury Village, Hatfield was wound up over the summer of 2021 and the work of Deacon Linda Kinchenton came under the auspices of the two St Albans Churches a year earlier than envisaged.

Looking ahead to being two churches in one section, we had already embarked on a shared project to employ two lay workers. Our Children and Families Worker began work in August 2020 and the St Albans Anna Chaplain was appointed in March 2021. Their work is detailed in later sections of this report. We were very sorry to lose Emma Williams, our Children and Families Worker in May 2022 when for personal reasons she moved away from the St Albans area. Throughout the year we were consciously looking for opportunities to strengthen our relationship with Hatfield Road ahead of becoming two churches with one minister.

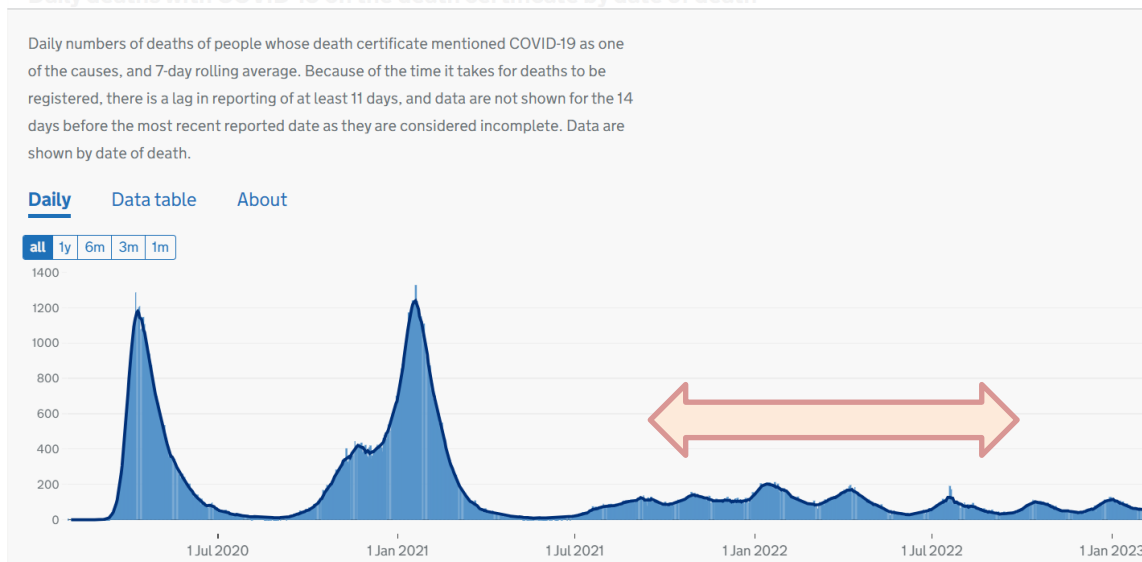
Our minister, Revd Rosemary Fletcher, was due to retire in September 2022. This year was therefore extra busy, as she made sure things were in order for the Hatfield Road presbyter, Revd Andrew Prout, to add us to his care from September 2022, as well as of course attending to personal arrangements for her retirement. As Superintendent of the Circuit, Rosemary has always had oversight of the other churches in the circuit, and during her time in the circuit she had assumed pastoral charge for prolonged periods when other circuit presbyters were unwell. She again took on extra responsibility this year when the minister of St Johns Potters Bar was granted permission to leave her station earlier than planned to take up a hospital chaplaincy post from November 2021.

An ongoing concern for our church is the demographic of the congregation, which is skewed heavily towards older people. Gradually there are fewer people able to take on the voluntary roles that deliver our mission. It was a severe loss when Mike Scorer died in May 2022. Mike had served the church in many ways – most recently, his attention to detail and genial personality gave us a wonderful maintainer of the community roll, Church Council member, Junior Church helper, Chatterbox coffee morning stalwart and brilliant Lettings Officer. He was a tremendous asset to the Finance and Property team, especially during the church refurbishment project. His willingness to examine and digest Coronavirus Regulations and Methodist Church Guidance was invaluable to the Covid-19 group as they worked out how to maintain our premises and church life during the pandemic.

Living and worshipping during the pandemic 2021/22



Deaths in England



Source: (accessed June 2023)

[Cases in England | Coronavirus in the UK \(data.gov.uk\)](#)

[Deaths in the UK | Coronavirus in the UK \(data.gov.uk\)](#) (accessed June 2023)

Most Coronavirus legal restrictions were lifted on 19 July 2021. However, the emergence of the Omicron variant in late autumn led to the introduction of 'Plan B' measures by the Government, in spite of which an estimated 1 in 15 people in the UK were infected in late December. This affected education, social and health care. Although case levels remained high, most measures were lifted on 24 February 2022, with measures to protect care home residents remaining in place until June 2022.

In looking at the graphs above, for this period, the availability of free Lateral Flow Tests (until the end of March 2022) and the life-saving effects of vaccines and boosters are evident.

For many people, including those associated with this church, the pandemic has affected their health and wellbeing and how they live their lives, through the illness itself and through side effects of measures needed to try and tackle the dangerous and highly infectious virus.

Worship

Thanks to careful consideration and adjustments to church seating layout and circulation, and in line with Methodist Church guidance, we opened the church for private prayer on 23 August 2021 and held a service of worship in church on Sunday 30 August 2021, the first since lockdown began in March 2020.

As restrictions changed we no longer required 'track and trace' registration although we encouraged voluntary 'pre-booking' as it helped with seating arrangement; Methodist Church guidance and our own risk assessment meant we continued masking for some time after masks were no longer a legal requirement, and we remain supportive of people who choose to use a face covering in indoor settings.

As the year progressed we were able to resume 'in person after church coffee in the hall', building from twice a month to most Sundays as more people returned to in person worship and were able to volunteer to serve. We are very grateful to the Covid-19 Management Group for enabling us to return to in-person activities in a careful manner.

At-home service sheets prepared by Circuit presbyters and Local Preachers and 'Church Coffee Zoom' were continued, to support those unable to return to in-person worship.

Thinking Lunches and Evenings

We were able to resume Thinking Lunches at Marlborough Road. The format is a speaker then discussion on (usually) the first Thursday of the month. The audience bring their own drinks and snacks. The lunches are free to attend, donations are invited to cover costs and any surplus is donated to a charity chosen by the speaker. Our seating is comfortable, the topics are challenging. However, attendance numbers are lower than before the pandemic. Our 21/22 programme was:

September – The Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal

The Roots of Sanctuary – making St Albans a City of Sanctuary

October – The Revd Dr Evie Vernon (pictured)

For Black History Month, ***Still I rise – acknowledgements to Maya Angelou***

November – Tony Miller, Whitechapel Mission

How do we prevent homelessness rather than relieving it?

December – The Revd Jonathan Even, St Martin's in the Fields, London

Being with God on the edge

January – The Rt Revd Michael Beasley (pictured)

Asset Based Church Development – lessons from the Global South about starting with what we've got, not with what we don't have

February – Mia Hasenson-Gros

Human Rights – a legacy of the Holocaust and the duty to act today

March – Rachel Lampard

Walking with Micah – Justice or Just Is? What does it mean to do the right thing?

April – Revd Fiona Souter, University of Hertfordshire (pictured)

Social Media, Crochet and Chocolate Chip Cookies: the life and times of a University Chaplain

May – Justin Thacker, Christian Aid

How the West steals from Africa

June – Kath Clough, Green Christian

Code Red for Humanity – How might we live in a collapsing civilisation



In October 2021, ahead of COP26 (United Nations Climate Change Conference) in Glasgow in November, we held an online Thinking Evening. The speaker was Molly Pugmire, of the Methodist Climate Justice for All campaign (CJ4A). Molly is one of a team of campaign workers comprising young people from Britain, Italy, Zambia, Fiji and Uruguay. The CJ4A team are working to raise awareness and to inspire people to take action.

There was a special Thinking Lunch in August 2022, when the Bishop of Kurunegla, Rt Revd Dr Keerthisiri Fernando, in England for the Lambeth Conference, visited us to talk about the situation in Sri Lanka. We had retiring collections in July for The Samaritan Journey Project, a relief effort by the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka, to help people suffering from the political instability, food and fuel shortages and rising prices.



A Church in a Connexion



Our Circuit was delighted to be visited by the President of Conference, Revd Sonia Hicks, who led a Circuit Service of morning worship at Marlborough Road on Sunday 10 October 2021. *Picture: Revd Sonia Hicks and Revd Rosemary Fletcher in the MRMC porch.*

Following the resolutions at Conference in 2021, in February 2022 a joint special Church Council meeting was held in person at Hatfield Road to consider whether we wished to register our churches for same sex marriages and to permit blessings of such marriages. It was good to be together for an evening of thoughtful discussion and careful listening and reflection. The two churches had separate ballots on the proposal, both churches voted in favour by a substantial majority. It was firmly stated that we respect the integrity and different views of individuals within our congregations on these matters.

Our premises were confirmed as Registered in June 2022, and the two St Albans Ministers are Authorised.

We continue to feature works from the Methodist Modern Art Collection in our church magazine – the art is accompanied by some background information and by carefully chosen poetry or song lyrics.

Service – being a good neighbour

Our community outreach and support activities had been in abeyance because of the pandemic.

With support from our Children and Families worker Emma Williams we were able to restart the Tuesday morning **Toddlers** group in October. Emma set up a booking system to manage numbers to avoid overcrowding while Covid-19 remains a hazard. The Toddlers group did not run during the January to February half term when Covid-19 prevalence was high.

Chatterbox coffee morning had only just resumed in November 2021 when Covid-19 case rates began to rise, so Chatterbox was suspended again until March 2022. Chatterbox is a drop-in coffee morning with 'regulars' who appreciate the companionship and stimulating conversations, as well as 'occasionals' who turn up from time to time and those who do just walk in off the street - Chatterbox takes place in the vestibule, so is visible to those passing by. We held a special Chatterbox to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee which was very well attended, *pictured*. Although the charges for drinks and biscuits and sometimes cake are modest, there is a gradual build up of surplus funds, from which this year we have donated to Christian Aid in May and the Sri Lanka appeal in August.



As a church we also support a number of local, national and international organisations. When we could not hold the usual collections and fundraising activities, the church and members made donations directly.

Organisations we regularly support are:

- Action for Children – a national charity founded by a Methodist minister, supporting children living in poverty. Members of the congregation have 'lantern' collecting boxes, although the difficulty of gathering them in during lockdown meant that the lantern box holders have been donating direct instead. There is an annual collection at church on Action for Children Sunday – this year 10 July 2022.
- All We Can – the Methodist Development and Relief Fund, works with local organisations to help people experiencing poverty and injustice, and also responds to humanitarian emergencies such as civilians suffering as a result of the invasion of Ukraine. We are a Partner Church, and each year a different local project is featured. This year we were learning about HEFO, an supporting the community in Nkayi in Zimbabwe's Matabeleland North. The region suffers from persistent drought and extremes of rain and temperature. One HEFO intervention provided a women's collective producing tomatoes and green vegetables with a solar borehole, a water tank and three taps to make crop watering easier. This increased the yield and meant the women could find more markets for selling their produce.
- Christian Aid – the Christian Aid Week house to house collections did not resume. We raised money through collections at church and sponsorship of 'the 'Wesley Walkers' from Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road Methodist Churches, who walked 17 miles visiting 26 St Albans churches.
- FEED – a foodbank run by the Vineyard Church in St Albans. We have a monthly collection of items at church, and we publicise other ways for our church members to contribute.
- Fund for Human Need – a Methodist-affiliated charity that provides small emergency grants to individuals who are destitute and vulnerable. We hold a quarterly benevolence collection to top up our church benevolence fund and any overspill goes to the Fund for Human Need.
- The Living Room – has centres in Hertfordshire, including St Albans, helping people overcome addiction. We hold a retiring collection at the Aldersgate Sunday evening service, held this year on 22 May 2022. It is a joint service with St Peter's church.
- Methodist Homes – a housing and care charity, we hold a collection on Methodist Homes Sunday, this year 12 June 2022.
- Winter Beds Project – an initiative by the City Centre Churches, now administered by Open Door, providing emergency overnight accommodation. This year the arrangements to allow for Covid-19 remained in place, so instead of communal sleeping space on church premises, guests were accommodated in individual cabins at Emmaus St Albans. Four members of our church volunteered with the project, helping to receive guests in the evening and helping with breakfast and cleaning in the morning.
- Write for Rights – an annual initiative by Amnesty International each December. We held card-writing sessions at church in late November / early December.

There were two local appeals for donations during the autumn and winter. The first appeal was from the charity St Albans for Refugees, and this was for new underwear and socks for men, women and children; and the second appeal was from the Salvation Army for warm clothing to go to the homeless people attending Centre 33, which is now running from the Salvation Army premises in Victoria Street.. Both these appeals were very well supported.

Lay Workers

The Lay Workers Project is a joint initiative by the two St Albans Methodist Churches.

Our **Children and Families Worker**, Emma Williams, began working with us in August 2020 and worked very hard throughout 20/21, holding online sessions with our young people and building up contacts with local primary schools and preparing and delivering activity packs to families.

In September we were able to restart our Junior Church sessions on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month. However, as number of children attending was low or even none, the Junior Church team decided to focus on Junior Church on the 1st Sunday of the month and look to other ways we could engage the children in church. This led to the introduction of the children's area where the children are welcome to sit and do some drawing or craft activities, read or do a puzzle. This has been popular and well used. Emma and the Junior Church team organised a Good Friday creative service for all ages, with craft activities and also quiet space for reflection.

We were thrilled to be able to restart our Toddler group. We opened up the hall to use the full space, Emma set up an online booking system and we restricted numbers to minimise the risk of having a Covid outbreak within the group. We weren't able to restart again after the Christmas break until after February half term but once re-started were close to full every week and many parents/carers have commented how much they appreciated us being open. A new addition to Toddlers has been the introduction of a mini service on the 3rd week of the month. During this time, the children and adults are invited to join us for a Bible story or story with a biblical message, some songs and an activity which reinforces the message of the story. An ongoing concern has been having enough volunteers to run the sessions, a number of the attending adults have come forward to help in various way so that we can keep the sessions going.



During the October half term, we joined up with Hatfield Road to host a Holiday Club for those in school Years 1- 6. During each session we shared Bible stories, sang songs, played games and were creative with crafts. *Picture: the parable of the lost sheep.*

Following on from the links made with St Peter's Primary and Oakwood Primary last year, Emma was able to go into the schools to lead Assemblies on a regular basis. She was asked to lead a Year 6 lesson at Oakwood Primary one afternoon about Christmas and a Year 5 lesson at St Peter's about the roles of lay worker and minister

in a church. We were also delighted to welcome the Year 2s from St Peter's Primary to an afternoon of exploring the church. Emma also volunteered with Step (the St Albans and Harpenden Christian education project) and helped to lead lessons at two local secondary schools, Sandringham and Beaumont, and also a Youth Alpha at Sandringham.

Emma moved on to a new post in Derbyshire in June 2022, we were very sad that we were losing her, we are thankful that she spent time with us, and we wish her well.

We appointed Maggie Dodd to the post of **Anna Chaplain** in March 2021 and she began work in late April 2021. She is the first Anna Chaplain in Hertfordshire and the first full-time Anna Chaplain in the country.

Initially Maggie started to get to know members of both churches by organising Afternoon Teas – in the end 17 were held and Maggie met more than 80 people at the various parties. Good connections were made and have endured from these initial meetings.

Over the summer of 2021 Maggie had contacted various ministers and clergy with a questionnaire asking about older people's ministry and whether older church members were returning to church

activities. This culminated in a booklet being produced in October, which detailed the different weekday provision churches across the city offer older people. Maggie distributed around 1000 copies to churches, homes, and public buildings across St Albans.

Maggie attended the Older People's Roadshow in the Civic Centre in October and was able to meet various reps from Age UK, Communities 1st, Age Concern, Herts Help etc, and hand out the booklet and speak to the public. Maggie also has regular Zoom meetings with stakeholders in Older People's Care.

Maggie networks with the other Anna Chaplains regularly via Zoom gatherings and continues to promote Anna Chaplaincy in St Albans and further afield. She and Revd Rosemary Fletcher attended the two national Methodist Superintendents' Conferences. Anna Chaplaincy is ecumenical and Maggie has been engaging with churches across St Albans throughout the year. A meeting with Revd Peter Crumpler of St Paul's led to a Herts Advertiser (local newspaper) article and an interview with BBC Three Counties radio. Maggie has since written further articles for the Herts Ad. In September 2021 she hosted a Zoom Café for St Albans Diocese about Older People's Ministry, working with their Flourishing Churches Team. In February 2022 she led a reflection at the Cathedral's Free Church Service, and gave a talk later in the month at a Hemel Hempstead's Churches Together meeting. In March she led a reflection at St Luke's Church Sunday service and introduced members of The Gathering at St Mark's church in Colney Heath to Anna Chaplaincy. She is working with SS Alban and Stephen to set up a home visitors support group and in June she addressed the St Albans Deanery Synod on Anna Chaplaincy and Dementia-Friendly worship.

Maggie is involved with Friday Day Care at Hatfield Road providing transport for guests, and sometimes activities in the afternoons. She started a weekly Coffee Morning at St Stephen's after a Said Communion service on a Wednesday morning, which has encouraged that small congregation to stay and chat with one another. She initiated a Crafting Moring at St Julian's which now runs itself with a monthly larger gathering which Maggie helps to organise. This encourages a mixed attendance, ages range from 35 to over 70.

Worship in Care Homes restarted late in 2021 and Maggie has been working alongside Sandridge's new Vicar, Revd Wendy Sellers, helping lead worship at Tara's Retreat care home in the village. In May 2022 Maggie visited Leigh-on-Sea to experience the Memory Worship service developed there and she has begun to use the service style at Tara's Retreat with residents who live with dementia. She also started to go with a Lay Leader of Worship from St Julian's church into nearby Vesta Lodge care home every month for a service of Holy Communion.

Maggie supports the services at two city centre retirement flat complexes that were initiated by Marlborough Road and St Peter's as a shared ministry, and with the help of an MRMC member this year started a monthly Communion service at Eleanor House retirement flats on London Road. The services are also now run on a rota with St Peter's.

In December Maggie's Sending Love to Care Homes star project reached 587 residents in the 12 residential Care Homes across St Albans. There was an amazing response from both church communities and St Albans residents, young and old, who wanted to create a star and send some love. Twelve churches of different denominations got in touch to help, Rainbows and Brownies across the city took part, Sandringham School KS3 Art Club, Sandridge Primary School, Knit and Natter groups, local crafts people - so many people came forward to help that Maggie was able to reach the target number with a few to spare. Not only did the little stars bring a lot

of joy to those who received them, the project also helped Maggie to engage with some of the care homes that she had not previously been involved with. *(Picture: Maggie with stars at MRMC)*

Afternoon Worship sessions began in September 2021 at both MRMC and HRMC. Both services regularly have over 10 people attending, some of the congregation can't manage Sunday services but enjoy the shorter and more informal style of the weekday afternoon service.





Since December 2021 Maggie has taken Communion to the housebound from HRMC and MRMC, and also on occasion has been able to gather a couple of households together for the Home Communion which has been very rewarding, enabling both fellowship and sharing of the sacrament. Maggie regularly visits older people in their homes who have contacted her via booklets or local info, who value a visit and a chat, the number of people visited is slowly growing.

The Platinum Jubilee was an occasion for special events, including an afternoon tea at Marlborough Road for around 50 guests. Holiday at Home was again held in August with four days of fun food and friendship, comprising two days at Hatfield Road and two days at Marlborough Road, with support from St Peter's. *Picture montage: Holiday at Home at MRMC*

Eco Church



In October we supported the St Albans Day of Action (*pictured*) in advance of the COP26 meeting in Glasgow, and we held a special Thinking Evening on the topic of Climate Justice.

We gained our A Rocha Bronze Award in November 2021. We are limited in what ecological actions we can take with our premises, so much of our Eco Church points come from what we say and do. Our support for All We Can is strongly linked to our Eco-Church commitment – climate change is clearly affecting the partner organisations that All We Can work with.

We feature Eco Tips and other items in our church magazine, including recycling options, but knock-on effects of the pandemic have meant we were not able to resume collections of items to pass to Terracycle collectors.

Following a resolution at our Annual Church Meeting we twinned our bins – this is an initiative by Tearfund and the *pictured* bin-sticker gives information about a rubbish collection and recycling service in Haiti supported by Tearfund.

We participate in SustFest, an annual programme of events organised by Sustainable St Albans, including our June Thinking Lunch.



Inclusive Church

We have been endeavouring to ensure that we are inclusive in our welcome. In June 2021 our Church Council decided that we should apply to join the organisation Inclusive Church and in November 2021 we were welcomed into membership.

We also signed up to the Welcome Churches initiative, which was set up to ensure a welcome to people coming to the UK from Hong Kong, but with a view to welcoming people wherever they come from.

Fair Trade

Our church Fair Trade stall was affected by the pandemic and then by the loss of Mike Scorer, who ran the stall with the help of his wife Ann. Mike knew what everyone liked and would make sure the relevant items were always in stock.

We have of course continued to serve Fair Trade tea, coffee and sugar at church events and to encourage our congregation to support Fair Trade.

Inter-Church relations

We have continued to work more closely with Hatfield Road Methodist Church, the bonds being strengthened by the Lay Workers project. The church stewards hold regular joint meetings, which they have found very helpful for brainstorming and mutual support. Holiday at Home has been a joint activity since 2019. We are looking ahead to changes arising from the adoption of the Circuit's Way Forward measures, with the churches now supporting diaconal work in Salisbury Village and St Albans and looking ahead to sharing a presbyter from September 2022.



Picture montage: Holiday at Home at Hatfield Road MC, August 2022

To mark the changeover from the De Havilland Project, the manse where the Deacon lives was renamed as **Cornerstone House** and that is the term used to refer to diaconal work based there. Cornerstone House has been adapted to create a community meeting room with access from a side gate, so mission work can be kept separate from home life. The St Albans churches jointly support Cornerstone House, with MRMC given responsibility for the legal and financial administration, this balances HRMC managing the Lay Workers project.



Monthly 'Journey Light' services of informal worship and creative reflection and other outreach activities began again after 18 months of pandemic, including weekly Cuppa'n'Natta which appeals to a wide age range, a monthly family craft café aimed at primary age children and a monthly pop-up café after school on the playground opposite Cornerstone House. Window Trails were popular, with a pumpkin trail in late October and a Christmas trail during Advent, leading to a Christingle.

We continue to value our close relationship with **St Peter's** Church. The clergy meet regularly and our minister is authorised to preside at Eucharistic worship at St Peters (since September 2015). We are very grateful to the two Lay Readers from St Peters who regularly lead worship at Marlborough Road. There are several special services each year which are now united services – the Covenant Service, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Aldersgate Sunday and St Peter's Patronal Festival. Chatterbox Coffee Morning and Thinking Lunches are well supported by St Peter's. The retirement flats services was a joint initiative and St Peter's have been involved in Holiday at Home since its inception. Marlborough Road was one of the places on the Live Nativity Trail organised by St Peters on 18 December 2021 – behold, Herod's Palace being made ready!



Herod's Palace



Right: Rt Revd Anne Hollinghurst, Bishop of Aston, previously vicar of St Peter's, Aldersgate Sunday united service preacher, with Revd Rosemary Fletcher

We have also been developing a closer relationship with the **Church of God of Prophecy**, which meets at MRMC. A joint service in September was followed by an afternoon picnic, *pictured*.

The congregation joins our Church Anniversary service and there is a picnic together and cricket in the park afterwards. Our minister and their pastor have formed a firm bond of friendship and support.



Churches Together in St Albans (CTSA) seeks to help churches to work and to grow together. CTSA is part of Churches Together in Hertfordshire which in turn is part of Churches Together in England.

CTSA have three forums a year as well as other events such as the Cross Procession, Unity at the Cross, 24 Hour Prayer for Thy Kingdom Come, Carols at the Clock Tower, and the service of prayer for Christian Unity each January. Meetings are open to all.

Rosemary has been a participant in CTSA events over the years she has been here in St Albans. MRMC is always open for the annual September CTSA City Centre Prayer Walk, when a short prayer and pause is held in each location.

Each church has CTSA reps who can vote at the AGM. A small Enabling Group is drawn from member of several different churches and meets about 4 times a year. Maggie Dodd is about to join this group in her role as Anna Chaplain.

CTSA member churches are supporting refugees from Afghanistan and elsewhere as well as holding online Prayer Meetings for Ukraine. There are 120 refugees at a hotel on the outskirts of St Albans, they cannot afford bus fares to get to appointments and classes. Within days of CTSA's appeal for help, nine bicycles had been offered, Hertfordshire Cycling loaned a cycle stand and the hotel built a bike shelter. Herts Welcomes Refugees assisted with bike safety checks and cycling training.

Each Good Friday CTSA organises a Walk of Witness in the form of a Cross Procession which starts at from SS Alban & Stephen Church, calling in at churches including MRMC on the way to the Unity at the Cross Service in the Cathedral.

And finally...



This has been the last year in our Circuit for four of the Circuit ministers, including Deacon Linda Kinchenton and our minister and Circuit Superintendent Revd Rosemary Fletcher. Pictured at the Circuit Farewell Service at MRMC are Deacon Linda Kinchenton, Revd Bruce Anderson., Revd Rosemary Fletcher and Revd Ali Facey.

We held an afternoon tea at MRMC to show our appreciation of Rosemary and also her husband James Rowley, who has been a steady support to this church in his own right. His work with the property committee and on the refurbishment project was invaluable, and he undertook many other roles and tasks great and small, including pastoral visiting and serving coffee.



Pictures: farewell cake; Rosemary's last service at MRMC on 7 August, celebrating Jamaica Day; At the Farewell Afternoon tea, James reflects on nine years at MRMC in front of a pictorial celebration.

Financial review

The Church's policy on Reserves is to maintain a reserve in the general fund to cover a month's running costs and to hold a sensible reserve in the repair, organ and cottage funds to cover emergency repair works.

No funds are materially in deficit.

Our principal sources of funds are voluntary donations, lettings and fund-raising. Lettings income has continued to be affected by Covid-19 lockdowns.

Our expenditure goes entirely in support of our key objectives and activities.

Our investment policy has been maintained through the moral and ethical policies of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Please refer to our Accounts for more details.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the foregoing report.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rona Mary Wightman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rona Mary Wightman
Church Council Secretary

26 June 2023

CHURCH
ACCRUALS
ACCOUNTS

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Marlborough Road Methodist Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 Aug 2022

St Albans & Welwyn Circuit	Circuit No. 34/13
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1128694
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If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number	
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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Reverend Andrew Prout

Treasurer:

Carl Meredith

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021-22
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
1 Offerings		69,982				69,982
2 Donations		19,127		25,668		44,795
3 Gift aid		15,836				15,836
4 Interest and investment income		195				195
5 Income from investment properties		29,815				29,815
6 Internal organisations			757			757
7 Other charitable income				225		225
8 Total income		134,955	757	25,893	-	161,605
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		84,000				84,000
10 Grants and donations		4,466				4,466
11 Property maintenance		18,909				18,909
12 Insurance,utilities etc		10,142				10,142
13 Depreciation						-
14 Office expenses		764				764
15 Other expenditure		3,440		32,572		36,012
16 Internal organisations			253			253
17 Total charitable expenditure		121,721	253	32,572	-	154,546
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		13,234	504	-	6,679	-
21 Transfers between funds		-	21,149	21,149		-
22 Other gains/(losses)						-
23 Net movement in funds		-	7,915	504	14,470	-
24 Total funds brought forward		71,183	3,143	45,822	-	120,148
25 Total funds carried forward		63,268	3,647	60,292	-	127,207

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020-21
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
1 Offerings		68,210				68,210
2 Donations		12,816		40,902		53,718
3 Gift aid		15,806				15,806
4 Interest and investment income		38				38
5 Income from investment properties		13,167				13,167
6 Internal organisations			4			4
7 Other charitable income				3,630		3,630
8 Total income		110,037	4	44,532	-	154,573
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		84,000				84,000
10 Grants and donations		3,891				3,891
11 Property maintenance		10,290				10,290
12 Insurance,utilities etc		7,637				7,637
13 Depreciation						-
14 Office expenses		1,203				1,203
15 Other expenditure		1,776		22,761		24,537
16 Internal organisations			3,916			3,916
17 Total charitable expenditure		108,797	3,916	22,761	-	135,474
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		1,240	-	3,912	21,771	-
21 Transfers between funds						-
22 Other gains/(losses)						-
23 Net movement in funds		1,240	-	3,912	21,771	-
24 Total funds brought forward		69,943	7,055	24,051	-	101,049
25 Total funds carried forward		71,183	3,143	45,822	-	120,148

Name of Church

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Circuit No 34/13

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2022

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2022	Totals 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Church building and other property	2,000,000				2,000,000	5,000,000
Investment properties	575,000				575,000	425,000
Investments					-	
Total fixed assets	2,575,000	-	-	-	2,575,000	5,425,000

Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments	34,860		2,325		37,185	51,679
Loans by the Churches					-	-
Investments with TMCP					-	-
Central Finance Board Deposits	-	154	43,922		44,076	50,884
Cash at Bank and in hand	33,626	3,494	18,580		55,700	44,855
Total current assets	68,486	3,648	64,827	-	136,961	147,418

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	5,220		4,534		9,754	27,270
Grants payable within 2018-19					-	-
Total current liabilities	5,220	-	4,534	-	9,754	27,270
Net current assets/liabilities	63,266	3,648	60,293	-	127,207	120,148

Total assets less current liabilities	2,638,266	3,648	60,293	-	2,702,207	5,545,148
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)						
Grants payable after 2018-19					-	-
Loans to the Church					-	-
Net assets	2,638,266	3,648	60,293	-	2,702,207	5,545,148

Funds of the Church

General Fund (Unrestricted)	2,638,266				2,638,266	5,456,841
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)		3,648			3,648	42,870
Total Unrestricted Funds					2,641,914	5,499,711
Restricted Funds			60,293		60,293	45,437
Endowment Funds				-	-	
Total Funds	2,638,266	3,648	60,293	-	2,702,207	5,545,148

Signed



Church Treasurer

CARL MEREDITH

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Church which are Unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

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

Incoming Resources

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

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants made by the Church from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Church accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Church

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £10,000. Property assets are stated at current fair value. The current fair value of the main church premises is evaluated by the trustees at 2022 deemed values, with reference to estimated resale value as vacant possession. The current fair value of the residential investment property is evaluated by the trustees with reference to comparable property sale transactions in the locality and to advice received from the letting agent engaged to manage the property on behalf of the trustees. Both properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors primarily constitute amounts owing by HMRC in respect of gift aid claims.

Creditors

Creditors include both trade creditors and donations to be paid to charities from the church General Reserve as determined by Church Council following confirmation of the full year income and expenditure.

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Church, in either the current or prior year.

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

There were no fees paid or payable to the independent examiner for reporting on the accounts or for other services, in either the current or prior year.

6 Paid employees

The church did not employ any staff during the current or prior year.

7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the 31 st August 2022 there are no capital commitments.

No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2022.

8 For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Balance brought forward from last year	564	-
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	5,998	1,744
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	2,956	1,180
Balance carried forward	3,606	564

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Main church premises	Residential investment property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000
Additions	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	- 3,000,000	150,000	-	- 2,850,000
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers * (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year (-)	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-

Net book value

Brought forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000
Carried forward	2,000,000	575,000	-	2,575,000

10 Loans

The Church currently has no loans and has not held any loans during the current or prior year.

11 Analysis of funds

2021-22

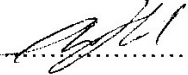
Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
Restricted Funds					
Benevolent Fund	442				442
Cornerstone Project	-	8,235	3,870		4,365
Lay Worker Fund	45,381	17,658	28,702	21,149	55,486
Total Restricted	45,823	25,893	32,572	21,149	60,293
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	31,454	125,454	114,657	- 18,772	23,479
Major Repair Fund	18,475	18			18,493
Organ Repair Fund	6,251	43			6,294
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	15,000	9,441	7,064	- 2,377	15,000
Internal Organisations	3,145	756	253		3,648
Total Unrestricted	74,325	135,712	121,974	- 21,149	66,914
Total Funds	120,148	161,605	154,546	-	127,207

""Comparative analysis of restricted and designated funds 2020-21

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
Restricted Funds					
Benevolent Fund	442				442
Lay Worker Fund	23,610	44,532	22,761		45,381
Total Restricted	24,052	44,532	22,761	-	45,823
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	30,234	100,845	108,797	9,172	31,454
Major Repair Fund	18,469	6			18,475
Organ Repair Fund	6,237	14			6,251
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	15,000	9,172		- 9,172	15,000
Internal Organisations	7,057	4	3,916		3,145
Total Unrestricted	76,997	110,041	112,713	-	74,325
Total Funds	101,049	154,573	135,474	-	120,148

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 treasurer  Date 9/3/2023

Name and address of treasurer MR CARL MEREDITH

31 CANN ST, ST ALBANS Post Code AL3 5JR

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were ~~will~~ ~~not~~ presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 21/2/23

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Andrew Pratt Date 21/2/23

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Charity Number 1128694

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Marlborough Road Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages 1 to 7. 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church: Marlborough Road Methodist Church No: 34/13

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

Name of independent examiner J. N. ROBINSON

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner M.A. A.C.A

Address 5 HAMMER DELL WELWYN

HELTJ Post Code AL6 0BE

Date 10/3/23

MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1128694

Accounts

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Registered Charity No 1128694

Trustees Annual Report for year ending August 2021



The Methodist Church
Marlborough Road
St Albans
AL1 3XG

Reference Information and Administration

The managing trustees

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Rosemary Fletcher	Chair	
2	Revd Andrew Prout	Presbyter (Hatfield Road Methodist Church)	
3	Janis Gilbert	Church Steward	
4	Mercadell Lewis	Church Steward	To January 2021
5	Theresa Tetteh	Church Steward	
6	Ann Scorer	Church Steward	
7	Ena Folkes	Church Steward	To October 2020
8	Carl Meredith	Treasurer	
9	Celia Hudson	Pastoral Co-ordinator	
10	Rona Wightman	Secretary to Church Council	
11	Frances Bates	Representative from General Church Meeting	
12	Di Churcher	Representative from General Church Meeting	
13	Andrew Johnstone	Representative from General Church Meeting	
14	Patti McConnell	Representative from General Church Meeting	To April 2021
15	Erma Profit	Representative from General Church Meeting	
16	Mike Scorer	Representative from General Church Meeting	
17	Marjorie Wilson	Representative from General Church Meeting	
18	Jean Blight	Representative from General Church Meeting / Pastoral Visitors' Representative	To September 2020 / from December 2020
19	Judith Head	Safeguarding Officer	
20	Ian Gilbert	Senior Property Steward	
21	James Rowley	Secretary to Finance and Property committee	
22	Jenny Evers	Co-opted / Representative from General Church Meeting	From September 2020 / from April 2021

Trustees for the charity

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) are custodian trustees.

Appointed advisers

We appoint an Auditor each year to check our accounts.

Structure, governance and management

The charity's trusts

Our governing document is the Methodist Church Act 1976

The charity is constituted as a trust.

Trustees are selected in accordance with the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. Representatives are elected by the Annual General Church Meeting. Other trustees are appointed by Church Council by virtue of their role. There is also provision in the CPD for trustees to be co-opted by Church Council.

Governance

As a Methodist Church, we are a Church within a Circuit, in our case the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit. The Circuits fall within Districts, our Circuit is in the Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts District. The Methodist Church is a Connexional Church, that is, we see ourselves as part of an interconnected 'body' that offers mutual encouragement and support.

Connexional systems, requirements and guidance help us minimise risks; our Circuit Meetings and Church Council and committees consider any specific issues for us to deal with.

Our safeguarding policy is reviewed annually.

Trustees are required to familiarise themselves with CC3 *The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do*. Our Circuit arranges annual Trustee training sessions.

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The purposes of the Methodist Church are 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.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Our main activity is the holding of regular public acts of worship, open to members of the church and non-members alike.

Pastoral work includes visiting the sick and bereaved.

We run a weekly drop-in toddler group for pre-school children and their carers and a weekly drop-in coffee morning that is mainly attended by older people.

Our premises are used by a number of community groups for cultural, educational and physical activity.

We support other charities in the UK financially and with prayer.

We have been working jointly with Hatfield Road Methodist Church (Charity No 1173147) to employ two Lay Workers: a three year post for a Children and Families Worker and a five year post for an Anna Chaplain. The Children and Families Worker was appointed in June 2020 and the Anna Chaplain was appointed in April 2021. The Employer is Hatfield Road Methodist Church.

Our trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Local churches, circuits and districts are not defined as external grant-making bodies.

Nearly all of our activity is carried out by volunteers, lay and ordained, with support of stipendiary presbyters and the lay workers, and administrative staff provided by the circuit.

Achievements and Performance 2020-21

Marlborough Road Methodist Church is an open and diverse congregation of Christians set near the centre of St. Albans. Our Calling is to:

Worship

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

Learning and Caring

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

Service

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

Evangelism

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ

Most of our activities fall under more than one heading!

The background – summary of pandemic 2020/21

2020

14 September – ‘rule of six’ for social gatherings (not applicable to church services)

14 October – tier system introduced

5 November – national lockdown

2 December – return to tier system of restrictions

2021

6 January – national lockdown

6 March – schools re-open

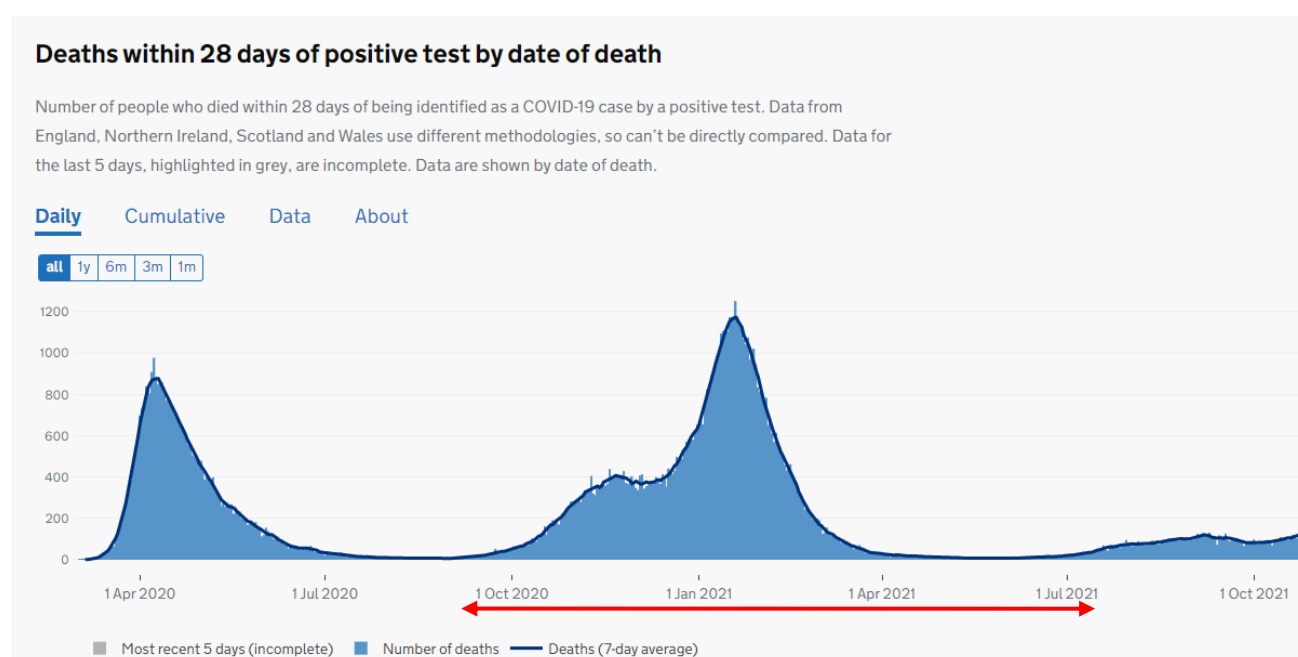
19 March – Step 1 some relaxation but ‘stay local’

12 April – Step 2- non-essential retail re-opens

17 May – Step 3 - further relaxing of restrictions including indoor pubs and restaurants

4 June – postponement of Step 4

19 July – Step 4 – most legal restrictions lifted.



Source: [Deaths in the UK | Coronavirus in the UK \(data.gov.uk\)](https://data.gov.uk/deaths-in-the-uk) (accessed June 2022)

Worship

As we progressed through the year our plans and activities all had to allow for uncertainty as well as actual lockdowns and protective measures. Our Covid-19 Management Group continued to meet to assess our situation in the light of regulations and Methodist guidance, and to advise on whatever measures we should take for our premises and activities.



Thanks to careful consideration and adjustments to church seating layout and circulation, and in line with Methodist Church guidance, we opened the church for private prayer on 23 August and held a service of worship in church on Sunday 30 August, the first since lockdown began in March 2020, and almost exactly 30 years since our minister's first service as a Methodist minister.

Face coverings were required in accordance with regulations and we operated a register for track and trace purposes. Advance notice of intention to attend also helped with marshalling and seating. Use of hand sanitiser and social distancing were also required. The windows and doors were kept open. The service was of shorter duration of 30 to 45 minutes, included reading hymns and listening to recordings, but no singing. There was no coffee and chat after the service. Thirty people attended, about half of our 'normal' number.

We held services throughout September and October, including special occasions: a 100th birthday, Harvest, World Church, One World Week, Junior Mission for All, Black History Month and on 1 November a service for All Souls.

We ceased holding services of public worship when national lockdown was re-imposed on 5th November. We decided we would not hold services, or meetings in our church hall, while we were in Tier 4, ie throughout December. The church building was opened for prayer on Christmas Day.

'We continue to be a praying, worshipping community. We have not ceased to be a church.'



We did manage to have a connected Christmas – the congregation was invited to make angel tree decorations, and the tree was decorated and placed in the vestibule, where it could be seen by passers-by.

Although holding of church services was legally permitted, our Covid-19 Management Group continued to assess the risks and it was not until Palm Sunday, 28 March, that the risk level was deemed acceptable for worship in the church building to resume.

We remain grateful to the Circuit ministers who continued to produce an 'at-home' order of service and to the church volunteers who continued to prepare a weekly update to email to members. The service and update were posted to those without email.

From December a new initiative of a service via a telephone conference call was started, on Wednesday afternoons. When our minister was on sabbatical in the spring we joined the service organised by Stratford-upon-Avon Methodist Church.

We made use of Zoom of course: the weekly 'after church coffee' (pictured right), Bible study group, Junior Church get-togethers and our Church Council and other administrative meetings. Some of the fellowship groups used Zoom to keep in touch, others interacted by email.



From Easter onwards we were again able to hold services on the church premises, with our Covid-19 precautions in place.

Thinking Lunches and Evenings

The 2020-21 programme of Thinking Lunches had been drafted, but as it turned out it was not feasible to hold these in church or online. However, four online Thinking Evenings were held this year:

- 12 November 2020, during Interfaith Week: Dr Chris Hewer 'The Three Abrahamic Faiths: elements of unity and diversity'
- 2 February 2021: Simon Johnson 'A Revolution in Nuclear Energy – Hope in the Climate Crisis' (about molten salt reactors)
- 19 April 2021: Hannah Brown, Joint Public Issues Team 'Re-set the debt – a fresh start for families in Britain swept into debt by Covid-19'
- 25 May 2021, a SustFest event: Philip Nalpanis, A Rocha UK 'Eco Church – What? Why? How?'

A Church in a Circuit

In some ways it was easier to connect within the Circuit through the ether than on the ground. Our members could enjoy online worship with other Circuit churches in various forms – pre-recorded services compiled by St Johns Potters Bar and Digswell Village Church, and live services from Hatfield Road Methodist Church.

Meetings could be joined from our homes, avoiding trips across the circuit - certainly a boon on dark winter evenings.

There were a number of regular and special meetings this year as we considered 'The Way Forward' for the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit. A pragmatic restructuring of the circuit, to take effect from September 2022 was proposed, to allow for the shortfall of presbyters across the Methodist Church. There are currently four presbyters and a deacon for our circuit. The proposal was to re-organise the presbyters' responsibilities for individual churches to align with the three local authority areas: Hertsmere, Welwyn Hatfield and St Albans. The deacon is based in north-west Hatfield, working on what was set up as the ecumenical De Havilland project, supporting people in the new housing built on the former de Havilland industrial area. It was proposed that the deacon continue to be based in what is now re-badged as 'Salisbury Village', but that the St Albans section churches would take responsibility for the diaconal work, with the deacon also supporting missional and pastoral work in St Albans.

The proposals were broadly accepted and formally adopted in May 2021. The De Havilland project was wound up over the summer, and so the St Albans Methodist Churches took on the responsibility for diaconal work from 1 September 2021.

A Church in a Connexion

Our minister was appointed as a representative of the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District at the Methodist Conference, held in Birmingham from 24 June to 1 July 2021. She was one of the 60 present in the Conference Hall (socially distanced) and the other 246 attendees were on line.

Here is an extract from her report to the church members as published in our bi-monthly church newsletter the 'Marlborough Round'.

I felt privileged to share in the Induction of the Reverend Sonia Hicks as President of the Methodist Conference, as Sonia and I overlapped for two years at theological college and she is the first student from my training days at Queen's College to be President.

*It was a momentous conference and decisions were made on all sorts of matters - selling of Methodist Church House, matters of finance (there is a deficit in the Pensions Funds!), on-line Holy Communion, and that **Justice, Solidarity and Dignity** be the basis for our Methodist Church work. It is 21 years since **Our Calling** was introduced and this continues to be the way in which we focus our mission, now to include the **God for All Strategy**.*

But as predicted the only debate which made the BBC and the Press was the one on Wednesday morning on issues to do with human sexuality.

Following prayerful consideration by the whole Church, the Methodist Conference has voted to confirm provisional resolutions on the principles or qualities of good relating, understanding of cohabitation and same sex marriages conducted on Methodist premises or by Methodist office-holders.

*A report on marriage and relationships, '**God in Love Unites Us**', was received by the Conference in 2019 and the local District Synods were asked to consider the provisional resolutions and report back to this year's Conference. The Conference received a report on the results of the local conferring which showed that 29 out of the 30 Synods confirmed support for the provisional resolutions.*

The Revd Sonia Hicks, President of the Conference, prayed ahead of the main debate on Wednesday morning in Birmingham, asking that the Conference's "words may be imbibed with your grace, with tenderness from on high."

A range of views were expressed on the resolutions, in particular on cohabitation and same sex marriages. The Revd Dr Jonathan Hustler, spoke to the Conference acknowledging the "depth

of feeling, pain and anxiety that there is" with a commitment to work across the Connexion with District Chairs to heal divisions.

Speakers called for unity going ahead irrespective of the decision. Other speakers spoke of the acceptance of diversity that younger Church members have for each other with younger speakers relating their own lived experience as Christians from the LGBTQI+ community. Another representative asked that the Church does not ostracise those who oppose the introduction of same-sex marriages in the Church, saying the great majority of these people are trying to be faithful to Scripture as they see it.

The Methodist Church included other denominations and Methodist Churches across the world in the process of listening and consultation, with written submissions from ecumenical partners to the 'God In Love Unites Us' report and workshops with global Methodist partners.

Following the vote on the provisional resolutions the Revd Sonia Hicks said: "The debate today and our wider conversation has been conducted with grace and mutual respect. As we move forward together after this historic day for our Church, we must remember to continue to hold each other in prayer, and to support each other respecting our differences."

Service – being a good neighbour

Our community outreach and support activities have been in abeyance because of the pandemic, our Toddler group and Chatterbox coffee morning did not restart. Many of our volunteers are older or vulnerable in terms of Covid-19 risk.

As a church we also support a number of local, national and international organisations. When we could not hold the usual collections and fundraising activities, the church and members made donations directly.

Organisations we regularly support are:

- Action for Children – a national charity founded by a Methodist minister, supporting children living in poverty. Members of the congregation have 'lantern' collecting boxes and there is an annual collection at church on Action for Children Sunday – this year 11 July 2021.
- All We Can – the Methodist Development and Relief Fund, works with local organisations to help people experiencing poverty and injustice, and also responds to humanitarian emergencies such as Rohingya refugees in camps in Bangladesh and people in Haiti affected by a combination of crop failures and political instability, exacerbated by the Covid-19 situation. We are a Partner Church, and each year a different local project is featured. This year we were learning about FABIO (First African Bicycle Information Organisation) in Uganda and their provision of bicycles to help young people access school and to carry out chores such as fetching water and delivering produce. 'A bicycle takes the weight and saves time'.
- Christian Aid – the usual Christian Aid Week house to house collections were not possible. We raised money through collections at church and sponsorship of 'the Wesley Walkers' from Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road Methodist Churches, who walked 18 miles visiting 27 St Albans churches. The Circuit Christian Aid Quiz in October (online) also raised money for Christian Aid.
- FEED – a foodbank run by the Vineyard Church in St Albans. We have a monthly collection of items at church, when this was not feasible we publicised other ways for our church members to contribute.
- Fund for Human Need – a Methodist-affiliated charity that provides small emergency grants to individuals who are destitute and vulnerable. We hold a quarterly benevolence collection to top up our church benevolence fund and any overspill goes to the Fund for Human Need.
- The Living Room – has centres in Hertfordshire, including St Albans, helping people overcome addiction. We hold a retiring collection at the Aldersgate Sunday evening service, which did take place this year on 23 May 2021. It is a joint service with St Peter's church.

- Methodist Homes – a housing and care charity, we hold a collection on Methodist Homes Sunday, this year 13 June 2021.
- Winter Beds Project – an initiative by the City Centre Churches, now administered by Open Door, providing emergency overnight accommodation. This year the arrangements had to allow for Covid-19, so instead of communal sleeping space on church premises, guests were accommodated in individual cabins at Emmaus St Albans with day facilities provided at Trinity URC. Three members of our church volunteered with the project, helping to book guests in in the evening and tidying up in the morning.
- Write for Rights – an annual initiative by Amnesty International each December. We could not hold card-writing sessions at church as usual, details were included in our church newsletter for people to write from home.

Lay Workers

The Lay Workers Project is a joint initiative by the two St Albans Methodist Churches.

Our **Children and Families Worker**, Emma Williams (nee Haggis) started work in August 2020. In the summer and early autumn she got to know church families through garden visits. Through the winter and spring lockdown, Emma kept in touch via texts, phone calls and emails, as well as running Junior church online each Sunday morning, one session for those in primary school and another for those in secondary, with children from both Methodist churches. Emma reported:

Over the weeks we followed a series exploring the Psalms and how so many emotions are expressed within the lines. Something I thought was very appropriate as many people struggled with the restrictions. [the photo] shows the outcome of one of our activities where young people were challenged to recreate an image from the Psalm using things they have around their homes.



Emma also kept in touch with the young people at university.

In early 2021 Emma set up an online youth group for year 10 -13 students, but it did not take off – probably because the students are weary of screen-time - so was discontinued for the rest of the school year.

Emma had made contact with St Peter's Primary and Fleetville Junior School and recorded assemblies for them just before Christmas. Fleetville gave her an opportunity to do another assembly before the end of the spring term. This one was also pre-recorded via Zoom and explored some of the similarities and differences between Passover and Easter, fitting in with what some of the pupils had been looking at in their lessons. Emma was also invited to do an assembly alongside a member of staff at Oakland Primary, in the school playground. This assembly focused on the different foods eaten in association with the festivals, and was well-received.

Emma prepared Easter packs for our families. The packs included: a couple of crafts (a wreath and story wheel for children in primary school and a keyring craft for those in secondary school); an Easter card; an Easter story book for very young children and very importantly, some chocolate. This was an attempt to encourage the children and young people to spend some time away from screens and also to remind/teach them about some of the events which took place in the final week of Jesus life. Some of the children and young people were very happy to show off some of their efforts when we were able to meet in our church buildings on Easter Sunday.

In the summer term Emma was able to restart some Junior Church sessions. Over the summer holidays she provided activity sheets for children attending church. She also organised some garden gatherings – this was the first opportunity in 18 months for the families from the churches to meet up and socialise in person.

We appointed Maggie Dodd to the post of **Anna Chaplain** in March 2021 and she began work in late April. She is the first Anna Chaplain in Hertfordshire and the first full-time Anna Chaplain in the country.

In her first months in the post Maggie organised a number of small group meetings in gardens to get to know church people. She also arranged a tea party at Davis Court retirements flats (across the road from our church) and held informal services at Tara's Retreat care home in Sandridge.

In August we were again able to run Holiday at Home – this comprises a few days of activities at the St Albans Methodist churches. Careful Covid-19 protocols were in place. Activities include crafts, puzzles, performances, games and of course tea, cake and chat.

The montage shows images from Holiday at Home.



Minister's Sabbatical

Our minister was on sabbatical during January, February and March 2021. It was not the sabbatical she had envisaged, no trip to revisit Sri Lanka and retreats were online rather than going somewhere quiet. Walks were local rather than over the hills and far away. However, it was still a time of rest and re-set, and also for learning. Rosemary carried out research on the transition to retirement for clergy, contacting 25 retired clergy from various denominations and distilling their responses into a paper for the District Sabbaticals Committee. She also took up German lessons and had the time to play the piano and to knit squares for Knit for Peace blankets.

Eco Church

We have continued to make slow progress towards achieving an Eco Church award. Our recycling collections had to be suspended, but we promoted alternative collection points. We also participated in Sustainable St Albans SustFest.

Inclusive Church

We have been endeavouring to ensure that we are inclusive in our welcome, and in June 2021 our Church Council decided that we should apply to join the organisation Inclusive Church.

Inter-Church relations

We have continued to work more closely with Hatfield Road Methodist Church, the bonds being strengthened by the Lay Workers project. The church stewards hold regular joint meetings, which they have found very helpful for brainstorming and mutual support. Holiday at Home has been a joint activity since 2019. We are looking ahead to changes arising from the adoption of the Circuit's Way Forward measures, with the churches sharing a presbyter and a deacon.

We continue to value our close relationship with St Peter's Church. The clergy meet regularly and our minister is authorised to preside at Eucharistic worship at St Peters (since September 2015). We are very grateful to the two Lay Readers from St Peters who regularly lead worship at Marlborough Road. There are several special services each year which are now united services – the Covenant Service, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Aldersgate Sunday and St Peter's Patronal Festival. Chatterbox Coffee Morning and Thinking Lunches are well supported by St Peter's, although of course these did not happen this year. St Peter's have been involved in Holiday at Home since its inception.

The pandemic has disrupted the City Centre Churches interactions, but mutual support has continued.

Financial review

The Church's policy on Reserves is to maintain a reserve in the general fund to cover a month's running costs and to hold a sensible reserve in the repair, organ and cottage funds to cover emergency repair works.

No funds are materially in deficit.

Our principal sources of funds are voluntary donations, lettings and fund-raising. Lettings income has continued to be affected by Covid-19 lockdowns.

Our expenditure goes entirely in support of our key objectives and activities.

Our investment policy has been maintained through the moral and ethical policies of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Please refer to our Accounts for more details.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the foregoing report.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rona Mary Wightman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rona Mary Wightman
Church Council Secretary

Date: 28 June 2022

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Marlborough Road Methodist Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 Aug 2021

St Albans & Welwyn Circuit	Circuit No. 34/13
---------------------------------------	--------------------------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1128694
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If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number	
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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Reverend Rosemary Fletcher

Treasurer:

Carl Meredith

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020-21 £
Income						
1 Offerings		68,210				68,210
2 Donations		12,816		40,902		53,718
3 Gift aid		15,806				15,806
4 Interest and investment income		38				38
5 Income from investment properties		13,167				13,167
6 Internal organisations			4			4
7 Other charitable income				3,630		3,630
8 Total income		110,037	4	44,532	-	154,573
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		84,000				84,000
10 Grants and donations		3,891				3,891
11 Property maintenance		10,290				10,290
12 Insurance,utilities etc		7,637				7,637
13 Depreciation						-
14 Office expenses		1,203				1,203
15 Other expenditure		1,776		22,761		24,537
16 Internal organisations			3,916			3,916
17 Total charitable expenditure		108,797	3,916	22,761	-	135,474
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		1,240 -	3,912	21,771	-	19,099
21 Transfers between funds						-
22 Other gains/(losses)						-
23 Net movement in funds		1,240 -	3,912	21,771	-	19,099
24 Total funds brought forward		69,943	7,055	24,051	-	101,049
25 Total funds carried forward		71,183	3,143	45,822	-	120,148

Name of Church

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Circuit No 34/13

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2019-20 £
Income						
1 Offerings		73,249				73,249
2 Donations		18,279		5,365		23,644
3 Gift aid		22,587		665		23,252
4 Interest and investment income		194	13			207
5 Income from investment properties		23,059				23,059
6 Internal organisations			5,217			5,217
7 Other charitable income				80		80
8 Total income		137,368	5,230	6,110	-	148,708
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		84,000				84,000
10 Grants and donations		3,500		525		4,025
11 Property maintenance		10,911				10,911
12 Insurance,utilities etc		9,749				9,749
13 Depreciation						-
14 Office expenses		1,806		2,034		3,840
15 Other expenditure		3,262				3,262
16 Internal organisations			4,420			4,420
17 Total charitable expenditure		113,228	4,420	2,559	-	120,207
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		24,140	810	3,551	-	28,501
21 Transfers between funds	-	20,000		20,000		-
22 Other gains/(losses)						-
23 Net movement in funds		4,140	810	23,551	-	28,501
24 Total funds brought forward		65,803	6,245	500	-	72,548
25 Total funds carried forward		69,943	7,055	24,051	-	101,049

Notes to the
Accounts

General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2021	Totals 2020
£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Church building and other property	5,000,000			5,000,000	5,000,000
Investment properties	425,000			425,000	425,000
Investments				-	
Total fixed assets	5,425,000	-	-	5,425,000	5,425,000

Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments	33,624		18,055	51,679	44,242
Loans by the Churches				-	-
Investments with TMCP				-	-
Central Finance Board Deposits	1,944	14,576	34,364	50,884	29,843
Cash at Bank and in hand	661	28,294	15,900	44,855	31,880
Total current assets	36,229	42,870	68,319	147,418	105,965

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	4,388		22,882	27,270	4,916
Grants payable within 2018-19				-	-
Total current liabilities	4,388	-	22,882	27,270	4,916
Net current assets/liabilities	31,841	42,870	45,437	120,148	101,049

Total assets less current liabilities	5,456,841	42,870	45,437	5,545,148	5,526,049
--	------------------	---------------	---------------	------------------	------------------

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)					
Grants payable after 2018-19				-	-
Loans to the Church				-	-
				-	-
Net assets	5,456,841	42,870	45,437	5,545,148	5,526,049

Funds of the Church

General Fund (Unrestricted)	5,456,841			5,456,841	5,484,812
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)		42,870		42,870	17,184
Total Unrestricted Funds				5,499,711	5,501,996
Restricted Funds			45,437	45,437	24,053
Endowment Funds				-	
Total Funds	5,456,841	42,870	45,437	5,545,148	5,526,049

Signed



Church Treasurer **CARL MEREDITH**

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Church which are Unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

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

Incoming Resources

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

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants made by the Church from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Church accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Church

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £10,000. Property assets are stated at current fair value. The current fair value of the main church premises is evaluated by the trustees at 2021 deemed values, with reference to insurance assessments. The current fair value of the residential investment property is evaluated by the trustees with reference to comparable property sale transactions in the locality and to advice received from the letting agent engaged to manage the property on behalf of the trustees. Both properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors primarily constitute amounts owing by HMRC in respect of gift aid claims.

Creditors

Creditors include both trade creditors and donations to be paid to charities from the church General Reserve as determined by Church Council following confirmation of the full year income and expenditure.

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Church, in either the current or prior year.

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

There were no fees paid or payable to the independent examiner for reporting on the accounts or for other services, in either the current or prior year.

6 Paid employees

The church did not employ any staff during the current or prior year.

7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the 31 st August 2021 there are no capital commitments.

No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2021.

8 For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Balance brought forward from last year	-	1,585
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	1,744	
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	1,180	1,585
Balance carried forward	564	-

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Main church premises	Residential investment property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000
Additions	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers * (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year (-)	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-		-
Disposals (-)	-	-		-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-		-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-

Net book value

Brought forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000
Carried forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000

10 Loans

The Church currently has no loans and has not held any loans during the current or prior year.

11 Analysis of funds

2020-21

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
Restricted Funds					
Benevolent Fund	442				442
Lay Worker Fund	23,610	44,532	22,761		45,381
Total Restricted	24,052	44,532	22,761	-	45,823
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	30,234	100,845	108,797	9,172	31,454
Major Repair Fund	18,469	6			18,475
Organ Repair Fund	6,237	14			6,251
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	15,000	9,172		- 9,172	15,000
Internal Organisations	7,057	4	3,916		3,145
Total Unrestricted	76,997	110,041	112,713	-	74,325
Total Funds	101,049	154,573	135,474	-	120,148

""Comparative analysis of restricted and designated funds 2019-20

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
Restricted Funds					
Benevolent Fund	500	467	525		442
Lay Worker Fund	-	5,644	2,034	20,000	23,610
Total Restricted	500	6,111	2,559	20,000	24,052
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	18,326	127,764	110,049	- 5,807	30,234
Major Repair Fund	18,440	29			18,469
Organ Repair Fund	6,584	73	420		6,237
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	22,453	9,500	2,760	- 14,193	15,000
Internal Organisations	6,247	5,230	4,420		7,057
Total Unrestricted	72,050	142,596	117,649	- 20,000	76,997
Total Funds	72,550	148,707	120,208	-	101,049

Name of Church MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH No. 34/13

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  Date 6 FEB 2022

Name and address of treasurer CARL MEREDITH, 31 CANNON ST.

ST. ALBANS Post Code AL3 5JR

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting R. J. FLETCHER Date 22/02/2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST Church

Charity Number 1128694

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST Church for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages 2 to 7. 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH No 1128694

Independent Examiner's Statement

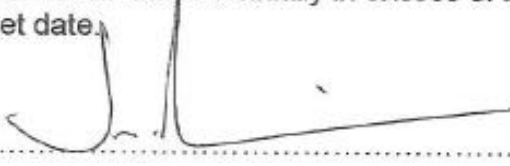
~~[The Church's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of (insert name of applicable listed body)]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

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 

Name of independent examiner J. N. ROBINSON

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

Address 5 HARMER DELL WELWYN HEATHS

Post Code AL6 0BE

Date 28/2/2022

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Marlborough Road Methodist Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 Aug 2021

St Albans & Welwyn Circuit	Circuit No. 34/13
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1128694
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If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number	
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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Reverend Rosemary Fletcher

Treasurer:

Carl Meredith

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020-21 £
Income						
1 Offerings		68,210				68,210
2 Donations		12,816		40,902		53,718
3 Gift aid		15,806				15,806
4 Interest and investment income		38				38
5 Income from investment properties		13,167				13,167
6 Internal organisations			4			4
7 Other charitable income				3,630		3,630
8 Total income		110,037	4	44,532	-	154,573
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		84,000				84,000
10 Grants and donations		3,891				3,891
11 Property maintenance		10,290				10,290
12 Insurance,utilities etc		7,637				7,637
13 Depreciation						-
14 Office expenses		1,203				1,203
15 Other expenditure		1,776		22,761		24,537
16 Internal organisations			3,916			3,916
17 Total charitable expenditure		108,797	3,916	22,761	-	135,474
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		1,240 -	3,912	21,771	-	19,099
21 Transfers between funds						-
22 Other gains/(losses)						-
23 Net movement in funds		1,240 -	3,912	21,771	-	19,099
24 Total funds brought forward		69,943	7,055	24,051	-	101,049
25 Total funds carried forward		71,183	3,143	45,822	-	120,148

Name of Church

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Circuit No 34/13

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2019-20 £
Income						
1 Offerings		73,249				73,249
2 Donations		18,279		5,365		23,644
3 Gift aid		22,587		665		23,252
4 Interest and investment income		194	13			207
5 Income from investment properties		23,059				23,059
6 Internal organisations			5,217			5,217
7 Other charitable income				80		80
8 Total income		137,368	5,230	6,110	-	148,708
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		84,000				84,000
10 Grants and donations		3,500		525		4,025
11 Property maintenance		10,911				10,911
12 Insurance,utilities etc		9,749				9,749
13 Depreciation						-
14 Office expenses		1,806		2,034		3,840
15 Other expenditure		3,262				3,262
16 Internal organisations			4,420			4,420
17 Total charitable expenditure		113,228	4,420	2,559	-	120,207
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		24,140	810	3,551	-	28,501
21 Transfers between funds	-	20,000		20,000		-
22 Other gains/(losses)						-
23 Net movement in funds		4,140	810	23,551	-	28,501
24 Total funds brought forward		65,803	6,245	500	-	72,548
25 Total funds carried forward		69,943	7,055	24,051	-	101,049

Notes to the
Accounts

General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2021	Totals 2020
£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Church building and other property	5,000,000			5,000,000	5,000,000
Investment properties	425,000			425,000	425,000
Investments				-	
Total fixed assets	5,425,000	-	-	5,425,000	5,425,000

Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments	33,624		18,055	51,679	44,242
Loans by the Churches				-	-
Investments with TMCP				-	-
Central Finance Board Deposits	1,944	14,576	34,364	50,884	29,843
Cash at Bank and in hand	661	28,294	15,900	44,855	31,880
Total current assets	36,229	42,870	68,319	147,418	105,965

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	4,388		22,882	27,270	4,916
Grants payable within 2018-19				-	-
Total current liabilities	4,388	-	22,882	27,270	4,916
Net current assets/liabilities	31,841	42,870	45,437	120,148	101,049

Total assets less current liabilities	5,456,841	42,870	45,437	5,545,148	5,526,049
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)					
Grants payable after 2018-19				-	-
Loans to the Church				-	-
				-	-
Net assets	5,456,841	42,870	45,437	5,545,148	5,526,049

Funds of the Church

General Fund (Unrestricted)	5,456,841			5,456,841	5,484,812
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)		42,870		42,870	17,184
Total Unrestricted Funds				5,499,711	5,501,996
Restricted Funds			45,437	45,437	24,053
Endowment Funds				-	
Total Funds	5,456,841	42,870	45,437	5,545,148	5,526,049

Signed



Church Treasurer **CARL MEREDITH**

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Church which are Unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

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

Incoming Resources

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

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants made by the Church from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Church accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Church

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £10,000. Property assets are stated at current fair value. The current fair value of the main church premises is evaluated by the trustees at 2021 deemed values, with reference to insurance assessments. The current fair value of the residential investment property is evaluated by the trustees with reference to comparable property sale transactions in the locality and to advice received from the letting agent engaged to manage the property on behalf of the trustees. Both properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors primarily constitute amounts owing by HMRC in respect of gift aid claims.

Creditors

Creditors include both trade creditors and donations to be paid to charities from the church General Reserve as determined by Church Council following confirmation of the full year income and expenditure.

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Church, in either the current or prior year.

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

There were no fees paid or payable to the independent examiner for reporting on the accounts or for other services, in either the current or prior year.

6 Paid employees

The church did not employ any staff during the current or prior year.

7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the 31 st August 2021 there are no capital commitments.

No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2021.

8 For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Balance brought forward from last year	-	1,585
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations	1,744	
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	1,180	1,585
Balance carried forward	564	-

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Main church premises	Residential investment property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000
Additions	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers * (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year (-)	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-		-
Disposals (-)	-	-		-
Transfers* (+/-)	-	-		-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-

Net book value

Brought forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000
Carried forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000

10 Loans

The Church currently has no loans and has not held any loans during the current or prior year.

11 Analysis of funds

2020-21

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
Restricted Funds					
Benevolent Fund	442				442
Lay Worker Fund	23,610	44,532	22,761		45,381
Total Restricted	24,052	44,532	22,761	-	45,823
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	30,234	100,845	108,797	9,172	31,454
Major Repair Fund	18,469	6			18,475
Organ Repair Fund	6,237	14			6,251
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	15,000	9,172		- 9,172	15,000
Internal Organisations	7,057	4	3,916		3,145
Total Unrestricted	76,997	110,041	112,713	-	74,325
Total Funds	101,049	154,573	135,474	-	120,148

""Comparative analysis of restricted and designated funds 2019-20

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
Restricted Funds					
Benevolent Fund	500	467	525		442
Lay Worker Fund	-	5,644	2,034	20,000	23,610
Total Restricted	500	6,111	2,559	20,000	24,052
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	18,326	127,764	110,049	- 5,807	30,234
Major Repair Fund	18,440	29			18,469
Organ Repair Fund	6,584	73	420		6,237
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	22,453	9,500	2,760	- 14,193	15,000
Internal Organisations	6,247	5,230	4,420		7,057
Total Unrestricted	72,050	142,596	117,649	- 20,000	76,997
Total Funds	72,550	148,707	120,208	-	101,049

Name of Church MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH No. 34/13

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  Date 6 FEB 2022

Name and address of treasurer CARL MEREDITH, 31 CANNON ST.

ST. ALBANS Post Code AL3 5JR

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting R. J. FLETCHER Date 22/02/2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST Church

Charity Number 1128694

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST Church for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages 2 to 7. 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH No 1128694

Independent Examiner's Statement

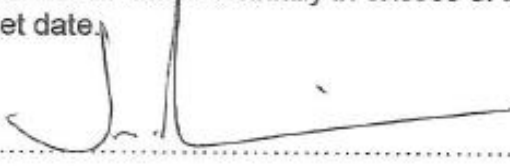
~~[The Church's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of (insert name of applicable listed body)]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

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 

Name of independent examiner J. N. ROBINSON

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

Address 5 HARMER DELL WELWYN HEATHS

Post Code AL6 0BE

Date 28/2/2022

MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1128694

Accounts

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Registered Charity No 1128694

Trustees Annual Report for year ending August 2020

The Methodist Church
Marlborough Road
St Albans
AL1 3XG

Reference Information and Administration

The managing trustees

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
1	Rosemary Fletcher	Chair	
2	Revd Andrew Prout	Presbyter (Hatfield Road Methodist Church)	
3	Janis Gilbert	Church Steward	
4	Mercadell Lewis	Church Steward	
5	Theresa Tetteh	Church Steward	
6	Ann Scorer	Church Steward	
7	Ena Fowkes	Church Steward	
8	Carl Meredith	Treasurer	
9	Celia Hudson	Pastoral Co-ordinator	
10	Rona Wightman	Secretary to Church Council	
11	Frances Bates	Representative from General Church Meeting	
12	Di Churcher	Representative from General Church Meeting	
13	Andrew Johnstone	Representative from General Church Meeting	
14	Patti McConnell	Representative from General Church Meeting	
15	Erma Profit	Representative from General Church Meeting	
16	Mike Scorer	Representative from General Church Meeting	
17	Marjorie Wilson	Representative from General Church Meeting	
18	Jean Blight	Representative from General Church Meeting	
19	Judith Head	Safeguarding Officer	
20	Ian Gilbert	Senior Property Steward	
21	James Rowley	Secretary to Finance and Property committee	

Trustees for the charity

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) are custodian trustees.

Appointed advisers

We appoint an Auditor each year to check our accounts.

Structure, governance and management

The charity's trusts

Our governing document is the Methodist Church Act 1976

The charity is constituted as a trust.

Trustees are selected in accordance with the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. Representatives are elected by the Annual General Church Meeting. Other trustees are appointed by Church Council by virtue of their role. There is also provision in the CPD for trustees to be co-opted by Church Council.

Governance

As a Methodist Church, we are a Church within a Circuit, in our case the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit. The Circuits fall within Districts, our Circuit is in the Bedfordshire, Essex and Herts District. The Methodist Church is a Connexional Church, that is, we see ourselves as part of an interconnected 'body' that offers mutual encouragement and support.

Connexional systems, requirements and guidance help us minimise risks; our Circuit Meetings and Church Council and committees consider any specific issues for us to deal with.

Our safeguarding policy is reviewed annually.

Trustees are required to familiarise themselves with CC3 *The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do*. Our Circuit arranges annual Trustee training sessions.

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The purposes of the Methodist Church are 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.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Our main activity is the holding of regular public acts of worship, open to members of the church and non-members alike.

Pastoral work includes visiting the sick and bereaved.

We run a weekly drop-in toddler group for pre-school children and their carers and a weekly drop-in coffee morning that is mainly attended by older people.

Our premises are used by a number of community groups for cultural, educational and physical activity.

We participate in Heritage Open Days.

We support other charities in the UK financially and with prayer.

We have been working jointly with Hatfield Road Methodist Church (Charity No 1173147) to employ two Lay Workers: a three year post for a Children and Families Worker and a five year post for an Anna Chaplain. The Children and Families Worker was appointed in June 2020. The Employer is Hatfield Road Methodist Church.

Our trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Local churches, circuits and districts are not defined as external grant-making bodies.

Nearly all of our activity is carried out by volunteers, lay and ordained, with support of stipendiary presbyters and administrative staff provided by the circuit.

Achievements and Performance 2019-20

Marlborough Road Methodist Church is an open and diverse congregation of Christians set near the centre of St. Albans. Our Calling is to:

Worship

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love

Learning and Caring

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

Service

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

Evangelism

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ

Most of our activities fall under more than one heading!

This year began as a continuation from our existing patterns of worship and activity, which are outlined in the first part of this section. From March 2020 to August 2020 we adapted to lockdown, as reported in the second part of this section.

September 2019 – February 2020

We continued our general pattern of regular and seasonal activities.

Our regular **worship** is on Sunday mornings at 10.30am. The format is 'traditional', with hymns, prayers and a sermon. However, the congregation is not bound to this format and we have been refreshed by Creative Worship and special services throughout the year. Holy Communion is celebrated monthly. We are grateful to the Stewards who organise our services.

Our **Junior Church** spends some of the worship time with the rest of the congregation and some in their own sessions. We are grateful to the Junior Church staff who help our primary age young people to grow and learn in faith. Several of our young people are **Junior Mission for All** (JMA) collectors, we celebrate our collectors, their subscribers and the JMA secretary in the autumn on World Church Sunday.

The secondary age young people enjoy the monthly **youth group**, which is run jointly with Hatfield Road Methodist Church.

Our Tuesday morning **toddler group** continues to be highly regarded by local pre-schoolers and their carers.

Chatterbox is an informal coffee morning held in the vestibule on Thursdays. We are seeing a gradual increase in numbers 'dropping in' for chat and company.

We have several **fellowship groups**. Bible Study groups meet on Thursday mornings at the church and alternate Tuesday evenings in a members' home; the Prayer and Praise group meets monthly at church. Our fellowship groups - the Tuesday Fellowship, St Stephen's Fellowship, the International Bible Reading Association Fellowship, the Marlborough Men and the Flexible Friends – continued to meet in members' homes. The Marlborough Theatre Club organised trips to performances and the Marlborough Readers met monthly to discuss selected works.

In September we observe Creationtide, leading up to **Harvest Festival**. We are conscious of our own environment and also the effects of climate change on the whole planet. Our Harvest Festival service again featured the **Brownies** and the work of the Methodist Charity, **All We Can**.

September also includes **Heritage Open Days**. We were open on Saturday 14 September, with special displays, home baking and live organ music. We choose that date so that we also welcome participants in the annual Historic Churches Trust Bike 'n' Hike, including our minister and her husband who again cycled around a number of Hertfordshire churches. The Churches Together in St Albans Prayer Walk takes place on the Sunday afternoon following, starting at SS Alban & Stephen and wending its way through town, calling in at churches – including ours, for a short pause and prayer – on the way to the Abbey

October is Black History Month and includes One World Week and United Nations Day; as a church we celebrate World Church and our Junior Mission for All.

We are an **All We Can Partner Church**, and also part of an All We Can Partner Circuit. To mark this one of our members 'Cycled the Circuit' one day in October 2019, stopping off at all the circuit churches.

The featured country this year is Ethiopia and projects supported by All We Can that are helping farmers deal with problems arising from climate change.

Pictured: Rona the cyclist, Matthew from All We Can and Rosemary the Circuit Superintendent.



November is a time of remembrance. This year we had a very special All Saints & All Souls afternoon recital given by Crispian Steele-Perkins (trumpet) and Hilary Davan Wetton (organ).

Pictured: Crispian, Rosemary, Hilary

In December the contemplative, thoughtful Advent devotions are at odds with the commercial excitement leading up to the celebration of Christ's birth. We take part in the Amnesty International 'Write for Rights' campaign, writing greetings cards to prisoners and campaigners. This year we also joined in an initiative to send greetings cards to inmates at HMP The Mount, a nearby prison.

January is a month of renewal and rededication, when Methodists hold their Covenant services. We are delighted that the congregation and choir of St Peter's (Church of England) join us for our Covenant Service.

We signed up to the **Hertfordshire Year of Culture 2020**, and we enjoyed a visit from the mascot, YOCI, to Chatterbox coffee morning at the end of January 2020. HYOC had monthly themes and ideas for creativity, and this continued to inspire Chatterbox people during lockdown. Our involvement in HYOC also led to interest in the Methodist Modern Art collection, which we now feature regularly in our monthly '*Marlborough Round*' newsletter.



The usual accompaniment to our singing and reflection has been organ music, but this year we have been mostly without a regular organist. We enjoyed the playing of Tanya Brittain during December to February, and we were delighted that Hilary Davan Wetton played the organ for our carol service. We have appreciated visiting organists and members of the congregation playing the piano and other instruments during worship. Our property team have been making good use of the CD player.

This has been the third year of **Thinking Lunches**. These are held on the first Thursday of each month from September to June. The audience bring their own sandwiches, drinks are provided. The speaker talks for about thirty minutes and discussion follows. The speakers have been excellent. The lunches have covered a range of topics, some directly relating to faith and others concerning peace, justice and environmental issues.

September 2019	The Revd Ruth Eldridge <i>The Church and the whaikaha (the Maori word for disabled)</i>
October 2019	Bevan Powell, MBE, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Advisor to the Methodist Church <i>Why Black History?</i>
November 2019	Stephen Poxon <i>Is God a football fan?</i>
December 2019	Steve Lindsay, MBE ACIB, Prince's Trust <i>Did you realise that the Prince's Trust is active in Herts & Beds?</i>
January 2020	- no meeting
February 2020	Holly Pitt, Missing People <i>For "such as these": how can we best support Hertfordshire's Missing and Exploited Children?</i>
March 2020	The Revd Antony MacRow-Wood <i>Can credit unions play a significant part in promoting financial inclusion?</i>

The **Winter Beds Project** was initiated by the ecumenical City Centre Churches Group in which we play an active part. Three of our members volunteered for the rota to help look after overnight guests this winter.

The project continues our long tradition of working with those who are homeless. Several of our members continue to volunteer with Centre 33 to provide meals and support to homeless and socially or materially disadvantaged people at this city-centre drop-in facility.

We regularly support the **Fund for Human Need**. We hold quarterly collections for our church benevolence fund, with the understanding that when our benevolence fund has an adequate reserve the extra over collected will be donated to the Fund for Human Need. This is generously understood by our members!

We also support the **FEED foodbank** operated by the Vineyard Church in St Albans. We collect foodstuffs and household essentials on the first Sunday of each month and at Harvest.

We care for the environment, and have continued **working towards Eco-Church** accreditation. We continued collecting items for specialist recycling, which we pass to local Terracycle collectors, thereby benefitting the environment and local organisations. We collect writing implements, toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes, crisp packets and biscuit wrappers. The items are taken from church to the collectors by bicycle. Our recycling collections proved popular with premises users and visitors as well as church members, and this became an opportunity for outreach, as we began to produce a simple quarterly 'eco-newsletter' leaflet. Our recycling guru liaised with her opposite numbers in circuit and local churches, both giving and receiving useful information and ideas.



March 2020 – August 2020

Throughout March numbers attending Sunday morning worship fell as church members became increasingly concerned about the spread of Covid-19 and started to voluntarily 'social distance'. By mid-March it was decided to cease Chatterbox coffee mornings.. On Mothering Sunday, 22 March 2020, the usual service was not held but the church was open for prayer. "It felt so poignant to lock the church up on that day" said the stewards. On 26 March **lockdown** measures came into force. All services and events were suspended.

There was a lot of telephoning as we organised support networks, especially for our older members and for the families, and got email addresses for as many of our members as had them. Being part of a circuit stood us in good stead. The circuit staff took it in turns to prepare a home worship service which was emailed out, along with the church's weekly notice sheet. Paper copies were posted to those without email.

We were also grateful for support from St Peter's Church, who shared their emailable children's activity sheets with us.

Our pastoral network made sure that people although isolated physically were not out of touch. Our safeguarding officer co-ordinated volunteers and those in need of help in collecting shopping or prescriptions. Our property steward checked the empty building periodically. Fellowship group members rang each other regularly.

As an organisation we are not very digitally proficient or well-equipped, so we did not attempt to put our services online. Our members joined live streamed services from local churches eg St Peter's and from the wider Methodist connexion eg Wesley's Chapel or connected with pre-recorded services for home worship prepared by two churches in the circuit.. We began to learn about Zoom, and after Easter we began 'after church coffee Zoom', a chance to meet up online at the time we would normally have been chatting in the church hall after the service.

As restrictions started to ease we began to meet outdoors in small groups. Our Covid-19 Management group was formed and reviewed government and Methodist guidance and carried out risk assessments of our building and worship practice to prepare for resumption of worship in the church building.



Following the death of George Floyd as a result of police violence, a **Black Lives Matter** rally was held in St Albans on 12 June 2020 and a number of church members attended or were involved in managing the rally. It was held in Verulamium Park, with over 2000 people present, and was a peaceful, Covid-safe and very determined protest to call out racism in the UK.

The **Lay Workers Project**, a joint initiative with Hatfield Road Methodist Church, continued to progress in spite of the pandemic. The Children & Families post was advertised in April 2020, interviews were held remotely and an appointment was made. Emma Haggis began work in August 2020, initially meeting church and local contacts either outside or online.

Financial review

The Church's policy on Reserves is to maintain a reserve in the general fund to cover a month's running costs and to hold a sensible reserve in the repair, organ and cottage funds to cover emergency repair works.

No funds are materially in deficit.

Our principal sources of funds are voluntary donations, lettings and fund-raising.

Our expenditure goes entirely in support of our key objectives and activities.

Our investment policy has been maintained through the moral and ethical policies of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

Please refer to our Accounts for more details.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the foregoing report.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rona Mary Wightman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rona Mary Wightman
Church Council Secretary

Date: 30 March 2022

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Marlborough Road Methodist Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 Aug 2020

St Albans & Welwyn Circuit	Circuit No. 34/13
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1128694
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If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number	
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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Reverend Rosemary Fletcher

Treasurer:

Carl Meredith

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2019-20 £
Income						
1 Offerings		73,249				73,249
2 Donations		18,279		5,365		23,644
3 Gift aid		22,587		665		23,252
4 Interest and investment income		194	13			207
5 Income from investment properties		23,059				23,059
6 Internal organisations			5,217			5,217
7 Other charitable income				80		80
8 Total income		137,368	5,230	6,110	-	148,708
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		84,000				84,000
10 Grants and donations		3,500		525		4,025
11 Property maintenance		10,911				10,911
12 Insurance,utilities etc		9,749				9,749
13 Depreciation						0
14 Office expenses		1,806		2,034		3,840
15 Other expenditure		3,262				3,262
16 Internal organisations			4,420			4,420
17 Total charitable expenditure		113,228	4,420	2,559	0	120,207
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						0
20 Net income/(expenditure)		24,140	810	3,551	0	28,501
21 Transfers between funds	-	20,000		20,000		0
22 Other gains/(losses)						0
23 Net movement in funds		4,140	810	23,551	0	28,501
24 Total funds brought forward		65,803	6,245	500	-	72,548
25 Total funds carried forward		69,943	7,055	24,051	-	101,049

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2019

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2018-19 £
Income						
1 Offerings		76,048		852		76,900
2 Donations		12,573				12,573
3 Gift aid		13,858				13,858
4 Interest and investment income		176	13			189
5 Income from investment properties		33,280				33,280
6 Internal organisations			10,736			10,736
7 Other charitable income						0
8 Total income		135,935	10,749	852	-	147,536
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		84,000				84,000
10 Grants and donations		3,450		852		4,302
11 Property maintenance		11,124		1,991		13,115
12 Insurance, utilities etc		11,127				11,127
13 Depreciation						0
14 Office expenses		2,465				2,465
15 Other expenditure		2,977				2,977
16 Internal organisations			10,750			10,750
17 Total charitable expenditure		115,143	10,750	2,843	0	128,736
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						0
20 Net income/(expenditure)		20,792	-1	-1,991	0	18,800
21 Transfers between funds		366	-	366		0
22 Other gains/(losses)						0
23 Net movement in funds		21,158	-1	-2,357	0	18,800
24 Total funds brought forward		44,645	6,246	2,857	-	53,748
25 Total funds carried forward		65,803	6,245	500	-	72,548

Name of Church

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Circuit No 34/13

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2020	Totals 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Church building and other property	5,000,000				5,000,000	5,000,000
Investment properties	425,000				425,000	425,000
Investments					0	
Total fixed assets	5,425,000	0	0	0	5,425,000	5,425,000

Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments	44,242				44,242	37,136
Loans by the Churches					0	0
Investments with TMCP					0	0
Central Finance Board Deposits	25,015	4,385	443		29,843	29,637
Cash at Bank and in hand	6,308	25,572			31,880	14,452
Total current assets	75,565	29,957	443	0	105,965	81,225

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	4,916				4,916	8,675
Grants payable within 2018-19					0	0
Total current liabilities	4,916	0	0	0	4,916	8,675
Net current assets/liabilities	70,649	29,957	443	0	101,049	72,550

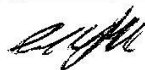
Total assets less current liabilities	5,495,649	29,957	443	0	5,526,049	5,497,550
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)						
Grants payable after 2018-19					0	0
Loans to the Church					0	0
					0	0
Net assets	5,495,649	29,957	443	0	5,526,049	5,497,550

Funds of the Church

General Fund (Unrestricted)	5,495,649				5,495,649	5,490,804
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)		29,957			29,957	6,246
Total Unrestricted Funds					5,525,606	5,497,050
Restricted Funds			443		443	500
Endowment Funds				0	0	
Total Funds	5,495,649	29,957	443	0	5,526,049	5,497,550

Signed



CARL MEREDITH

Church Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Church which are Unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

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

Incoming Resources

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

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants made by the Church from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Church accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £10,000. Property assets are stated at current fair value. The current fair value of the main church premises is evaluated by the trustees at 2020 deemed values, with reference to insurance assessments. The current fair value of the residential investment property is evaluated by the trustees with reference to comparable property sale transactions in the locality and to advice received from the letting agent engaged to manage the property on behalf of the trustees. Both properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors primarily constitute amounts owing by HMRC in respect of gift aid claims.

Creditors

Creditors include both trade creditors and donations to be paid to charities from the church General Reserve as determined by Church Council following confirmation of the full year income and expenditure.

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Church, in either the current or prior year.

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

There were no fees paid or payable to the independent examiner for reporting on the accounts or for other services, in either the current or prior year.

6 Paid employees

The church did not employ any staff during the current or prior year.

7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the 31 st August 2020 there are no capital commitments.

No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2020.

8 For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2019/20	2018/19
	£	£
Balance brought forward from last year	1,585	2,476
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations		6,293
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	1,585	7,184
Balance carried forward		1,585

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Main church premises	Residential investment property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000
Additions	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers * (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year (-)	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers * (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-

Net book value

Brought forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000
Carried forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000

10 Loans

The Church currently has no loans and has not held any loans during the current or prior year.

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
Restricted Funds					
Benevolent Fund	500	467	525		442
Lay Worker Fund	-	5,644	2,034	20,000	23,610
Total Restricted	500	6,111	2,559	20,000	24,052
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	18,326	127,764	110,049	- 5,807	30,234
Major Repair Fund	18,440	29			18,469
Organ Repair Fund	6,584	73	420		6,237
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	22,453	9,500	2,760	- 14,193	15,000
Internal Organisations	6,247	5,230	4,420		7,057
Total Unrestricted	72,050	142,596	117,649	- 20,000	76,997
Total Funds	72,550	148,707	120,208	-	101,049

****Comparative analysis of restricted and designated funds 2018-19

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
Restricted Funds					
Benevolent Fund	500	852	852	-	500
Refurbishment Fund	2,357	-	1,991	- 366	-
Total Restricted	2,857	852	2,843	- 366	500
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	3,311	126,932	112,284	366	18,325
Major Repair Fund	18,412	28	-		18,440
Organ Repair Fund	7,084	109	609		6,584
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	15,838	8,866	2,250		22,454
Internal Organisations	6,246	10,749	10,750		6,245
Total Unrestricted	50,891	146,684	125,893	366	72,048
Total Funds	53,748	147,536	128,736	-	72,548

Name of Church MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH No.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

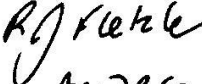
I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer  Date..... 9 APRIL 2021

Name and address of treasurer CARL MEREDITH, 31 CANNON ST,
..... ST ALBANS Post Code..... AL3 5JR

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 8 FEBRUARY 2021

Signature of the Chair of the meeting  P.P.
ANDREW PROUT

Name of the Chair of the meeting The Rev'd Andrew Prout Date 9 APRIL 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

MARBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST Church

Charity Number 1128694

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST Church for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages 1. to 3.. 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH No

Independent Examiner's Statement

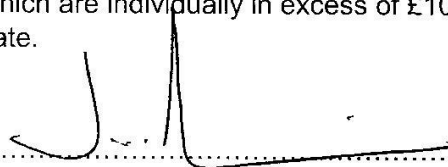
~~[The Church's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of (Insert name of applicable listed body)]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

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 

Name of independent examiner J. ROBINSON

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner M.A. A.C.A.

Address 5 HAMMER DELL, WELWYN HERTS

Post Code AL6 0BE

Date 24/4/21

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Marlborough Road Methodist Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 Aug 2020

St Albans & Welwyn Circuit	Circuit No. 34/13
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1128694
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If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number	
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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Reverend Rosemary Fletcher

Treasurer:

Carl Meredith

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

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2019-20 £
Income						
1 Offerings		73,249				73,249
2 Donations		18,279		5,365		23,644
3 Gift aid		22,587		665		23,252
4 Interest and investment income		194	13			207
5 Income from investment properties		23,059				23,059
6 Internal organisations			5,217			5,217
7 Other charitable income				80		80
8 Total income		137,368	5,230	6,110	-	148,708
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		84,000				84,000
10 Grants and donations		3,500		525		4,025
11 Property maintenance		10,911				10,911
12 Insurance,utilities etc		9,749				9,749
13 Depreciation						0
14 Office expenses		1,806		2,034		3,840
15 Other expenditure		3,262				3,262
16 Internal organisations			4,420			4,420
17 Total charitable expenditure		113,228	4,420	2,559	0	120,207
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						0
20 Net income/(expenditure)		24,140	810	3,551	0	28,501
21 Transfers between funds	-	20,000		20,000		0
22 Other gains/(losses)						0
23 Net movement in funds		4,140	810	23,551	0	28,501
24 Total funds brought forward		65,803	6,245	500	-	72,548
25 Total funds carried forward		69,943	7,055	24,051	-	101,049

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2019

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2018-19 £
Income						
1 Offerings		76,048		852		76,900
2 Donations		12,573				12,573
3 Gift aid		13,858				13,858
4 Interest and investment income		176	13			189
5 Income from investment properties		33,280				33,280
6 Internal organisations			10,736			10,736
7 Other charitable income						0
8 Total income		135,935	10,749	852	-	147,536
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		84,000				84,000
10 Grants and donations		3,450		852		4,302
11 Property maintenance		11,124		1,991		13,115
12 Insurance,utilities etc		11,127				11,127
13 Depreciation						0
14 Office expenses		2,465				2,465
15 Other expenditure		2,977				2,977
16 Internal organisations			10,750			10,750
17 Total charitable expenditure		115,143	10,750	2,843	0	128,736
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments						0
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties						0
20 Net income/(expenditure)		20,792	-1	-1,991	0	18,800
21 Transfers between funds		366	-	366		0
22 Other gains/(losses)						0
23 Net movement in funds		21,158	-1	-2,357	0	18,800
24 Total funds brought forward		44,645	6,246	2,857	-	53,748
25 Total funds carried forward		65,803	6,245	500	-	72,548

Name of Church

Marlborough Road Methodist Church

Circuit No 34/13

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2020

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2020	Totals 2019
	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Church building and other property	5,000,000				5,000,000	5,000,000
Investment properties	425,000				425,000	425,000
Investments					0	
Total fixed assets	5,425,000	0	0	0	5,425,000	5,425,000

Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments	44,242				44,242	37,136
Loans by the Churches					0	0
Investments with TMCP					0	0
Central Finance Board Deposits	25,015	4,385	443		29,843	29,637
Cash at Bank and in hand	6,308	25,572			31,880	14,452
Total current assets	75,565	29,957	443	0	105,965	81,225

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	4,916				4,916	8,675
Grants payable within 2018-19					0	0
Total current liabilities	4,916	0	0	0	4,916	8,675
Net current assets/liabilities	70,649	29,957	443	0	101,049	72,550

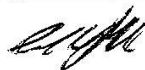
Total assets less current liabilities	5,495,649	29,957	443	0	5,526,049	5,497,550
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)						
Grants payable after 2018-19					0	0
Loans to the Church					0	0
					0	0
Net assets	5,495,649	29,957	443	0	5,526,049	5,497,550

Funds of the Church

General Fund (Unrestricted)	5,495,649				5,495,649	5,490,804
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)		29,957			29,957	6,246
Total Unrestricted Funds					5,525,606	5,497,050
Restricted Funds			443		443	500
Endowment Funds				0	0	
Total Funds	5,495,649	29,957	443	0	5,526,049	5,497,550

Signed



CARL MEREDITH

Church Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts

1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Church which are Unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in the final note to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3 Accounting policies

Basis

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

Incoming Resources

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

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants made by the Church from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Church accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment.

VAT

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

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Circuit

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £10,000.

Property assets are stated at current fair value. The current fair value of the main church premises is evaluated by the trustees at 2020 deemed values, with reference to insurance assessments. The current fair value of the residential investment property is evaluated by the trustees with reference to comparable property sale transactions in the locality and to advice received from the letting agent engaged to manage the property on behalf of the trustees. Both properties have been reviewed for impairment.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors primarily constitute amounts owing by HMRC in respect of gift aid claims.

Creditors

Creditors include both trade creditors and donations to be paid to charities from the church General Reserve as determined by Church Council following confirmation of the full year income and expenditure.

4 Payment to Trustees

There were no payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Church, in either the current or prior year.

5 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

There were no fees paid or payable to the independent examiner for reporting on the accounts or for other services, in either the current or prior year.

6 Paid employees

The church did not employ any staff during the current or prior year.

7 Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At the 31 st August 2020 there are no capital commitments.

No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31st August 2020.

8 For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2019/20	2018/19
	£	£
Balance brought forward from last year	1,585	2,476
Offerings/Gifts - received for External Organisations		6,293
Offerings/Gifts - passed to External Organisations	1,585	7,184
Balance carried forward		1,585

9 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation

	Main church premises	Residential investment property	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000
Additions	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers * (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for year (-)	-	-	-	-
Revaluations (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Disposals (-)	-	-	-	-
Transfers * (+/-)	-	-	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-

Net book value

Brought forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000
Carried forward	5,000,000	425,000	-	5,425,000

10 Loans

The Church currently has no loans and has not held any loans during the current or prior year.

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
Restricted Funds					
Benevolent Fund	500	467	525		442
Lay Worker Fund	-	5,644	2,034	20,000	23,610
Total Restricted	500	6,111	2,559	20,000	24,052
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	18,326	127,764	110,049	- 5,807	30,234
Major Repair Fund	18,440	29			18,469
Organ Repair Fund	6,584	73	420		6,237
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	22,453	9,500	2,760	- 14,193	15,000
Internal Organisations	6,247	5,230	4,420		7,057
Total Unrestricted	72,050	142,596	117,649	- 20,000	76,997
Total Funds	72,550	148,707	120,208	-	101,049

****Comparative analysis of restricted and designated funds 2018-19

Fund Name	Opening Balance	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Transfers	Closing Balance
Restricted Funds					
Benevolent Fund	500	852	852	-	500
Refurbishment Fund	2,357	-	1,991	- 366	-
Total Restricted	2,857	852	2,843	- 366	500
Unrestricted Funds					
General Fund	3,311	126,932	112,284	366	18,325
Major Repair Fund	18,412	28	-		18,440
Organ Repair Fund	7,084	109	609		6,584
Investment Property Maintenance Fund	15,838	8,866	2,250		22,454
Internal Organisations	6,246	10,749	10,750		6,245
Total Unrestricted	50,891	146,684	125,893	366	72,048
Total Funds	53,748	147,536	128,736	-	72,548

Name of Church MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH No.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

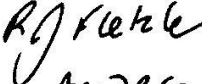
I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer  Date..... 9 APRIL 2021

Name and address of treasurer CARL MEREDITH, 31 CANNON ST,
..... ST ALBANS Post Code..... AL3 5JR

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 8 FEBRUARY 2021

Signature of the Chair of the meeting  P.P.
ANDREW PROUT

Name of the Chair of the meeting The Rev'd Andrew Prout Date 9 APRIL 2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

MARBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST Church

Charity Number 1128694

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST Church for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages 1. to 3.. 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church MARLBOROUGH ROAD METHODIST CHURCH No

Independent Examiner's Statement

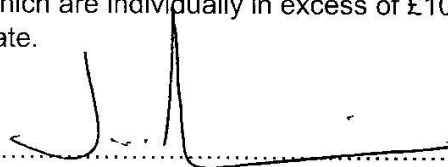
~~[The Church's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of (Insert name of applicable listed body)]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

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 

Name of independent examiner J. ROBINSON

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner M.A. A.C.A.

Address 5 HAMMER DELL, WELWYN HERTS

Post Code AL6 0BE

Date 24/4/21