

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 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

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

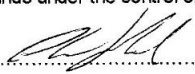
****Comparative analysis of restricted and designated funds 2023-24

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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.

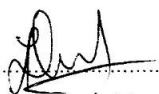
Signature of treasurer  Date 24/2/26

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.

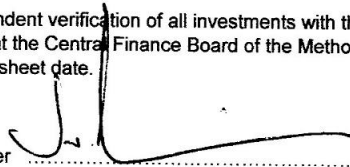
Signature of independent examiner

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

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
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Total Unrestricted	52,094	106,897	117,002	-	41,989
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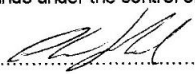
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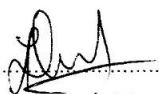
Signature of treasurer  Date 24/2/26

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

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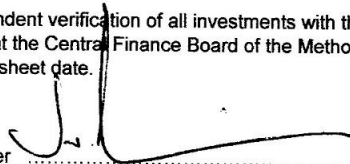
Signature of independent examiner

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