



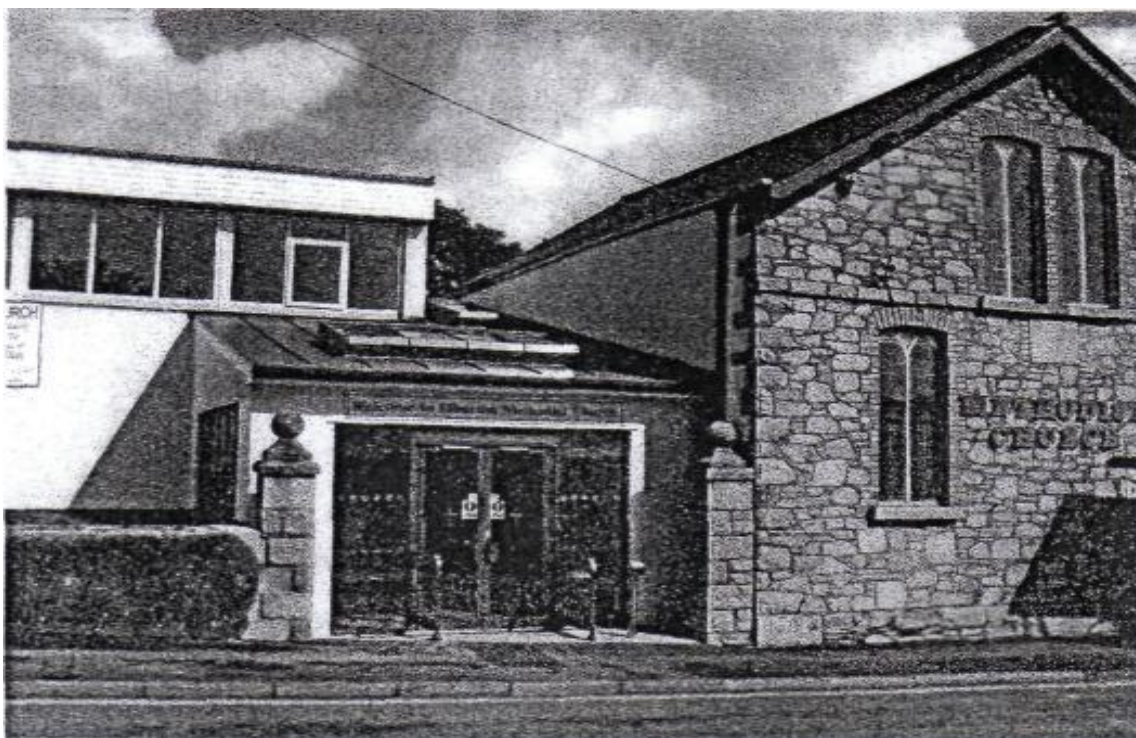
ELBURTON METHODIST CHURCH
Charity number 1128726

Springfield Road, Elburton, Plymouth, Devon PL9 8PR

Annual Church Report

1st September 2020 – 31st August 2021

Minister: Reverend Andy Chislett-MacDonald



Serving God in the Community

Administrative information required by the Charity Commission

Elburton Methodist Church

The Church was registered with the Charity Commission on 23rd March 2009.

The correspondence address is:

Elburton Methodist Church, Springfield Road, Elburton, Plymouth, Devon PL9 8PR
Correspondence should be addressed to the Minister - Revd Simon Leigh

The Managing Trustees are the Members of Church Council. The Trustees in March 2021 numbered 26 and were: -

Mrs Denise Avent	Mr David Finemore	Mrs Di Smart
Mrs Carol Batchelor	Mrs Sheila Hadley	Mrs Patricia Stringer
Mr Tom Biss	Mrs Barbara Jeffery	Mrs Jennifer Tomlinson
Mrs Helen Carhart	Mr Tristan Merrifield	Mrs Jenny Weymouth
Rev A. Chislett-MacDonald	Mr John Northcott	Mrs Brenda Youngs
Mrs Mavis Clooke	Mrs Rosemary Palmer	Revd David Youngs
Mrs Elizabeth Coleman	Mrs Margaret Passmore	
Mrs Jean Davies	Mrs Doreen Pope	
Mrs June Dinner	Mrs Maureen Richardson	
Mr Robert Faulkner	Mr Tony Sleep	

Number of Church Members in March 2021 was 84

Reserves Policy

The Development Fund is held towards impending improvements of the building and outreach work. In the General Fund we aim to hold a reserve of six months running costs in accordance with recommended guidelines.

Safeguarding Policy

Elburton Methodist Church has an updated Safeguarding Policy, which is reviewed annually.

Dated June 2022

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Elburton Methodist Church Policy

The General Church Meeting, at the request of the Church Council, agreed that the Church Policy for Elburton Methodist Church should be based on the reports submitted to that by the Organisations. The prime goal of the Church should be to promote the work of Christ in the area of Plymstock and through the Methodist Connexion and that this should be guided by our mission statement:

To Love God

To Love People

To Make Disciples

In accordance with the Policy of the Plymouth and Devonport Circuit of the Methodist Church this should include:

Worship: which should

- Be God centred and Spirit led.
- Relevant, welcoming and of good quality.
- Include opportunities for different styles in a flexible worship space.
- Be appropriate to the immediate needs of the Church.
- Give opportunity for people to participate.

Learning: through

- Encouraging people to develop their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Providing opportunities for Bible Study, Fellowship, House Groups and Prayer.
- Encouraging people to attend training courses at Local, National or Ecumenical level.

Caring: involves

- Pastoral Care for all those connected to the Church.
- Encouraging community involvement.
- Supporting the Housebound
- Being available at the vulnerable moments in life.

Service:

- Encouraging people to use and develop their skills.
- Responsible giving.
- Supporting Christians in community projects (e.g. Lunches)
- Advocating justice in the community and the world.
- Promoting Fair Trade

Evangelism:

- Encourage the sharing of the good news with all.
- Support new Disciples especially the young people.

Provide a warm welcome and love for all those who enter the Church, and at Baptism, weddings and Funerals.

Revised 15th October 2007

ANNUAL REPORT

The church report for September 2020 to August 2021 is very different from previous reports due to being closed, apart from three weeks in December until May 23rd 2021. No clubs or organisations met until September 2021.

We welcomed our new Minister, Rev'd Andy Chislett-Macdonald, in September, via zoom, email and phone calls. Due to changes in the Circuit, he remained with us only until August 2020 when Rev'd Darren Middleton took responsibility for Elburton.

Being closed did not mean there was no worship or contact between members.

Pastoral Visitors kept in contact with their contacts by phone calls and when permitted in open air, socially distanced meetings. This team is very ably led by Margaret Passmore, who probably did more than her fair share of contact keeping.

Our Property Steward, John Northcott, and Minor Maintenance Team Leader, Tony Sleep, visited the premises weekly to comply with Insurance requirements. After lockdown, the Team met as usual, monthly, to keep the church in good repair. We are very grateful to this team and their commitment to keeping the premises in good repair.

In September, we took out 2 Zoom licences, which enabled services to be offered morning and evening. These were much appreciated by those who were willing and able to use zoom. The evening services were particularly appreciated by a lady in a nursing home, and others who were unable to socialise. The fact that preachers were willing to lead worship in this way was greatly appreciated. The morning services continued until May, the evening services until the end of July. It was with some regret that these services finished.

The Church Council met, using zoom, on two occasions. The stewards also used this facility.

'At Home with Jesus' continued weekly, reaching out to more than 50 people, some of whom were not Elburton members but who appreciated being able to worship, knowing others were receiving the same message. Many thanks are due to Carol and Graham Batchelor who delivered copies to a number of folk, during their 'daily exercise' and to Di Smart who wrote and compiled these mini services. These also came to an end at the end of July.

Four 'Couriers' were produced during 2020 and 2021. Many thanks to Liz Coleman and Jean Davies for producing these magazines.

The return to church services was varied. We were limited to 30, with chairs suitably spaced, masks being worn, socially distanced spacing marked out and hand sanitisers available. Many found not being able to sing difficult and socialising after the service was, of course, very limited.

When it was permitted a small choir was formed, who were able to sing without masks, which greatly added to our worship. We were fortunate that all our planned preachers were willing to lead worship and those able to attend appreciated the opportunity to worship with others.

Some contact was maintained with JaM [Junior Church] and Messy Church with craft packages being made available to those who wished to collect them.

In December 2020 we made contact with the local primary school in response to the difficulty families, who usually received free school meals, were experiencing during the school holidays. 30 families were identified by the school and food parcels were made up for these families. We were greatly assisted in this scheme by the local Co-op. Treats in the form of knitted mini-stockings, filled with sweets were also included. Christmas cards were given to each family.

None of our other activities started again until September. Methodist Women in Britain was one of the first to start. The only Lunch Club still running did not re-start until February 2022, partly due to the need for a new cooker, and finding a team to help, as some helpers were no longer able to do so.

The Uniform organisations did not return until September, and then in a limited way, due to instructions from their Organisations.

As can be seen from our Financial Report, we remain financially healthy and pray that with the return to most activities, new plans for the future, Elburton Methodist Community Church will continue to thrive. Our Treasurer, Bob Faulkner resigned with effect from 31st August 2021, as did David Finemore as Gift Aid Secretary. At the time of the report replacements were being sought.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A copy of accounts is attached, which have been reviewed by an Independent Examiner. The closure of the church and its related activities for most the year has had a noticeable effect on our finances, as shown by the accounts.

Last year, to 31 August 2020, there was an excess of income over expenditure of £6,419; in the latest accounts, to 31 August 2021, there is an excess of expenses over income of £10,719 **a drop in net income for the year of £17,138.**

This figure does include three substantial items: the purchase of the clavinova **£4,171**, new windows and doors, **£2,860** and a new boiler, **£2,820** – totalling **£9,851** all of which are non-recurring.

Our offerings and gift aid tax refund amounted to **£32,365**, down from £44,562 in the previous year. Many thanks to all who continued their offerings through direct debit, the envelope scheme or by cash. Thanks go to David Finemore for all his work on the Gift Aid.

Lettings were **£337**, down from £4,546; there was **no fund raising for the church**, last year £1,019.

On the positive side legacies/donations increased to **£2,950** from £1,325.

On expenses the Circuit assessment of **£27,278** was down on last year £30,526 thanks to the waiver by the Circuit, for the second year of one monthly payment £2,479.

Also reduced were property costs **£7,449** down from £13,192; administration **£2,897** down from £4,328.

For our internal organisations, not meeting during the year has meant income reduced to **£588** compared to £8,556 in previous year and for expenses reduced to **£331**, from £6,186 in previous year. In the year to 31 August 2021 a total of **£1,979** was transferred from internal groups to general funds, this included the balances on hand of four groups that have ceased to meet, Monthly Luncheon Club, Friday Lunch Club, Rainbow Café, and Table Tennis Group, all will be greatly missed,

Overall, though the pandemic has drastically affected both our activities and our finances we are still well blessed with good financial reserves, General - £88,299; Restricted - £2,233 **Total Reserves £90,532.**

Prayerfully as things gradually return to “normal,” though who is to say what is normal, with our new minister, Darren – welcome, we can look forward to growth and the positive use of those reserves.

Bob Faulkner
October 2021

Elburton Methodist Church

Receipts and Payments - Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021

		GENERAL	2020/21 RESTRICTED	TOTAL	2019/20
	Note	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Collections excluding Gift Aid	2	25,981		25,981	33,274
Tax recovered under Gift Aid	3	6,384		6,384	11,288
		32,365		32,365	44,562
Legacies/Donations	4	2,950		2,950	1,325
Property Lettings	5	337		337	4,546
Interest and Investment Income	6	243		243	398
Fund Raising	7	0		0	1,019
Other receipts	8	775	595	1,370	1,425
Internal Organisations	18	0	588	588	8,556
Sub Total General Funds		36,670	1,183	37,853	61,831
Collections for External Organisations		0	1,558	1,558	2,628
Total Receipts		36,670	2,741	39,411	64,459
Payments		27,278	27,278		30,526
Circuit Assessment					
Property Costs					
Church Repairs and Maintenance		1,691		1,691	4,197
Cleaning and Hygiene		1,744		1,744	3,383
Insurance		2,454		2,454	2,451
Utilities		1,560		1,560	3,161
		7,449		7,449	13,192
Administration	11	2,897		2,897	4,328
Donations-Methodist	13	0	0	0	650
Donations Others	13	0	37	37	300
Fund Raising	14	0	0	0	100
Publicity		226	0	226	102
Other Payments	15	298	205	503	0
Internal Organisations	18	0	331	331	6,186
Sub Total General Funds		38,148	573	38,721	55,384
Capital Expenditure	10	7,887	1,964	9,851	0
Collections Passed onto					
External Organisations	16	0	1,558	1,558	2,656
Total Payments		46,035	4,095	50,130	58,040
Net income(Expenditure)for year		-9,365	-1,354	-10,719	6,419
Transfers from Internal Organisations		1,979	-1,979	0	0
Total funds in hand at 1st September 2020		95,685	5,566	101,251	94,832
Total funds in hand at 31st August 2021		88,299	2,233	90,532	101,251

ELBURTON METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

On accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts (under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and to state on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners' report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations for you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

- (i) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any materials respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the 2011 Act and;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met: or
- (ii) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



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