

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1128950

Harpenden Methodist Church

Report of the Trustees and

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Harpenden Methodist Church

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for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

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Harpenden Methodist Church

Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

With the grants and donations received in the year for the Shaped for Mission project (see below), the church's 2024/2025 annual turnover has again exceeded the £0.5m threshold and has therefore to be treated as a 'large' charity under the provisions of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice. Trustees believe that, whilst the causes of this increase in annual turnover are primarily one-off financial events (unlikely to be repeated in future years), annual income going forward, whilst lower than £0.5m, are approaching this level so a cash flow statement may be required in future years. Trustees stress that the underlying scale and complexity of the church's operation has not altered. The content of this report, whilst addressing the increased disclosure requirements for trustees to consider, also reflect this lack of any material change to the church's operational circumstances.

As required by the Statement of Recommended Practice for large charities, a Statement of Cash Flow is included in the Financial Statements below.

OBJECTIVES AND AIMS

OUR VISION is:

Lives, relationships and communities in this world transformed by the love of God in Jesus Christ.

OUR STRATEGY for sharing in this work of God is to:

Encounter God;
Equip God's people;
Extend God's Kingdom.

THE SIX VALUES THAT SHAPE US:

1. Christ-centred Discipleship (which is God-reliant, Spirit-filled and disciplined in prayer and Bible reading)
2. Other-centred Care (which is love-fueled, person-to-person and attentive)
3. Non-judgmental Welcome (which is open, hospitable and genuine)
4. All-embracing Unity (which is unconditionally-loving, mutually-concerned and non-partisan)
5. Outward-focused Service (which is humble, generous and self-sacrificial)
6. Authentic Witness (which is honest, real and confident).

The Leadership Team currently comprises:

- Rev Mark Hammond Presbyterian Minister
- Deacon Sarah Wickett Diaconal Minister
- Pameel Crowther Newman Chair
- Juliet Jacobs Deputy Chair
- Lewis Cox Co-ordinator for Encountering God and Communications
- Sally Pearson Coordinator for Equipping God's People
- Nina Gurra Coordinator for Extending God's Kingdom
- Ruth Lindridge Coordinator for Children and Youth
- Peter Black Operational Coordinator
- Margaret Woods Treasurer
- Marilyn Richardson Co Senior Steward
- Charmain Knightley Co Senior Steward

This year our Church Stewards, Leadership Team and Church Council have met regularly in person with the ability to hold hybrid meetings for those who cannot attend in person to join via video link.

OBJECTIVES AND AIMS (continued)

Our Leadership Team have worked to complete the Mission Action Plan for 2024-2025 (the renamed annual Executive Plan) which was agreed by Church Council on 9th July 2024. This set out an overview of the scope of our church's activities and priorities for the period from 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025. What follows is not meant as a comprehensive report of all our activities, but rather a sample indicative of scope.

Volunteers are at the core of all that the church undertakes and, without such volunteer support, the church would not be able to mount all the initiatives it currently supports. In excess of 200 volunteers work across many of the church's programmes.

It is not possible to capture the hours worked by volunteers or their direct contribution as so many work remotely of direct managerial control but utilise the action plans developed by the church.

Charitable status and public benefit

As in past years, High Street Methodist Church has continued to provide many opportunities for the wider community to raise funds for good causes, and we see this as a key part of our world-transforming work. We also support and encourage our members to get involved in local, national and international charities.

Many of our members continue to help those locally who are in need by supporting our SHARE scheme. Our Christmas appeal raised funds to provide local families with supermarket vouchers at Christmas. Our Summer Share Scheme provided support to a local school to enable them to offer holiday club places to families most in need. Craft bags and essential food supplies were taken to identified families through the Share team during the school breaks. In addition, this year's SHARE money was also used to pay for drama holiday club places at the Circuit's performing arts SPACE project.

Our volunteer-run Wesleys Cafe has continued to provide a comfortable, friendly and affordable coffee shop which, as an aside, makes a welcome contribution to church funds. In partnership with Watling View School, we have continued to offer work experience to volunteers with additional needs.

From mid-October to April in this financial year, our volunteers ran "Souper Thursday" where our Wesleys cafe remained open on Thursdays until 2pm and serve soup between 12 and 2.

In seeking to provide support to those local households most affected by the cost of living crisis, we continued to partner Harpenden Money Advice Centre by allowing them to meet with clients and potential clients on our premises once a fortnight.

As in previous years, we also raised money for our agreed charities, including The Haven, All We Can (the Methodist relief and development fund), Christian Aid, MHA, Action for Children and the Prison Fellowship Angels.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities. The Trustees consider that our church is clearly charitable both in its intention and practice and provides substantial public benefit to the local community and wider world.

The church does not make direct grants to third parties but provides support to the community in many far-reaching initiatives. The church does not incur any direct expenditure on raising funds for the future. Its giving programmes are operated by volunteers.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Worship

Every week we have continued to livestream our two different styles of Sunday morning worship and to operate a "hybrid" model of church - seeking to include both those who join us on site at the same time as continuing to reach those who join us online. We have continued to reach through our livestreamed onsite worship and social media presence many new people who may never come to our site, and many Methodists from across the nation are still connecting with God through our weekly online worship. We are pleased to be able to offer families at weddings and funerals the opportunity to livestream services to family and friends who are often overseas or housebound.

We are delighted that a number of other churches in and beyond our own Methodist circuit, have used our online resources (sermon videos and song/hymn recordings) within their own worship, especially where they lack preachers or musicians.

Our sermon series topics are led by suggestions and feedback - and this year's have included: "What is... Communion... Faith... Evangelism... Fellowship... Justification... Intercession... Sanctification?"; "Questions of Jesus"; and "Journey in the Wilderness". Work is continuing to aid communication between groups regarding our sermon series. This is being seen mainly in related resources being made available and reviews by the Resource Centre team.

Our Dementia Friendly and Gathering services (worship designed for adults with learning difficulties) continued during this past year, although the former has now been taken into local care homes, where a regular monthly provision of worship is now established.

Inclusive Church

Our Ministry Team has continued actively to seek out conversations with those whose experience of church has been one of exclusion, and the findings from these have helped shape some of our worship and preaching. This remains a work in progress and is taken into our next executive plan under the heading of "Justice, Dignity and Solidarity".

Pastoral care

Our Pastoral Secretary, Maggie Grand, has continued to oversee the work of our Pastoral Team, which continues to consist of herself, Fran Gardner, Deacon Sarah Wickett and Rev Mark Hammond. They have continued to meet monthly to ensure that those most in need of pastoral care receive appropriate levels of contact. This has been especially important as we have an increasingly ageing demographic and many people to care for.

The members of Batford Methodist Church continued to receive pastoral care through High Street's pastoral system. The majority of the members of the former Southdown Methodist Church are now well established as members at High Street.

Our Pastoral Team led our annual bereavement service on Sunday 3rd November 2024.

Shaped for Mission Building Project

Background

Prior to the onset of the Covid pandemic, our Project Team had been close to finalising proposals for a substantial building scheme, designed to make our premises more fit for our current and future mission activities. In the Church's Executive Plan, the Project Team had been tasked with reviewing the proposed scheme to ascertain which elements of the larger scheme may be sensible to progress. In January 2024, the Project Team presented proposals to the Church Council for a reduced project - involving the reordering of the church nave and transepts. A consultation of the church members was launched with a further presentation at an extended General Church Meeting ("Big Day In") in March 2024. Final proposals were agreed by Church Council in July 2024, and the Project and Leadership Teams were authorised by Church Council to progress these through the remaining consents process (Circuit, District and Connexion).

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE (continued)
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (continued)

Shaped for Mission Building Project (continued)

Agreed scope of the project

This project was to reorder the Church and included:

- a. The removal and disposal of pews and red chairs from the nave and transepts;
- b. The purchase of up to 350 stackable wooden chairs (with trolleys and some cushions) and up to 8 tables;
- c. The refurbishment of the floor;
- d. The replacement of the steps to dais (to include step-free access);
- e. The installation of a new lighting system and electronic window blinds;
- f. The redecoration of the Church;
- g. The enlargement of the fire exit in the South Transept.

Project completion

In the financial period covered by this report, the Project and Leadership Teams successfully:

- a. Gained project consent from:
 - The Circuit Meeting;
 - The District Property Officer;
 - The Listed Building Advisory Committee; and
 - The Planning Authority regarding the fire exit.
- b. Gained grant funding approval from:
 - The Circuit Meeting; and
 - The District Grants Committee
- c. Finalised the project specification (including final chair selection) in consultation with the Connexional Conservation Officer.
- d. Finalised overall project costs.
- e. Carried out a successful project fundraising campaign.
- f. Planned and managed the onsite implementation and completion of the project.

The on-site works for the project started on Monday 10th February 2025 and were completed on schedule to enable a grand reopening for worship on Easter Sunday 20 April 2025. Responsibility for the day-to-day project management was held by a Project Management Team consisting of the combined members of the Project Team, Property Team and Technical, Comms and Worship Coordinator. Whilst the major items of work were carried out by specialist contractors, members of the Project Management Team did a huge amount of preparatory work, including delivery of pews and chairs to their new homes and cleaning stonework. During the period of the works our two Sunday morning services (Informal and Traditional) continued in the church hall, with children's church operating from a number of smaller rooms.

For financial impact see Financial Review below.

Project success and outcomes

This project was the culmination of many years of planning, and its completion on schedule and on budget is a remarkable achievement. This has included the generous financial support of the church members, the Circuit, and the District. Since reopening on Easter Day, the church has hosted and/or run a number of large scale events which have greatly benefitted from the much enhanced flexibility and capability gained through this project, including: A Community Fun Day on 10 May 2025, to which over 300 members of the community came; Games & Glue craft and games sessions for primary school children held throughout August 2025, to which a total of over 100 children came; Stay and Play mornings for carers and toddler also held during August 2025, to which a total of over 100 children attended; and our Train Fun Day held on 16 August 2025 at which we welcomed on to the premises over 300 visitors and raised over £1,000 for our two chosen charities The Haven and All We Can.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Building Maintenance

In addition to the extra work involved in supporting the Shaped for Mission Project, our property maintenance team have continued to work hard to keep our buildings in excellent condition and decoration. The period covered by this report included redecoration and renewal of furniture in Wesleys.

The Ministry Team

Our Ministry Team consists of two ordained staff, Rev Mark Hammond and Deacon Sarah Wickett, plus one lay member, Lewis Cox (Communications and Worship Coordinator). This team has continued to meet regularly to plan our sermon series and worship to ensure we make full use of the gifts and graces of our membership.

At the end of February 2026, Deacon Sarah Wickett will be leaving High Street to take up her new appointment in the Reading Circuit. At this stage a profile is not being prepared for a new Deacon, and further consideration is to be given regarding the shape and make up of High Street's future staff team in order to reflect both the needs of High Street and the availability of ordained ministers throughout the Methodist Church in Britain.

Support Staff

Our staff team, made up of employees plus a number of practically full-time volunteers, has continued to support and help develop and communicate all that we do as a church. As has always been the case, the staff team supports and is supported by a vast team of volunteers, who are engaged in all activities across the church. Recruitment of new volunteers continues to be an important part of the process and we are continually short of volunteers to do all that we wish to do.

Youth Work

Our Lead Youth Worker, Ruth Lindridge continues to work among us with enthusiasm and care. Ruth continues to build strong relationships with the young people, parents and church members. A small but very committed group of volunteers work with Ruth on the youth team, and it remains a priority to grow this team and develop the youth programme.

Children's Church

Children's Church continues to operate at each Sunday morning service. The Children's Team worked with the youth worker, Ruth Lindridge to plan this year's transition. The year 6 children moved into the LX at the start of June.

Examples of Some of Our Many Initiatives:

Tea @ 3 - This weekly afternoon meeting for older members, for fellowship, friendship and spiritual conversation continues to thrive.

Home Communion - Our Home Communion Team have continued to offer extended Communion to those of our Church Community who are housebound.

Building Blocks - Building Blocks has continued and is still very popular for parents and toddlers.

Alpha and Bible Courses, and homegroups - During this year we have run regular Alpha and Bible courses to support the spiritual growth of all comers, and we have continued to encourage and support our many church home groups.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Mission Action Plan (2025-2026)

On 29 July 2025, the Church Council agreed a new Mission Action Plan for the twelve months starting 1st September 2025, following a process of consultation with those involved in the work of the church, including input from our Big Day In (General Church Meeting) on 28 June 2025

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The financial results for the year are shown on pages 17 and 18.

Key financial events:

Overall income for the church in the year fell by £599,143 to £720,900. However, the 2023/4 figure includes both a one-off donation following the transfer, at no cost, of the freehold interest in the Co-op supermarket at 130 Southdown Road, Harpenden, Herts AL5 1PU to High Street, valued at £800,000, as well as Southdown's closing cash balance of £70,694. Of this, £49,694 was allocated to the Medium-Term Property Fund and £21,000 to the Designated Youth Fund. The 2024/25 figure includes donations, related gift aid and grants for the Shaped for Mission project totalling £295,378. Recurrent income fell by £23,826 to £425,523 in 2024/25.

Overall expenditure increased by £92,478 to £510,237. However, this includes revenue costs for the Shaped for Mission project of £47,783; recurrent expenditure was up by £44,691 to £462,453.

Thus, although there is an overall reported net surplus of £210,663 in these accounts, there is an overall recurrent net deficit of £36,954 (2023/24: surplus of £31,587).

Total income in the unrestricted funds (before fund transfers) fell by £44,758 to £457,189, but the 2023/24 figure includes the £70,694 from Southdown mentioned above. Recurrent unrestricted income rose by £25,937. Overall unrestricted expenditure rose by £46,227 to £435,796 reflecting primarily the inclusion of the Southdown assessment of £24,000.

Total income in the Restricted funds increased by £292,513 to £310,609 on the back of donations and grants for the Shaped for Mission Project, while total costs on Restricted funds rose by £46,251 with £47,783 attributable to the Shaped for Mission Project.

Reserves policy

The Church's Financial Reserves Policy deals with our General Unrestricted Fund. Other Funds, detailed in these accounts but which do not form part of Reserves for purposes of measurement of the Financial Reserves Policy below, are:

Medium Term Property Fund (Designated)
Youth Work Fund (Designated)
Youth Work Project (Restricted)
Audio Visual Fund (Restricted)
Special Collections (Restricted)
Church Premises (Permanent Endowment)

Mission Development Fund (Designated)
Organ Refurbishment Fund (Designated)
Benevolence Fund (Restricted)
Legacy Fund for Flowers (Restricted)
Heating Project Fund (Restricted)
Shaped for Mission Fund (Restricted)

FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)

1. General Fund

In the General Fund, overall income rose by £35,932, primarily due to the inaugural inclusion of the Southdown Co-op rental income of £34,375. The Barclays lease ran to 30th June 2025 but was not renewed due to the opening of a banking hub in Harpenden. Revenue from Herts County Council held constant as they continue to occupy the space in the rear rooms under licence and pay rent. The annual licence for 2025 has yet to be renewed but as the tenant is continuing to occupy the premises and pay the licence fee at the 2024 rate, trustees are confident that the 2025 licence will be renewed. Income from giving including Gift Aid rose by a diminutive £466 to £261,091. There were again no legacies. Wesleys' donations slipped by £2,063 to £19,110.

Expenditure in the General Fund totalled £427,761, some £54,870 up the previous year. Our assessment rose by £28,672 due to the inclusion for the first time of the Southdown assessment. Repairs, including for Wesleys, rose by £3,040. Legal & professional fees were £8,639 higher, although £1,700 of these were covered by a corresponding donation.

Required transfers to top up the Organ, Heating and Audio-Visual Funds totalling £16,313 were made, as well as an initial transfer of £3,652 to the Shaped for Mission fund to provide for the depreciation of the chairs, tables, lighting and blinds from 1st March 2025 when the assets were deemed to be in use. Together these totalled £19,965. No transfer was made to the Medium Term Property Fund, as explained below. This leaves a recurrent Operating Deficit in the General Fund of £35,396. The Youth Funds were drawn down by £46,749 to fund youth expenditures, offsetting this deficit. The church also benefited from a Circuit utility grant of £16,674 (2023/24: £17,631), introduced after the sharp increase in electricity costs that followed the Ukraine war and which will continue until June 2026.

As a large church with a considerable range of local and overseas mission activities, the church aims to hold sufficient liquid reserves in the unrestricted General Fund to cover circa six months' or 50% of annual recurrent expenditures. In calculating the Reserves Ratio, we exclude unrestricted donations to Methodist Funds and discretionary transfers to/from other Funds.

Any significant reduction in gross income or increase in costs that the trustees considered likely to be permanent would activate cost reduction measures. In framing this policy, the trustees are mindful of establishing the correct balance between financial prudence and properly expending funds raised for the church's charitable objectives. They acknowledge that the Reserves Policy should be assessed not just on a historic basis but also against medium and longer-term financial projections which they review regularly and at least annually.

The 2024/25 financial year opened with the Reserves Ratio at 48.2% and it ended the year on target at 50.1% after a £12,000 transfer to the Mission Development Fund.

The accumulation of unrestricted and designated reserves over past years is proving prudent to meet the current challenging environment. The trustees are of the view that the financial position of the church is sound but will be vigilant to react as necessary to any deterioration. Longer term improvements in giving are being sought to ensure continuing financial stability.

FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)

2. Restricted Funds

The Shaped for Mission Fund was established to record the finances relating to the Shaped for Mission building project. Donations, associated Gift Aid and grants totalled £295,378. The project itself included removing the pews from the church, sanding and re-sealing the floor, redecorating the inside of the church, the acquisition of new wooden stackable chairs to replace the pews, new eco-friendly lighting and electric blinds for the south transept. Costs on depreciable Fixtures and Fittings in the year totalled £182,590 and depreciation of £3,652 was provided. £30,149 was expended on additions to freehold premises at High Street and added to the Endowed Property Fund. Property assets totalling £46,898 were scrapped as a result of these works. £44,131 was expended on property repairs needed as a result of the project, primarily re-decorating the main church space. Bank deposits of £42,182 remain at the Central Finance Board representing a) door widening in the South Transept, b) the provision of a new piano, c), additional improvement works currently being specified for completion in 2025/2026 and d) the first tranche of annual depreciation transferred from the General Fund.

The Benevolence Fund accommodates all our SHARE activities while simultaneously meeting the requirements of Standing Order 651. Donations totalled £7,128 and onward donations of £6,633 were made, including vouchers for Christmas SHARE and a variety of children's and family activities for Summer SHARE. The Standing Orders of the Methodist Church place restrictions on the Benevolence Fund and it is necessary to keep a portion back for one-off items; surplus funds will be used to support people in need.

The Special Collections Fund houses collections mounted regularly in support of third-party charities that share the church's charitable objectives. These funds are clearly restricted as to use and are passed to the third-party charities without delay. In 2024/25, these totalled £4,910 (2023/24: £8,009).

The restricted Youth Work Fund was drawn down to its full extent in 2023/24, with only interest of £186 remaining at year end. This was transferred to the Designated Youth Fund during the current year and the fund closed.

New audio visual and public address equipment was installed in 2020/2021 at a cost of £119,531. It is capitalised in the restricted Audio-Visual Fund and is being depreciated over 10 years.

The one restricted legacy fund held at TMCP (account 19706) had a balance of £1,573 at 31 August 2024, of which £800 was drawn during the year and earmarked for the provision of flowers in the Church in line with the settlor's restriction. The remaining balance of £838 will cover this objective for a while yet.

The heating system project was completed in 2014/15 and the fixed property element of the expenditure was transferred to the Endowed Property Fund. The balance of the expenditure, primarily the new boilers and controls, has been charged against this restricted fund. It has been capitalised and will be depreciated over 30 years.

3. Designated Funds

The designated Medium Term Property Fund recognises both the long-term repair commitments of our premises as well as their unpredictable timing and nature. The trustees undertake a comprehensive assessment of such longer-term cyclical liabilities annually, estimating their likely cost and probable timing. It was drawn upon during the year for the new electric side door to facilitate disabled access, for a felt repair of the South Transept roof, for the skimming and re-sealing of Wesley's floor and for new fencing between the rear rooms and the car park. The opening balance at 1 September 2024 was £103,263. A few major items such as sanding and re-sealing the Church floor and redecorating internally were included in the Shaped for Mission Project (see above) due to ease of access with the pews being taken out and have therefore been removed from the 20-year property plan.

The result is that the Fund is financially strong, and the decision was made to take a 'holiday' this financial year and next from top-ups from the General Fund. The closing balance was £99,878, held at the Central Finance Board. The Trustees believe that the net balance is adequate for future major repair liabilities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW (continued)
3. Designated Funds (continued)

The objective of the Mission Development Fund is to support the cost of implementing the mission strategy developed at the Church's Strategy Days. The opening balance at 1 September 2024 was £297,300. The fund benefited in the year from a £12,000 injection from the General Fund and £13,349 of interest received on bank deposits. The closing fund balance after interest was £322,649, held at the Central Finance Board (£176,591) and in a Model Trust Fund account at TMCP (£146,058).

The designated Youth Work Fund opened the year at £148,256. It was drawn down from the General Fund by £46,749 to fund youth activities. The fund benefited in the year from £6,671 of interest received on bank deposits plus unpledged giving of £2,677. The closing balance after interest income was £111,084, split as to £34,612 in a Model Trust Fund account at TMCP and £76,471 at the Central Finance Board.

The annual transfer from the General Fund to the Organ Refurbishment Fund of £2,000 was made, taking its year-end balance to £20,365.

4. Endowment Funds

Following the implementation of FRS 102, a revised accounting policy was established and implemented as at 31 August 2017 (see Accounting Policies). Additions and deletions from this fund occasioned as a result of the Shaped for Mission project are dealt with above.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust and constitutes an unincorporated charity. The charity has no subsidiary undertakings.

Organisational structure and management

Harpenden Methodist Church was originally formed during the 19th century but moved to its current premises in 1929 and is a church within the Methodist Connexion in Great Britain. Its address is High Street, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 2RU. Its constitution is governed by an Act of Parliament and, on 1 April 2009, it became a registered charity with registered number 1128950.

The charity is a constituent church in the West Herts and Borders Methodist Circuit, an umbrella grouping of 22 local Methodist churches and through them to the Beds, Essex and Herts Methodist District. These umbrella organisations exercise a degree of control over the church's operation through the Connexional rule book, Constitutional Practice and Discipline to which the church is committed.

The Leadership Team (see above) is constituted and agreed annually by the Church Council (all trustees) and prepares an annual Executive Plan, to be approved by trustees, of actions to be taken to further the church's charitable objectives. The Plan is reviewed at each Leadership Team meeting (monthly) and progress noted and remediation agreed if required. All major decisions outside the Executive Plan are taken by trustees, as a whole, at their quarterly meetings with more meetings scheduled if required. Day to day operational decisions are delegated by the Leadership Team to employed staff and/or volunteers.

New trustees are invited to participate in trustee induction and training on appointment. Policies are in place covering safeguarding, serious incidents and complaints.

The remuneration of employees is governed by the Finance Committee and approved by Church Council. Remuneration for lower paid staff, is governed by the rate set nationally by the Living Wage Foundation

Correspondence relating to financial matters should be sent to the Treasurer at the Church Office at the address shown below. All other correspondence should be directed to the Minister, also at the Church Office at the address shown below.

Trustees are appointed to Church Council by the General Church Meeting and Church Council as and when vacancies arise. The Rev Mark Hammond, Presbyterian Minister, is the Chair of the Church Council and Pameel Crowther-Newman is the Chair of the Leadership Team

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Risk management

The trustees, advised by the Finance and Property Committees, regularly examine the principal areas of the Church's operations and consider the major risks faced in each of these areas. The church has developed a set of Financial Control procedures, to which management/staff are committed, that ensure proper internal control is maintained. These are reviewed annually to ensure they remain appropriate for the charity's operation.

The Leadership Team regularly develops a detailed plan to ensure the identified risks are reviewed at least annually and, where possible, action is taken to minimise such risks. Church Council then considers the risks identified by the Leadership Team's review, the actions proposed and the systems established to allow these risks to be mitigated to an acceptable level in its day-to-day operations.

Trustees undertake regular reviews of the Church's inventory of assets and ensures that the sums assured under its global insurance policy adequately reflect the replacement value of such assets. A comprehensive review of such values was last undertaken in January 2022 and the increases in sums assured actioned with effect from that date.

The church does not maintain a defined benefit pension scheme but makes contributions (defined in employment contracts), under auto-enrolment to the government sponsored NEST pension scheme. The church therefore has no longer term pension liabilities.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1128950

Principal address

Harpenden Methodist Church
High Street
Harpenden
Hertfordshire
AL5 2RU

Harpenden Methodist Church

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Number

1128950

Principal address

Harpenden Methodist Church
High Street
Harpenden
AL5 2RU

Trustees - principal officers

Rev M Hammond Minister
Deacon S Wickett Deacon
M R Woods Treasurer

Those who served as trustees during the year and to the date of this report are as follows:

Ministerial Team:

Rev M Hammond
Deacon S Wickett

Circuit Appointees:

Rev R Hawkins (retired 31/07/2025)
D Edney

Church Stewards:

H Jones
K Jackson-Robbins (retired 01/06/2025)
A Sonola (retired 01/06/2025)
N Gurra
J Jacobs (retired 01/06/2025)
G Knightley
C Knightley
M Richardson
D Choi
M Lawford
A Efunbajo
K So (appointed 01/06/2025)
S Williams-Ganta (appointed 01/06/2025)
R Jackson-Robbins (appointed 01/06/2025)

Secretary of the Church Council:

P Bayfield

Church Treasurer:

M R Woods

Pastoral Secretary:

M Grand

Members appointed by Council:

S Pearson
P Black
P Crowther-Newman
L Cox
J Jacobs (appointed 01/06/2025)
E Wane (retired 01/06/2025)

Harpenden Methodist Church

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Those who served as trustees during the year and to the date of this report are as follows (continued):

Representatives from the General Church Meeting:

R Atkins

P Atkins

D Crew (retired 01/10/2025)

R Manning (retired 28/06/2025)

J Prentice

J Brooke-Hughes

C Fletcher (retired 28/06/2025)

S Hammond

C Lewis-Lim

C Meilton

S Morris

M Pearson

J Polley

L Schlich

C Walden

P Winyard

C Wollaston (retired 28/06/2025)

K Jackson-Robbins (appointed 28/06/2025)

A Sonola (appointed 28/06/2025)

C Wickens (appointed 01/09/2025)

Auditors

Hicks and Company

Chartered Accountants and

Statutory Auditor

Vaughan Chambers

Vaughan Road

Harpenden

Hertfordshire

AL5 4EE

Bankers

HSBC Bank Plc

1 High Street

Harpenden

AL5 2RS

Central Finance Board

9 Bonhill Street

London

EC2A 4PE

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Central Buildings

Oldham Street

Manchester

M1 1JQ

Unity Trust Bank plc

Nine Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2JB

(until 09/05/2025)

Harpenden Methodist Church

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales, the Charities Act 2011, Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 26 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev M Hammond – Trustee

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of
Harpenden Methodist Church

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Harpenden Methodist Church (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of
Harpenden Methodist Church

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditors under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Based on our understanding of the entity and sector in which it operates, we identified the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations relating to the limited company. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the companies' financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud may occur, by making enquiries of the directors and management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud and considering the internal controls in place to mitigate fraud risks and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

In response to the risk of fraud through management bias (including the risk of override of controls) and the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- performing analytical procedures to identify unusual or unexpected transactions
- assessing whether judgements and assumptions made in determining accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias
- reviewed a sample of transactions from the client's records
- performing completeness of income tests
- test checking the appropriateness of journal entries
- agreeing financial statement disclosures to the underlying supporting documentation
- checking for correspondence with the Companies House
- reading the minutes of board of directors' resolutions
- checking for any actual and potential litigation and claims including inspecting legal costs
- checking for any actual and potential enquires from regulatory bodies

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of
Harpenden Methodist Church

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures outlined above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Philip Dean BA, FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Hicks and Company
Chartered Accountants and
Statutory Auditor
Vaughan Chambers
Vaughan Road
Harpenden
Hertfordshire
AL5 4EE

Date: 27-Nov-25

Harpenden Methodist Church

Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	31.8.25 Total funds £	31.8.24 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM						
Donations and legacies	2	270,196	307,415	-	577,611	1,169,579
Other trading activities	3	151,988	-	-	151,988	115,268
Investment income	4	34,966	3,194	-	38,160	35,196
Other income	5	39	-	-	39	-
Total		457,189	310,609	-	767,798	1,320,043
EXPENDITURE ON Charitable activities						
Charitable activities	6	435,796	74,441	-	510,237	417,759
Other		-	-	46,898	46,898	-
Total		435,796	74,441	46,898	557,135	417,759
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)						
Transfers between funds	16	21,393 (17,775)	236,168 (12,374)	(46,898) 30,149	210,663 -	902,284 -
Net movement in funds		3,618	223,794	(16,749)	210,663	902,284
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS						
Total funds brought forward		810,093	199,359	1,764,716	2,774,168	1,871,884
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		813,711	423,153	1,747,967	2,984,831	2,774,168

The notes form part of these financial statements

Harpenden Methodist Church

Statement of Financial Position
31 August 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	31.8.25 Total funds £	31.8.24 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible assets	12	3,967	293,510	1,747,967	2,045,444	1,898,161
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors	13	66,588	-	-	66,588	77,521
Cash at bank	14	766,062	129,643	-	895,705	815,913
		832,650	129,643	-	962,293	893,434
CREDITORS						
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(22,906)	-	-	(22,906)	(17,427)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		809,744	129,643	-	939,387	876,007
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		813,711	423,153	1,747,967	2,984,831	2,774,168
NET ASSETS		813,711	423,153	1,747,967	2,984,831	2,774,168
FUNDS	16					
Unrestricted funds					813,711	810,093
Restricted funds					423,153	199,359
Endowment funds					1,747,967	1,764,716
TOTAL FUNDS					2,984,831	2,774,168

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 26th November, 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:


Rev M Hammond - Trustee


M R Woods - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Harpenden Methodist Church

Statement of Cash Flows
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	31.8.25 £	31.8.24 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>302,357</u>	<u>73,761</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>302,357</u>	<u>73,761</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(213,866)	(803,648)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		39	-
Interest received		<u>38,160</u>	<u>35,196</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(175,667)</u>	<u>(768,452)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Income attributable to endowment		-	800.000
Expenditure attributable to endowment		<u>(46,898)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by financing activities		<u>(46,898)</u>	<u>800.000</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		79,792	105,309
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>815,913</u>	<u>710,604</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>895,705</u></u>	<u><u>815,913</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.8.25	31.8.24
	£	£
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	210,663	902,284
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	19,685	16,315
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	46,859	-
Interest received	(38,160)	(35,196)
Income attributable to endowment	-	(800,000)
Expenditure attributable to endowment	46,898	-
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	10,933	(11,083)
Increase in creditors	<u>5,479</u>	<u>1,441</u>
Net cash provided by operations	<u>302,357</u>	<u>73,761</u>

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.9.24	Cash flow	At 31.8.25
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank	<u>815,913</u>	<u>79,792</u>	<u>895,705</u>
Total	<u>815,913</u>	<u>79,792</u>	<u>895,705</u>

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

Harpenden Methodist Church is a church within the Methodist Connexion in Great Britain and these accounts are prepared in accordance with the constitution, practice and discipline of that Church. They are also prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice' applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1st January 2019), 'Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets. These accounts relate to the Church and its various internal organisations. Harpenden Methodist Church is a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Income and expenditure

Income, which is mainly donations, is accounted in the accounting period to which it relates providing that any unpaid income at the end of each accounting period is considered by Trustees to be fully recoverable. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Income tax is recoverable from the HM Revenue and Customs on Gift Aid donations and is accounted for on an accruals basis.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

The trustees have undertaken a review of the disclosure of charitable activities costs in the accounts. In their opinion, the Church has only one overall activity for accounts disclosure purposes. Also in their opinion, it would be more appropriate to analyse the charitable activities costs in line with the expenditure headings used in the Church's management accounts. The accounts have therefore been prepared on this basis and the comparatives shown similarly.

Allocation of costs

Costs are allocated to the specific fund to which they relate.

Tangible fixed assets

Church land and buildings:

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes are custodian trustee for the church land and premises, which is Model Trust property, and they hold freehold title. In 1978, two leases for terms of 125 years were granted on land at the rear of the church. One, a head lease was granted to T&E Neville Ltd (now Neville Trust) and Davenport House was built by them on that leased land. The other lease was granted to St Albans District Council, at a peppercorn rent, for what is now the council car park. In accordance with the implications of Standing Orders, these funds are shown as Endowed.

Under the provisions of FRS 102, the Church Premises can either be stated at a value based on a formal valuation or at capitalised historic cost. In view of the difficulty and expense in obtaining such a formal valuation, the Church Premises have been stated at capitalised historic cost, at 31st August 2015, of £964,716. Subsequent additions have been capitalised at cost, including £30,149 in 2024/2025. This similarly applies to the Church Organ which has a capitalised historic cost of £nil.

During 2023/2024, the Circuit agreed to transfer, for no consideration, the local managing trusteeship of the freehold property at 130 Southdown Road to High Street with effect from 31st August 2024. As Harpenden Methodist Church with the existing High Street premises, the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes are custodian trustee for the church land and premises and they hold the freehold title.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets - continued

These premises (the Halls) are sub-divided into a) the supermarket premises occupied by the Co-op under a 99-year lease from June 1980 and b) the upper parts to Harpenden Trust under a 999-year lease from December 2022. The supermarket lease currently commands an annual rent of £37,500 per annum (review June 2025) but the Harpenden Trust lease is at a peppercorn rent. The rental income from these leases has flown to High Street with effect from 1st September 2024.

In view of the length of the Harpenden Trust lease and the lack of any rental stream, it is not considered that this property has any current capital value. However, the Co-op lease still has 55 years to run and an informal valuation received suggests that, at an investment yield of 5% based on current rental value of £40,000 per annum, this property has a current capital value of £800,000 and, as the property is owned by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes as custodian trustee and High Street has no capability to turn this capital into income, the freehold property has been treated as Endowed and capitalised at the above-mentioned value.

The depreciation policy for Church Premises is 2% per annum on cost. As the depreciation calculation is based on cost/valuation less residual value and as the residual value is not expected to fall below cost, the depreciation charge is £nil.

Other fixed assets:

Following the completion of the heating system project during 2014/2015, the equipment element has been capitalised and depreciated over 30 years on a straight-line basis.

Following the completion of the Shaped for Mission project during 2024/2025, the equipment element (£182,590) has been capitalised and depreciated over 25 years on a straight-line basis from the date of the project's completion (28/02/2025).

Computer and PA/AV equipment are depreciated at 20% per annum on cost.

Trustees have adopted a revised policy for asset capitalisation with effect from 1st September 2012. Items of fixed capital expenditure above £3,000 are capitalised and depreciated at an appropriate rate.

Taxation

The Church's surpluses are derived from, and are applied towards, the maintenance of charitable activities and as such are not subject to taxation.

Fund accounting

Details of the nature and purpose of each fund is set out in note 16.

Legacies

Legacies are credited on receipt to the relevant fund as indicated by the wishes of the testator.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	31.8.25 Total funds £	31.8.24 Total funds £
Pledged collections	193,578	-	-	193,578	192,215
Gifts and donations	6,428	145,442	-	151,870	898,401
Income tax refunds	48,351	31,987	-	80,338	47,548
Grants received	2,677	129,986	-	132,663	-
Unpledged collections	19,162	-	-	19,162	21,415
Sundry income	-	-	-	-	10,000
	<u>270,196</u>	<u>307,415</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>577,611</u>	<u>1,169,579</u>

Harpenden Methodist Church

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES - continued

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.8.25 £	31.8.24 £
Other grants	<u>132,663</u>	<u>-</u>

During the year grants totalling £132,663 were received, £129,986 of which were in support of the Shaped for Mission project. Of this total, £71,327 was received from the West Herts and Borders Methodist Circuit and £58,659 from the Beds, Essex and Herts Methodist District.

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	31.8.25 Total funds £	31.8.24 Total funds £
Contributions for use of premises	71,922	-	-	71,922	74,892
Ground rent Davenport House	26,581	-	-	26,581	19,203
Coffee lounge	19,110	-	-	19,110	21,173
Rental Income - Co-Op	<u>34,375</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,375</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>151,988</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151,988</u>	<u>115,268</u>

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	31.8.25 Total funds £	31.8.24 Total funds £
Interest and investment income	<u>34,966</u>	<u>3,194</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>38,160</u>	<u>35,196</u>

5. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	31.8.25 Total funds £	31.8.24 Total funds £
Sundry receipts on sales of equipment	<u>39</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>-</u>

6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 7) £	Support costs (see note 8) £	Totals £
Charitable activities	<u>288,970</u>	<u>221,267</u>	<u>510,237</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

7. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.8.25	31.8.24
	£	£
Ministerial / Administrative staff costs	198,898	169,357
Encountering God costs	4,449	4,017
Equipping God's People costs	654	(3)
Extending God's Kingdom costs	36,525	37,543
Youth Work costs	<u>48,444</u>	<u>46,444</u>
	<u>288,970</u>	<u>257,358</u>

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Operations	Finance	Comms / Marketing	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Charitable activities	<u>134,832</u>	<u>20,121</u>	<u>66,314</u>	<u>221,267</u>

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 August 2025 nor for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 August 2025 nor for the year ended 31 August 2024.

10. STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	126,620	114,342
Employer's pension contributions	6,616	6,024
Employer's social security costs	<u>11,373</u>	<u>8,337</u>
Total Staff Costs	<u>144,609</u>	<u>128,703</u>

With effect from 1 September 2015, qualifying employees are 'opted-into' the government's auto-enrolment pension scheme with matched contributions from the Church to a maximum of 6%.

Other than as shown below and in Note 17, none of the trustees nor persons connected with them received any remuneration, expenses or other benefits from the Church. The contracts of employment for the 3 trustees detailed below were entered into by the church with the due authority of Church Council.

Lewis Cox, the church's Co-ordinator for Encountering God and Communications, is (and was at 1 September 2024) a trustee. He received remuneration of £38,480 in 2024/2025 under his employment contract (2023/2024 - £37,001). Additionally, the church paid £2,309 of employer pension contributions in 2024/2025 under this contract (2023/2024 - £2,220).

Louise Schlich, the church's Office Administrator is (and was at 1 September 2024), a trustee and her services were provided to date under a contract of employment with the church. In 2024/2025, she received remuneration of £13,117 under her employment contract (2023/2024 - £12,612). Additionally, the church paid £656 of employer pension contributions in 2024/2025 under this contract (2023/2024 - £631).

Harpenden Methodist Church

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

10. STAFF COSTS – continued

Sally Hammond is (and was at 1 September 2024), a trustee and her services as an assistant caretaker were provided to date under a contract of employment with the church. In 2024/2025, she received remuneration of £7,954 under her employment contract (2023/2024 - £7,681). Additionally, the church paid £477 of employer pension contributions in 2024/2025 under this contract (2023/2024 - £457).

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

31.8.25	31.8.24
<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM				
Donations and legacies	354,994	14,585	800,000	1,169,579
Other trading activities	115,268	-	-	115,268
Investment income	<u>31,685</u>	<u>3,511</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,196</u>
Total	<u>501,947</u>	<u>18,096</u>	<u>800,000</u>	<u>1,320,043</u>
EXPENDITURE ON				
Charitable activities				
Charitable activities	<u>389,569</u>	<u>28,190</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>417,759</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)				
Transfers between funds	<u>112,378</u> <u>743</u>	<u>(10,094)</u> <u>(743)</u>	<u>800,000</u> <u>-</u>	<u>902,284</u> <u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	113,121	(10,837)	800,000	902,284
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	<u>696,972</u>	<u>210,196</u>	<u>964,716</u>	<u>1,871,884</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>810,093</u>	<u>199,359</u>	<u>1,764,716</u>	<u>2,774,168</u>

Harpenden Methodist Church

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Fixtures and Fittings £	Computer and PA/AV Equipment £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 September 2024	1,764,716	70,807	157,687	1,993,210
Additions	30,149	182,590	1,127	213,866
Disposals	(46,898)	-	-	(46,898)
At 31 August 2025	<u>1,747,967</u>	<u>253,397</u>	<u>158,814</u>	<u>2,160,178</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 September 2024	-	23,600	71,449	95,049
Charge for year	-	6,012	13,673	19,685
At 31 August 2025	-	<u>29,612</u>	<u>85,122</u>	<u>114,734</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 August 2025	<u>1,747,967</u>	<u>223,785</u>	<u>73,692</u>	<u>2,045,444</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>1,764,716</u>	<u>47,207</u>	<u>86,238</u>	<u>1,898,161</u>

Under the provisions of FRS 102, the Church Premises can either be stated at a value based on a formal valuation or revert to capitalised historic cost. In view of the difficulty and expense in obtaining such a formal valuation, the Church Premises were stated at capitalised historic cost of £964,716 at 31st August 2018.

In the year to 31st August 2024, the freehold premises of the supermarket premises at 130 Southdown Road, Harpenden were transferred to High Street were valued, by reference to the then passing rent, at £800,000. The upper parts of these premises are let to the Harpenden Trusts on a 999 year lease from December 2022 at a peppercorn rent and no capital value is assumed for this element.

During the year to 31st August 2025, the church completed its Shaped for Mission project (see Trustee Annual Report above) to maximise the effective use of the main church space and expended £30,149 on property improvements (and scrapped property assets of £46,498) and £182,590 on related Fixtures and Fittings.

Harpenden Methodist Church

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

13. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.8.25	31.8.24
	£	£
Other debtors	19,577	27,618
Prepayments	47,011	<u>49,903</u>
	<u>66,588</u>	<u>77,521</u>

14. CASH AT BANK

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Endowment fund £	Total funds £
Trustee for Methodist Purposes accounts	180,670	838	-	181,508
Deposits with Central Finance Board	541,557	128,805	-	670,362
Other bank accounts	43,836	-	-	43,836
	<u>766,063</u>	<u>129,643</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>895,706</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.8.25	31.8.24
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	309
Social security and other taxes	2,656	2,196
Other creditors	80	1,061
Accruals and deferred income	20,170	<u>13,861</u>
	<u>22,906</u>	<u>17,427</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.9.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.8.25 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	243,707	1,243	14,784	259,734
Designated fund - Property Fund	103,263	(3,384)	-	99,879
Designated fund - Mission Development	297,300	13,350	12,000	322,650
Designated fund - Youth Work	148,256	9,386	(46,559)	111,083
Designated fund - Organ Repair Fund	17,567	798	2,000	20,365
	<u>810,093</u>	<u>21,393</u>	<u>(17,775)</u>	<u>813,711</u>
Restricted funds				
Special Collections	3	(3)	-	-
Heating Project	72,691	(1,202)	2,360	73,849
Youth Work	185	5	(190)	-
Legacies	1,573	(735)	-	838
AV Project	121,431	(10,143)	11,953	123,241
Benevolence/SHARE	3,476	629	-	4,105
Shaped for Mission	-	247,617	(26,497)	221,120
	<u>199,359</u>	<u>236,168</u>	<u>(12,374)</u>	<u>423,153</u>
Endowment funds				
Church Premises	1,764,716	(46,898)	30,149	1,747,967
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,774,168</u>	<u>210,663</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,984,831</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	429,004	(427,761)	1,243
Designated fund - Property Fund	4,652	(8,036)	(3,384)
Designated fund - Mission Development	13,349	1	13,350
Designated fund - Youth Work	9,386	-	9,386
Designated fund - Organ Repair Fund	798	-	798
	<u>457,189</u>	<u>(435,796)</u>	<u>21,393</u>
Restricted funds			
Special Collections	4,910	(4,913)	(3)
Heating Project	1,158	(2,360)	(1,202)
Youth Work	4	1	5
Legacies	66	(801)	(735)
AV Project	1,810	(11,953)	(10,143)
Benevolence/SHARE	7,261	(6,632)	629
Shaped for Mission	295,400	(47,783)	247,617
	<u>310,609</u>	<u>(74,441)</u>	<u>236,168</u>
Endowment funds			
Church Premises	-	(46,898)	(46,898)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>767,798</u>	<u>(557,135)</u>	<u>210,663</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued
Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.9.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.8.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	215,555	15,929	12,221	243,705
Designated fund - Property Fund	47,267	39,128	16,869	103,264
Designated fund - Mission Development	266,397	30,904	-	297,301
Designated fund - Youth Work	149,772	28,831	(30,347)	148,256
Designated fund - Organ Repair Fund	17,981	(2,414)	2,000	17,567
	696,972	112,378	743	810,093
Restricted funds				
Heating Project	71,539	(1,206)	2,360	72,693
Youth Work	14,490	751	(15,056)	185
Legacies	1,496	77	-	1,573
AV Project	120,043	(10,564)	11,953	121,432
Benevolence/SHARE	2,628	848	-	3,476
	210,196	(10,094)	(743)	199,359
Endowment funds				
Church Premises	964,716	800,000	-	1,764,716
TOTAL FUNDS	1,871,884	902,284	-	2,774,168

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	388,881	(372,952)	15,929
Designated fund - Property Fund	52,392	(13,264)	39,128
Designated fund - Mission Development	30,903	1	30,904
Designated fund - Youth Work	28,831	-	28,831
Designated fund - Organ Repair Fund	940	(3,354)	(2,414)
	501,947	(389,569)	112,378
Restricted funds			
Special Collections	8,009	(8,009)	-
Heating Project	1,152	(2,358)	(1,206)
Youth Work	753	(2)	751
Legacies	77	-	77
AV Project	1,388	(11,952)	(10,564)
Benevolence/SHARE	6,717	(5,869)	848
	18,096	(28,190)	(10,094)
Endowment funds			
Church Premises	800,000	-	800,000
TOTAL FUNDS	1,320,043	(417,759)	902,284

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Restricted funds:

Legacies Fund: Unless a Model Trust Direction has been secured to allow for local use, legacies received are deposited with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP). All applications for the release of such monies must be made to, and approved by, TMCP. As at 31 August 2025, the balances available were as follows - for use in relation to the provision of church flowers (Fund No.19706) - £838

Endowment funds:

In accordance with the provisions of FRS 102, the freehold of the High Street church premises has been stated at its historic cost at 31st August 2018 plus additions/deletions since then at cost value. Freehold premises also includes the premises at Southdown Road at a valuation based on investment yields. Total Endowed funds total £1,747,967 (see Note 12).

17. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

There are no liabilities, contingent or otherwise, that are not provided for in these accounts.

18. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

The church received aggregate donations from trustees of £65,721 in 2024/2025 (2023/2024 - £41,325)