

BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1128974

Details

Other names BMC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-04-02

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Birstall Methodist Church
Wanlip Lane
Birstall
Leicester
LE4 4JS

Phone 01162675194

Email birstallmethodistchurchleics@gmail.com

Website <http://lnc-methodist.org.uk/churches/birstall>

Activities

Objects: The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union the advancement of -(a) the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church;(b) any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church;(c) any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church;(d) any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

Activities: THE PROVISION OF REGULAR PUBLIC ACTS OF WORSHIP OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH AND NON-MEMBERS ALIKE; THE TEACHING OF CHRISTIANITY THROUGH SERMONS, COURSES AND SMALL GROUPS; PASTORAL WORK INCLUDING VISITING THE SICK AND BEREAVED; PROVISION OF CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTIVITIES; SUPPORTING THE WORK OF INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS OF THE CHURCH; PROMOTING THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH THROUGH ACTIVITIES.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Leicestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£99,107	£98,316	-	-
2024-08-31	£89,751	£88,764	-	-
2023-08-31	£87,774	£106,843	-	-
2022-08-31	£67,207	£75,152	-	-
2021-08-31	£59,603	£63,182	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Kim Leslie Alexander	Chair	2024-09-01
ANDREW WEBSTER		2012-05-05
Alison Ruth King		2020-01-15
Andrew Biggins		2022-09-01
DOROTHY CAROLE BOND		
Dr CHRISTOPHER BRICE		2016-09-01
Graham Tennant		2022-09-01
JANE BRICE		
JOAN PEARSON		
Julie Bamford		2024-09-01
Julie Tinley		2023-04-21
MARION ELIZABETH LIQUORISH		
MAXILYN GEARY		2024-10-10
MRS CHRIS TILFORD		
Mary Downs		
Rev Andrew Stuart Farrington		2024-09-01
Richard Tinley		2019-05-01
Susan Wheeler		

BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1128974

Accounts



BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH

LEICESTERSHIRE

(Registered Charity No: 1128974)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25



BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH
LEICESTERSHIRE
(Registered Charity No: 1128974)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

MINISTER: Rev Kim Alexander

TRUSTEES AS AT 1st SEPTEMBER 2024

Rev Kim Alexander(Chair),	Rev Andrew Farrington,	Mr Andrew Biggins
Mrs Julie Bamford	Mrs Dorothy Bond	Dr Christopher Brice
Mrs Jane Brice	Mrs Mary Downs	Mrs Maxilyn Geary
Mrs Alison King	Mrs Marion Liqueorish	Mrs Joan Pearson
Mr Graham Tennant	Mrs Christine Tilford	Mr Richard Tinley
Mrs Julie Tinley	Mr Andrew Webster	Mrs Susan Wheeler

LOCATION

Birstall lies about five miles north of Leicester City centre and is one of eighteen churches which make up the Leicester Trinity Circuit of the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

MISSION

The church continues to be guided by the mission statement formulated by the Leicester North Circuit – ***‘Deepening Discipleship – Making More Disciples’***.

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Membership

We are an open and inclusive organisation which values everyone who chooses to join us. Membership is open to all who wish to serve Jesus Christ and current membership stands at 82 and many friends also choose to worship with us.

Weekly Worship

This year, the church continues to hold services in person each Sunday and Wednesday morning, whilst continuing to stream the Sunday services via Zoom for those who are unable to attend. The online Circuit Service is every Sunday evening, (also on Zoom).

Baptismal Roll

Sadly there are at present no children on the baptismal roll. This is due to the fact that all children previously on the roll have reached their third birthday.

Sunday Club

The Sunday Club meets week by week joining the congregation for a short time for All Age Worship then continuing with our own activities and simple refreshments. The theme each week is based either on the lectionary or a topic of our own choosing. The first Sunday in the month is an All Age Worship service which we encourage the families to attend and often the preacher invites the young people to take part.

We have 20 young people aged from 5 – 17 which can be challenging so we endeavor to choose a variety of crafts & activities to suit the age span.

In the present climate there are so many other activities taking place on Sunday we feel privileged to have a thriving Sunday Club.

Boys' Brigade

Another summer session done. A couple of members have left us over the summer both have said they will return if they have chance. We have had a busy summer and are now settling in for the run up to Christmas. We will of course be attending the remembrance parade in the village.

At this point I would like to open our doors to any young person that is free and would like to join us on a Friday evening for some exciting and fun activities. If anyone would like more information please don't hesitate to contact myself or Richard who would point you in the right direction. We operate in the main hall from 7pm on Fridays and only charge a couple of quid for each session that is attended. The leaders have booked ourselves on a recruitment seminar in Nottingham in October so we are hoping to grow our numbers this session.

The boys brigade has been running at this Methodist church for many years We accept children between 5 to 11 in the junior section and 11 to 18 in the company section. Our aim is to offer a safe and enjoyable weekly meetings in which the members can enjoy and take part in some or all of the activities that we offer. Our evenings include craft, indoor games, film nights, Billie bear, Christian festivals and evenings out.

Birstall Methodist Monday Women's Group

The Monday Group continues to meet at 7.30pm during term time. We have some new members all willing to help out. We have 37 members in total. Our project for 2024/25 was Mesothelioma UK. This has proved to be a very popular cause. With the team from the charity supporting our coffee mornings. We also had Eileens Little Big Band in June playing & Singing along to a full house. Our final treat before summer break was afternoon tea at The British Legion. We return on September 8th with Quiz night. On 15th we present our charity cheque. And follow with our AGM & choose a new charity. Our harvest celebration is 29th when we donate our items to the food hub. Final night is December 15th party night.

Thursday Group

We continue to meet weekly providing speakers and enjoying entertainment amongst ourselves. Many members provide games afternoons and often cake. The group is working hard to access activities for all members, enabling members to access activities where they need support. We are maintaining our caring and

sharing this year by raising money for Heartlink a charity which has supported members over the years

The Pastoral Committee

Our pastoral visitors keep in touch with church members and also with regular church attendees by home visits, telephone, e-mail and at church and church meetings. Pastoral visitors are a unique and essential part of the Methodist Church and try and support the minister by keeping in touch with the church membership, particularly the elderly, bereaved and infirm.

Safeguarding People at Birstall Methodist Church

Birstall Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Birstall Methodist Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable and at risk are paramount.

As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

Birstall Methodist Church currently has a Safeguarding Officer actively in post with 25 years experience of safeguarding people. As a Church we will respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern which is raised that any person has been harmed, whether in the church or in any other context.

Birstall Methodist Church has a current and up to date Safeguarding Policy which is on display at all times on the Church noticeboard for all to have access to it. The Safeguarding Policy details how our Church will safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults who use our premises and provide a safe and supportive community. It is reviewed and updated annually, or at any other time during the year when the need arises.

Birstall Methodist Church has taken steps to make sure those who work with children, vulnerable people and any who perform roles of responsibility or leadership within our Church are fully DBS checked to a satisfactory standard and have also completed the appropriate level of safeguarding training for their role. This is regularly monitored and refresher training completed at the time required.

We affirm, encourage and give thanks for those who work with children and vulnerable adults and also acknowledge the shared responsibility of all of us at Birstall Methodist Church to safeguard the people who use our premises.

Other groups

As well as the above church affiliated groups the church is pleased to host a large number of Community groups, including a Playgroup for Children with Additional Needs, Seaforth Highlander, the Birstall Reading Group, LOROS (Birstall BAGS), Highcliffe Harmony (choir) and many others.

WORLD SERVICE, MISSION AND NEIGHBORHOOD

The Lunch Club

Overall, the financial position is similar to previous years. The club runs at a loss but the use of grants allowed us to make a small profit of £300. This year we have used

£600 of grants and have succeeded in getting a £1000 grant for 2025-26 which leaves the day to day running in a healthy position. However, the amount of reserves for the club has dropped overall by £500 as the club gave a donation for the cooker hood and slightly more to the church for hosting. But the club still has over £3000 in savings and it will be recommended at their September AGM that we investigate being more generous in our donations.

Birstall Methodist Coffee Shop

The coffee shop is still very busy and most mornings all tables are in use, sometimes two or three times over! Prices have remained the same, all items still sold at a nominal cost of £1. Our happy band of volunteers continue to provide a warm welcome to all and our bakers provide a lovely selection of tempting edibles supplemented by some purchased goods. Many thanks to them all. More offers of help are always gratefully received.

We are hoping to provide a Warm Space again for the worst of the winter months as many of our customers are worried about heating bills. We are applying for grants to help fund this.

IT gurus still attend most Fridays and provide a much needed service to those struggling with computers, phones and tablets.

We are running a "Crafts in the Coffee Shop" corner on two Thursdays each month. Anyone is welcome to bring their own projects or learn a new skill while enjoying a hot drink and a cake or scone. Ladies have been recycling table clothes into tote bags to help with funding 'Warm Space'.

The book and jigsaw swaps continue to be very popular.

We are dog friendly, (free dog snacks on the counter, water bowl,) much appreciated by the owners as we are very close to the country park walks. Also much enjoyed by those customers unable to have a pet of their own anymore.

World Church

The total amount raised for World Church in the year 2024-25 was £332. Thank you for the ever more vital support for our brothers and sisters in the world through your generous giving to the World Mission Fund. We have eight regular contributors Tim having recently taken over would also like to offer a vote of thanks to Sylvia for her efforts in maintaining the collections during her time at the helm.

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer Service for 2025 took place on Friday 7th March at St Theresa's RC church. It was prepared by the Christian women of the Cook Islands on the theme "I made you wonderful." The message was summarised in the final blessing: "Treat yourself as a precious and beloved child of God and treat others as precious and beloved children of God."

Next year the service will be held here at our church on Friday March 6th.

The service has been prepared by the Christian ladies of Nigeria and is based on "I will give you rest, come."

Everyone is very welcome.

Action for Children

Year end Report on Action for Children for Birstall Methodist Church – September 2025

Donations in Home Collecting Boxes for the calendar year to the end of December 2024 amounted to £466.69. Home Collecting Boxes are held by people in the Birstall Village, some of whom are members of Birstall Methodist Church. This amount is

down on previous years so it would be good to promote Home Collecting Boxes in the village to reverse this trend.

However, The Little BIG Band is still very active in raising funds for Action for Children. We have organised Concerts and entertainments at various venues in Birstall, Rothley, Ratby, Syston, Queniborough and Markfield and for the above year we have banked £1,060 for Action for Children. So thanks to faithful members of our Band from Anstey, Thurcaston, Cropston, Syston, Groby and Birstall who support this very worthy cause.

In total the Support Group has raised £1,526 from the above events and donations.

FINANCE

It has been a difficult year with lots of unforeseen expenses. The concert hall kitchen needing a new fan above the cooker costing £1800 and a break-in to the premises in March 2025 has incurred expenditure over and above the insurance claim. Although most of the work has been completed the insurance claim payment is still outstanding and a short term loan of £15k from the Circuit has been used.

Income from personal giving by standing order has decreased by approximately 15% on 2023/24, however there is a small increase to lettings income..

Donations from Church Groups, particularly the Coffee Shop, have also remained strong and are an important part of our finances.

Overall total income is up slightly due to grants from outside organisations.

Everyday expenses such as utilities, staff wages, licenses and insurance have continued to increase as well as the circuit assessment..

Another £1,200 has been paid off the circuit loan. The outstanding loan amount at the end of August 2025 is £15,400. £8k has been repaid from the £15k short term loan.

Fund raising is a vital part of the churches success. The Christmas Festival in November 2024 was again a success, raising £6194 which included a donation of just over £530 to Dementia UK.

Overall the church had a small surplus this year of just under £800. A late Gift Aid claim has been made for January to August 2024 of £5,021 and is included in the 2024/25 accounts.

RESERVES POLICY

1. BACKGROUND

The Birstall Methodist Church requires financial reserves to (i) fulfil its commitment to outreach work, (ii) to fund its regular operating costs and (iii) for repairs and maintenance of the building.

2. OUR RESERVES

Ideally, we aim to hold in reserve sufficient money in our general funds to cover six month's expenditure i.e. £44,000, which is made up of expenditure categories as follows:

- Circuit Assessment
- Staff Wages
- Premises Expenditure
- Heat and Light

In general terms we very rarely achieve this ideal because regular income through Sunday collections, Standing Orders and Letting over a six month period are not sufficient to cover this expenditure. The Church relies increasingly upon donations from Church Groups and other sources and Fund Raising events to supplement its regular income.

At the end of August 2025 £8,787 was held in the church's reserves, and £7,277 in our current accounts. Combined this was just over £16,000, while our outstanding loan to the Circuit is £15,400.

3. MONITORING AND REVIEW

This Reserves Policy is monitored by the Church Treasurer who will submit a report to the Church Finance & Property Committee at its spring meeting. The Finance & Property Committee will review the Reserves Policy and recommend the changes necessary to the Church Council.

October 2025 . (Prepared by Maxilyn Geary Church Treasurer)

BMC Accounts @ 31 August 2025

RECEIPTS	TOTAL
Collections	8,439.28
Standing Orders	23,306.82
Gift Aid	12,512.64
CFB interest/bequest/income	1,776.33
Insurance/Loan	19,337.92
Other Donations/Grant	2,460.00
Donations from Church Groups	3,150.00
Coffee shop	8,000.00
Other receipts	367.80
Lettings	13,563.14
Fund Raising	6,193.16
Total receipts	99,107.09
PAYMENTS	
Circuit Assessment or Share	39,699.95
Staff salaries	8,450.00
HMRC	1,466.52
Repairs and Maintenance	22,828.92
Utilities (water charges, heating & lighting)	7,004.65
Cleaning	2,243.96
Printing & stationery	225.64
CCLI coverage	809.37
Phone/Internet	541.42
Expenses	1,666.87
Insurance	2,880.29
ADS Accountants	288.00
Payment on loan	9,200.00
Donations to other Organisations	1,010.29
Total Expenditure	98,315.88
TRANSFERS to other bank accounts	0.00
	0.00
TOTAL	791.21

Notes

- 1) Fund raising – Christmas Festival including charity donation
 - 2) Donations church groups – Lunch club £1400, Thurs Grp £400, BB £250, Monday Group £650
 - 3) Utilities – Gas payment for the last 4 months is outstanding
 - 4) Playgroup for Children with Additional Needs – Invoice not raised for 24/25
 - 5) The Insurance Claim is still outstanding plus £7k repayment of the temporary loan from LTC
 - 6} £15,400 outstanding on the LTC loan from 2016
 - 7} Other donations includes £550 towards the Sound system
 - 8) Gift add includes a late claim from 23/24
- * BMC should have sufficient in reserves to cover running costs for the following 12 months

Name of Church ...Birstall Methodist Church..... No ...1128974.....

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner Danielle Cecchini

Name of independent examiner DANIELLE CECCHINI

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACMA

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A

Address 1108 MELTON ROAD
SYSTON Post Code LE7 2HA

Date 6 OCTOBER 2025

delete or circle as appropriate

BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1128974

Accounts



BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH

LEICESTERSHIRE

(Registered Charity No: 1128974)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24



BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH

LEICESTERSHIRE

(Registered Charity No: 1128974)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

MINISTER:

Rev Paula Hunt

TRUSTEES AS AT 1st SEPTEMBER 2023

Rev Paula Hunt (Chair), Rev Liam Dacre-Davis, Rev Frances Ballantyne

Mrs Wendy Allan	Mr Andrew Biggins	Mrs Ann Boettcher
Mrs Dorothy Bond	Mrs Janet Bradford	Dr Christopher Brice
Mrs Jane Brice	Mrs Mary Downs	Mrs Shirley Harrison
Mrs Alison King	Mrs Marion Liqueorish	Mr Tony Moore
Mrs Joan Pearson	Mrs Sylvia Taylor	Mr Graham Tennant
Mrs Christine Tilford	Mr Richard Tinley	Mrs Julie Tinley
Mr John Towson		
Mr Andrew Webster	Mrs Susan Wheeler	Mrs Margaret Young

LOCATION

Birstall lies about five miles north of Leicester City centre and is one of eighteen churches which make up the Leicester Trinity Circuit of the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

MISSION

The church continues to be guided by the mission statement formulated by the Leicester North Circuit – *'Deepening Discipleship – Making More Disciples'*.

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Membership

We are an open and inclusive organisation which values everyone who chooses to join us. Membership is open to all who wish to serve Jesus Christ and current membership stands at 88 and many friends also choose to worship with us.

Weekly Worship

This year, the church continues to hold services in person each Sunday and Wednesday morning, whilst continuing to stream the Sunday services via Zoom for those who are unable to attend. The online Circuit Service is every Sunday evening, (also on Zoom).

Baptismal Roll

Sadly there are at present no children on the baptismal roll. This is due to the fact that all children previously on the roll have reached their third birthday.

Sunday Breakfast Club

The Sunday Club meets throughout the year starting in church for a short time of All Age Worship then continuing its own activities a simple breakfast in the Coffee Shop.

The young people often contribute to worship & occasionally lead a service.

What's App continues to be the most effective & practical way of communicating & holding the group together. Ages range from 3-17 & attendance varies from 4 -12 with 3 adult leaders.

Boys' Brigade

The boys brigade has been running at this Methodist church for many years. We meet on Friday evenings between 7 till 9 pm. We accept children between 5 to 11 in the junior section and 11 to 18 in the company section. Our aim is to offer a safe and enjoyable environment in which the members can enjoy and take part in some or all of the activities that we offer. Our evenings include craft, indoor games, film nights, Billie bear, Christian festivals and evenings out. We charge £2 per member per evening that they attend. All our activities we try and cover the Christian teachings.

Contact details: 07773780476 after 6pm, bb2ndleics@yahoo.com

Birstall Methodist Monday Women's Group

The Monday Group meets at 7.30pm (Term Time only). We have an open door Policy for visitors to join us (including men). We have a varied programme of Speakers, Demonstrations, Slide Shows etc. and once a month we have 'Amongst Ourselves nights'; arranged by our members. Our Project for 2023/24 was 'Age UK Dementia Support' which is very dear to our hearts; and a cheque for £2,000 was presented to Lisa, the Representative of that Charity. The Project chosen at the AGM for 2024/25 is Mesothelioma UK (a Cancer caused by exposure to Asbestos). Also at our 2024 AGM we welcomed a new Programme Secretary and extra help with fundraising activities. We have 34 'paid up' members and we are thrilled to have welcomed new members during 2023/24.

We advertise our Group via Church Notices, Birstall Post and Social Media. If you would like to know anything more about our Group then why not come along on a Monday evening at 7.30pm? You can be assured of a warm welcome.

Thursday Group

We were very actively involved with the annual Church Festival, both with decorating, making and baking, and manning stalls. It is something we all very much enjoy and look forward to.

We do not meet between the end of June until the start of September. We are still continuing to welcome new members which is quite gratifying, especially since moving our meetings to the afternoons instead of the evenings, which in turn has introduced more people to the coffee shop and luncheon club.

The Pastoral Committee

Our pastoral visitors keep in touch with church members and also with regular church attendees by home visits, telephone, e-mail and at church and church meetings. Pastoral visitors are a unique and essential part of the Methodist Church and try and support the minister by keeping in touch with the church membership, particularly the elderly, bereaved and infirm.

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We affirm, encourage and give thanks for those who work with children and vulnerable adults and also acknowledge the shared responsibility of all of us at Birstall Methodist Church to safeguard the people who use our premises.

Other groups

As well as the above church affiliated groups the church is pleased to host a large number of Community groups, including a Bible Study Group, the Friends of Belgrave Cemetery, the Birstall Reading Group, LOROS (Birstall BAGS), Highcliffe Harmony (choir) and many others.

WORLD SERVICE, MISSION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Lunch Club

As in previous years, the lunch club has continued to offer a weekly two course meal with tea & coffee and provides valuable social interaction and mental stimulation to its members, for whom the weekly meeting is an essential highlight of their week. Special occasions such as Christmas and Valentines Day are celebrated well. There has been little change in the membership and the number using the club has remained around 38 with the weekly meal being provided on average to 34. The club has made use of available grants, without which the club would either run at a loss or have consider increasing its prices. The main risk is the rising age of volunteers and new helpers would be most welcome.

Birstall Methodist Coffee Shop

The Coffee Shop was mainly able to open fully the past twelve months. As a standard we open Monday to Saturday 10-12 noon (bank holidays excluding), offering a range of beverages and home baked donated goods supplemented by some bought in bakery items. All sold at a nominal cost of £1. People may linger and chat as long as they like with no pressure to purchase further items, we do offer free refills of beverages. Our prices have remained the same, a goodly amount of excess income after running expenses, (milk, sugar, coffee etc,) is paid into Church funds. All workers are volunteers. All have had a training on basic food handling and hygiene.

During the worst of the winter months we opened earlier as a "warm space," doors opened at 9.30am and serving free refreshments until noon and it proved very popular.

Every day all the tables are in use, sometimes two sittings as people come and go. Mainly people just sit and enjoy the company for as long as they like.

We do also have the opportunity to overspill into the church lounge as needed. Mondays and Fridays a group of mums from the playgroup for children with additional needs like to gather in there, it's a bit of a self support group. Alternate Wednesdays we have a dementia group in there whilst their carers now sit and chat in the coffee shop knowing they can safely have a break. We have a book swap library, jigsaws to swap or do on our special mat, puzzle books and magazines. We run a "craft in the coffee shop" on two Thursdays each month where people can bring their own projects or dabble in new crafts.

We continue to accept donations for the local food bank. At holiday times (Christmas, Easter etc) people are very generous and we pile it up in the adjacent quiet room.

We are dog friendly, (free dog snacks on the counter, water bowl,) much appreciated by the owners as we are very close to the country park walks. Also much enjoyed by those customers unable to have a pet of their own anymore.

World Church

The total amount raised for World Church in the year 2023-24 was £299.12. Thank you for the ever more vital support for our brothers and sisters in the world through your generous giving to the World Mission Fund.

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer was held on Friday 1st March 2024 at St James Church. The service was prepared by the women of Palestine the previous year. It was based on Ephesians 4 1-7 "I beg you, bear with one another in love." It was a very beautiful service. The situation in the region had worsened and we included extra prayers for peace. Please keep praying.

Birstall Playgroup for Children with additional needs

The group continues to grow and now has 22 children as well as three paid workers.

Action for Children

Here are some highlights of the fundraising by the Leicester Support Group for the period 1/9/23 to 31/8/24. During the year we raised funds mainly through entertainments by the Little BIG Band and an Action for Children Weekend at Anstey Methodist Church. Our friends in Birstall, Syston and Anstey have been very keen and generous in their support. Consequently, during this period we raised the sum of £1050.

In addition, the Home Collecting Boxes raised £626.53 for the calendar year to the end of December 2023. We were delighted that this was a significant increase on the previous year. We are grateful to people who continue to support the charity and help to maintain the valuable work that is being provided by Action for Children.

FINANCE

Last year's accounts at first glance showed an apparently alarming deficit of just over £19,000, but this included a large one-off loan repayment of £20,000 on completion of the Walk in the Light project (as well as the usual £1,200 loan repayment at £100/month).

Income from personal giving has decreased slightly on 2022/23, after having increased by 12% on 2021/22, but Letting incomes rose by enough to cover the shortfall.

Donations from Church Groups, particularly the Coffee Shop, have also remained strong and are an important part of our finances.

Overall total income was up a couple of thousand pounds on 2022/23, mainly due to a large bequest from Susan Warnes estate (over £10,000), which has been set aside for future repair work.

While everyday expenses such as utilities, staff wages, licences and insurance have continued to rise, the circuit assessment was lower this year, as was the overall repair bill.

Another £5,400 has been paid off the circuit loan, and a one-off payment of £5,000 towards the SNPG pension debt (this is under review and may require a final adjustment payment later).

Overall the church had a small surplus this year of just under a thousand pounds. This was without a Gift Aid claim having been made since the end of December 2023. A claim for January to August 2024 has added £5,021 to the 2024/25 accounts.

The outstanding loan amount at the end of August 2024 was £16,500.

Fund Raising

The Christmas Festival in November 2023 was again a great success, raising nearly £5,800 for the church and just over £600 was also raised on the door for the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

RESERVES POLICY

1. BACKGROUND

The Birstall Methodist Church requires financial reserves to (i) fulfil its commitment to outreach work, (ii) to fund its regular operating costs and (iii) for repairs and maintenance of the building.

2. OUR RESERVES

Ideally, we aim to hold in reserve sufficient money in our general funds to cover six month's expenditure i.e. £37,000, which is made up of expenditure categories as follows:

- Circuit Assessment
- Staff Wages
- Premises Expenditure
- Heat and Light

In general terms we very rarely achieve this ideal because regular income through Sunday collections, Standing Orders and Letting over a six month period are not sufficient to cover this expenditure. The Church relies increasingly upon donations from Church Groups and other sources and Fund Raising events to supplement its regular income.

At the end of August 2024 £13,337 was held in the church's reserves, and nearly £10,500 in our current accounts. Combined this was just over £24,200, while our outstanding loan to the Circuit was £16,500.

3. MONITORING AND REVIEW

This Reserves Policy is monitored by the Church Treasurer who will submit a report to the Church Finance & Property Committee at its spring meeting. The Finance & Property Committee will review the Reserves Policy and recommend the changes necessary to the Church Council.

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To 30th August 2024

2023-2024

Income	Opening Balance	£	23,192.24
	Sunday Collections	£	6,620.56
	Standing Orders	£	27,394.53
	Gift Aid	£	4,181.35
	Special Services	£	-00
	Donations From Church Groups	£	10,649.00
	Other Donations and appeals	£	-00
	Bequests	£	13,852.51
	Fundraising	£	6,683.02
	Lettings	£	17,653.50
	SNPG rent	£	-00
	Furlough payments from HMRC	£	-00
	Interest.	£	1,137.58
	Grants (Heating Project '24)	£	664.00
	Photocopying Repayments & Piano sale	£	915.24
	Total Income	£	89,751.29
Expenditure			
	Circuit Assessment	£	37,351.54
	Staff Wages	£	9,450.11
	Heating Water Light	£	6,945.59
	Premises Expenses	£	418.04
	Telephone/internet	£	529.26
	Photocopy/Printing	£	53.13
	Computer Equipment		
	Repairs	£	11,871.76
	fundraising costs		
	Licenses	£	770.28
	insurance	£	2,764.78
	Donations	£	7,267.76
	Corrections	-	
	ADS Accountants	£	288.00
	Walk in the Light (ended)	£	-00
	Miscellaneous	£	5,653.59
	Payment of loan	£	5,400.00
	dev fund		
	Total Expenditure	£	88,763.84
	Surplus/Defecit	£	987.45
	Closing Balance	£	24,179.69 CORRECT
	Bank Accounts (on 31st Aug)		
	Barclays		8,161.27
	NatWest		2,681.15
	Central Finance Board		13,337.27
	TMCP		
	Unreconciled Chq's		
	Total	£	24,179.69 CORRECT
	Balance Y/N		

Name of Church ...Birstall Methodist Church... No 1128974

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 for concern in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination. No special attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the matters examined to be reached.

I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner Denise Wynn

Name of independent examiner DENISE WYNN

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 46, Highfield Rd, Goby
Leicester Post Code LE6 0QU

Date 6th Jan 25

* delete or circle as appropriate

BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1128974

Accounts



BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH

LEICESTERSHIRE

(Registered Charity No: 1128974)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23



BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH
LEICESTERSHIRE
(Registered Charity No: 1128974)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

MINISTER: Rev Paula Hunt

TRUSTEES AS AT 1st SEPTEMBER 2022

Rev Paula Hunt (Chair)

Mrs Wendy Allan	Mrs Ann Boettcher	Mrs Dorothy Bond
Mrs Janet Bradford	Dr Christopher Brice	Mrs Jane Brice
Mrs Mary Downs	Mrs Shirley Harrison	Mr John Kilby
Mrs Alison King	Mrs Marion Liquorish	Mr Tony Moore
Mrs Joan Pearson	Mrs Sylvia Taylor	Mr Graham Tennant
Mrs Christine Tilford	Mr Richard Tinley	Mr John Towson
Mr Andrew Webster	Mrs Susan Wheeler	Mrs Margaret Young

LOCATION

Birstall lies about five miles north of Leicester City centre and is one of eighteen churches which make up the Leicester Trinity Circuit of the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

MISSION

The church continues to be guided by the mission statement formulated by the Leicester North Circuit – *‘Deepening Discipleship – Making More Disciples’*.

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Membership

We are an open and inclusive organisation which values everyone who chooses to join us. Membership is open to all who wish to serve Jesus Christ and current membership stands at 96 and many friends also choose to worship with us.

Weekly Worship

This year, the church continues to hold services in person each Sunday and Wednesday morning, whilst continuing to stream the Sunday services via Zoom for those who are unable to attend. The online Circuit Service is every Sunday evening, (also on Zoom).

Baptismal Roll

Sadly there are at present no children on the baptismal roll. This is due to the fact that all children previously on the roll have reached their third birthday.

Sunday Breakfast Club

The Sunday Club meets throughout the year starting in church for a short time of All Age Worship then continuing its own activities a simple breakfast in the Coffee Shop.

The young people often contribute to worship & occasionally lead a service.

What's App continues to be the most effective & practical way of communicating & holding the group together. Ages range from 3-17 & attendance varies from 4 -12 with 3 adult leaders.

School-based work

The Circuit employed a Schools and Community Worker, who was based in Birstall and Rothley. His responsibility in Birstall was to work with young people and local schools. He had engagement with the three schools in Birstall under the administration of the Lionheart Academy Trust (3 primary schools and a secondary school). He also helped with Religious Study lessons. He had contributed to assemblies and has led workshops in the Primary Schools. He was also involved in working with the local Parish Church to deliver this work including: delivering workshops and Easter Experience.

Volunteers in this aspect of the work assisted the worker. The worker resigned at the end of August 2023.

Boys' Brigade

The boy's brigade has been running at this Methodist church for many years. We meet on Friday evenings between 7 till 9 pm. We accept children between 5 to 11 in the junior section and 11 to 18 in the company section. Our aim is to offer a safe and enjoyable environment in which the members can enjoy and take part in some or all of the activities that we offer. Our evenings include craft, indoor games, film nights, Billie bear, Christian festivals and evenings out. We charge £2 per member per evening that they attend. All our activities we try and cover the Christian teachings.

Birstall Methodist Monday Women's Group

The Monday Group meets at 7.30pm in the Coffee Shop. We have a varied programme of interesting speakers as well as 'amongst ourselves' evenings when our members contribute interesting talks, flower arranging and musical evenings etc. Our Project for 2022/23 was MND and we raised the amazing sum of £3,000. At our AGM in September 2023 the Project for 2023/24 was chosen - it is Age UK Dementia Support. We are a friendly/open group and we welcome visitors regularly (including men!).

Attendance at our meetings remained around the 25/30 mark. Thank you to the team for making the Coffee Shop a warm welcoming venue for our meetings. We are pleased that the committee work as a team and are supported by regular members. Details of our weekly programme are advertised in the Church Notices and on the various Notice boards around Church and we are always pleased to welcome new members.

Thursday Group

We were very actively involved with the annual Church Festival, both with decorating, making and baking, and manning stalls. It is something we all very much enjoy and look forward to.

We do not meet between the end of June until the start of September. We are still continuing to welcome new members which is quite gratifying, especially since moving our meetings to the afternoons instead of the evenings, which in turn has introduced more people to the coffee shop and luncheon club.

The Pastoral Committee

Our pastoral visitors keep in touch with church members and also with regular church attendees by home visits, telephone, e-mail and at church and church meetings. Pastoral visitors are a unique and essential part of the Methodist Church and try and support the minister by keeping in touch with the church membership, particularly the elderly, bereaved and infirm.

Safeguarding – Alison King

Birstall Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Birstall Methodist Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable and at risk are paramount.

As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

Birstall Methodist Church has a Safeguarding Officer actively in post with more than 20 years' experience in safeguarding people. As a Church we will respond without delay to any allegation or cause for concern which is raised that any person has been harmed, whether in the church or in another context.

Birstall Methodist Church has a current and up to date Safeguarding Policy which is on display at all times on the Church noticeboard for all to have access to it. The Safeguarding Policy details how our Church will safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults who use our premises and provide a safe and supportive community. It is reviewed and updated annually, or at any other time when the need arises.

Birstall Methodist Church has taken steps to make sure those who work with children and vulnerable people and any who perform roles of responsibility or leadership within our Church are fully DBS checked to a satisfactory standard and have also completed the appropriate level of safeguarding training for their role. This is regularly monitored and refresher training completed at the time required.

We affirm, encourage and give thanks for those who work with children and vulnerable adults and also acknowledge the shared responsibility of all of us at Birstall Methodist Church to safeguard the people who use our premises.

WORLD SERVICE, MISSION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Lunch Club

The lunch club has continued to offer a weekly meeting for older residents of Birstall to meet socially and to enjoy a two-course meal. Amongst various benefits, the club provides social interaction, nutrition and mental stimulation to its members, for whom the weekly meeting is an essential highlight of their week. Whilst the membership has changed, the number using the club has remained consistently around 38 and the meal is given on average to 34 people a week, including some of the helpers. The club runs for 45 weeks of the year and special occasions such as the coronation or Valentine's day have been enthusiastically celebrated.

Birstall Methodist Coffee Shop

The Coffee Shop was mainly able to open fully the past twelve months. As a standard we open Monday to Saturday 10-12noon bank holidays excluding, offering a range of beverages and home baked donated goods supplemented by some bought in bakery items. All sold at a nominal cost of £1. People may linger and chat as long as they like with no pressure to purchase further items, we do offer free refills of beverages. Our Prices have remained the same, a goodly amount of excess income after running expenses, (milk, sugar, coffee etc,) is paid into Church funds. All workers are volunteers. All have had a training on basic food handling and hygiene.

During the worst of the winter months we opened earlier as a "warm space," doors opened at 9.30 and serving free refreshments until noon and it proved very popular.

Every day all the tables are in use, sometimes two sittings as people come and go. Mainly people just sit and enjoy the company for as long as they like.

We do also have the opportunity to overflow into the church lounge as needed. Mondays and Fridays a group of mums from the playgroup for children with additional needs like to gather in there, it's a bit of a self support group. Alternate Wednesdays we have a dementia group in there whilst their carers now sit and chat in the coffee shop knowing they can safely have a break. We have a book swap library, jigsaws to swap or do on our special mat, puzzle books and magazines. We are just about to start a "craft in the coffee shop" in the corner on Thursdays where people can bring their own project, (some already do, knitting, crochet,) or dabble in a new craft with mini tester kits.

We have turned into a donation point for the local food bank, it just happened when people realised we had the necessary contacts and word spread. At holiday times (Christmas, Easter etc) people are very generous and we pile it up in the adjacent quiet room.

We are dog friendly, (free dog snacks on the counter, water bowl,) much appreciated by the owners as we are very close to the country park walks. Also much enjoyed by those customers unable to have a pet of their own anymore.

Being able to use some of the excess comfortable padded material and wooden armed church seats has been very successful, no more hard plastic! A regular spray of waterproofing keeps them looking bright and protects against the inevitable spillages. They are also easier for less able visitors to rise and fall on. The donation of new varnished wood topped tables with these multi-coloured chairs makes the room more welcoming. The tables are still trestle by necessity, as the room has other users some afternoons or evenings, but are much sturdier, a bit smaller and a lot less utilitarian looking. They are also easier to maneuver to one side by other users.

World Church

The total amount raised for World Church in the year 2022-23 was £303.50. Thank you for the ever more vital support for our brothers and sisters in the world through your generous giving to the World Mission Fund.

World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer was held on 3rd March 2023 at the Methodist Church, using materials prepared by the women of Taiwan.

Special Needs Playgroup

The group continues to grow and now has 22 children as well as three paid workers.

Action for Children

Here are some highlights of the fundraising by the Leicester Support Group for the period 1/9/22 to 31/8/23. We were able to arrange entertainment by the Little BIG Band as we had done before Covid and our supporters in Birstall, Syston and Anstey were keen to support fundraising. Consequently, during this period we raised the amazing sum of £2089.76. The Home Collecting Boxes raised £411.22 for the calendar year to the end of December 2022; this is lower than previous annual totals because we now have fewer box holders. However, we are grateful to people who continue to support the charity and help to maintain the valuable work that is being provided by Action for Children.

FINANCE

The year before last's accounts (2021/22) showed a deficit of £8,000 (but not including loan repayments was a more modest £6,800). This year's accounts at first glance show an apparently alarming deficit of just over £19,000, but this includes a large one-off loan repayment of £20,000 on completion of the Walk in the Light project (as well as the usual £1,200 loan repayment at £100/month).

Income from personal giving has increased by 12% on 2021/22 for we the church is very grateful, and Letting incomes have continued to recover from the pandemic, doubling from £8,000 in 2021/22 to £16,000 in 2022/23.

Donations from Church Groups, particularly the Coffee Shop, have also remained strong and are an important part of our finances.

The small surplus in 2022/23 is especially noteworthy when it is taken into account that Expenditure increased by around £10,000 in 2022/23 (not including Donations to other organisations and loan repayments). Some of this was in energy costs, which rose by 14% year on year, but mainly was due to one-off repairs and decorating bills.

The outstanding loan amount at the end of August 2023 was £21,900.

Fund Raising

The Christmas Festival in November 2023 was again a great success, raising nearly £5,800 for the church and just over £600 was also raised on the door for the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

RESERVES POLICY

1. BACKGROUND

The Birstall Methodist Church requires financial reserves to (i) fulfil its commitment to outreach work, (ii) to fund its regular operating costs and (iii) for repairs and maintenance of the building.

2. OUR RESERVES

Ideally, we aim to hold in reserve sufficient money in our general funds to cover six month's expenditure i.e. £37,000, which is made up of expenditure categories as follows:

- Circuit Assessment
- Staff Wages
- Premises Expenditure
- Heat and Light

In general terms we very rarely achieve this ideal because regular income through Sunday collections, Standing Orders and Letting over a six month period are not sufficient to cover this expenditure. The Church relies increasingly upon donations from Church Groups and other sources and Fund Raising events to supplement its regular income.

At the end of August 2023 £15,433 was held in the church's reserves, and nearly £7,759 in our current accounts. Combined this was just under £23,200, while our outstanding loan to the Circuit was £21,900.

3. MONITORING AND REVIEW

This Reserves Policy is monitored by the Church Treasurer who will submit a report to the Church Finance & Property Committee at its spring meeting. The Finance & Property Committee will review the Reserves Policy and recommend the changes necessary to the Church Council.

© March 2024 . (Prepared by Andrew Webster)

Birstall Methodist Church		
		2022-2023
Income	Opening Balance	42,260.39
	Sunday Collections	7676.73
	Standing Orders	27632.89
	Gift Aid	8830.18
	Special Services	N/A
	Donations From Church Groups	8236.22
	Other Donations and appeals	3460.53
	Bequests	2890.72
	Fundraising	9174.29
	Lettings	16108.00
	Furlough payments from HMRC	0.00
	Interest.	914.84
	Grants	2850.00
	Total Income	87,774.40
Expenditure		
	Circuit Assessment	38,769.17
	Staff Wages	8,635.86
	Heating Water Light	6,754.51
	Premises Expenses	3,688.04
	Telephone/internet	575.70
	Photocopy/Printing	0.00
	Computer Equipment	0.00
	Repairs	13,072.12
	fundraising costs	0.00
	Licenses	715.17
	insurance	2,582.46
	Donations	7,556.83
	Corrections	100.00
	ADS Accountants	288.00
	Walk in the Light	500.00
	Miscellaneous	2,404.69
	Repayment of loan	21200.00
	dev fund	0.00
	Total Expenditure	106,842.55
	Surplus/Defecit	-19,068.15
	Closing Balance	23,192.24
	Bank Accounts (on 31st Aug)	
	Barclays	2,901.12
	NatWest	4,857.89
	Central Finance Board	15,433.23
	TMCP	
	Unreconciled Chq's	-117.28
	Total	23,074.96
	Balance Y/N	
	Funds	
	General	23,192.24
	Total	-19,068.15
Within these funds Walk of Light Balance		0.00
Loan from Trinity Church		-21,800.00

Name of Church BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH No 1128974

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner Denise Wynne

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner Book keeper

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 46, Highfield Rd, Ardby, Leicester

Post Code LE6 0A4

Date 19 Dec 2023

* delete or circle as appropriate

BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1128974

Accounts



BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH

LEICESTERSHIRE

(Registered Charity No: 1128974)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22



BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH
LEICESTERSHIRE
(Registered Charity No: 1128974)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

MINISTER: Rev Paula Hunt

TRUSTEES AS AT 1st SEPTEMBER 2021

Rev Paula Hunt (Chair)

Mrs Wendy Allan	Mrs Ann Boettcher	Mrs Dorothy Bond
Mrs Janet Bradford	Mr Chris Brice	Mrs Jane Brice
Mrs Mary Downs	Mrs Shirley Harrison	Mr John Kilby
Mrs Alison King	Mrs Marion Liquorish	Mr Tony Moore
Mrs Joan Pearson	Mrs Sylvia Taylor	Mrs Christine Tilford
Mr Richard Tinley	Mr John Towson	Mr Andrew Webster
Mrs Susan Wheeler	Mrs Margaret Young	

LOCATION

Birstall lies about 5 miles north of Leicester City centre and is one of six churches which make up the Leicester Trinity Circuit of the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

MISSION

The church continues to be guided by the mission statement formulated by the Leicester North Circuit – *'Deepening Discipleship – Making More Disciples'*.

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Membership

We are an open and inclusive organisation which values everyone who chooses to join us. Membership is open to all who wish to serve Jesus Christ and current membership stands at 97 and many friends also choose to worship with us.

Weekly Worship

This year, the church has transitioned back to holding services in person each Sunday and Wednesday morning, whilst continuing to stream the Sunday services via Zoom for those who are unable to attend. The online Circuit Service every Sunday evening, (also on Zoom).

Baptismal Roll

Unfortunately we only have one child on the cradle roll under the age of three. All the other children previously on the roll have reached their third birthday. Birthday cards and Christmas cards continue to be sent. On the child's third birthday an invitation to Sunday Club is sent with their birthday card.

Sunday Breakfast Club

The Sunday Club meets throughout the year starting in church for a short time of All Age Worship then continuing its own activities a simple breakfast in the Coffee Shop. The young people often contribute to worship & occasionally lead a service. What's App continues to be the most effective & practical way of communicating & holding the group together. Ages range from 4-14 & attendance varies from 2 -10 with 4 adult leaders.

School-based work

The Circuit employs a Schools and Community Worker, who is based in Birstall and Rothley. His responsibility in Birstall is to work with young people and local schools. He has engagement with the three schools in Birstall under the administration of the Lionheart Academy Trust (3 primary schools and a secondary school). He has also helped with Religious Study lessons. He has contributed to assemblies and has led workshops in the Primary Schools. He is also involved in working with the local Parish Church to deliver this work including: delivering workshops and Easter Experience. Volunteers in this aspect of the work have assisted the worker.

Boys' Brigade –

The Boy's Brigade is still running well, and numbers are slowly rising. It is now a mixed company of boys and girls. Richard Tinley visits regularly as their chaplain. It is worth noting that four other companies in our area closed during lockdown, mainly due to lack of adult volunteers.

Birstall Methodist Monday Women's Group

The Monday Group meets at 7.30pm. We have evenings amongst ourselves and lots of interesting speakers. We also have a project every year for a different charity. In 2021/22 it was Birstall playgroup for children with additional needs and at our AGM in September 2022 we will present them with a cheque for £2,000. We are a friendly group. Visitors always welcome.

We were very pleased to be meeting again once most of the Covid restrictions were lifted and attendance at our meetings has remained around the 25/30 mark. We are still following guidelines to keep everyone safe by opening doors/windows and keeping an eye on room temperature. We are pleased that the committee work as a team and are supported by regular members. Details of our weekly programme are advertised in the Church Notices and on the various Notice boards around Church and we are always pleased to welcome new members.

Thursday Group

Meetings resumed in October 2021 in the Coffee shop in the afternoons rather than the evening as before. We were not able to have our usual Christmas party, but we were very actively involved with the annual Church Festival, both with decorating, making and baking, and manning stalls. It is something we all very much enjoy and look forward to. We also met one of our new police officers who was invited along to introduce herself.

Following the rise of the Omicron variation, we cancelled a few of our January meetings, then continued with just informal get togethers, quizzes etc., again with increased safety precautions. By August 2022 Thursday Group was almost back to its usual programme of events, speakers, quizzes and amongst ourselves meetings. These included a meeting with Rosie Rollins who started the local Community Help Group, and a talk about Christians against Poverty. We were also able to hold a fundraising coffee morning for Jade's Retreat, and had a couple of Bring and Share afternoons, one for the Queen's Jubilee, and our usual Faith Supper to mark the end of the season at the end of June. We were also able to make a donation to the Church. We do not meet between the end of June until the start of September, but were able to get together in August with a series of afternoon teas hosted by our members, just to keep in touch through the summer. We are still continuing to welcome new members which is quite gratifying.

Community Bible Study

This is a Bible Study group with a global reach that has met at our church for over twenty years. It not only attracts members of the Methodist Church but its membership includes Christians from other Churches within Birstall and beyond. From September 2022 the group will have two elements, one meeting face to face in the lounge, one meeting online with both elements connecting online for part of the time. This allows the group to welcome people from outside the UK'

The Pastoral Committee - Marion Liqueurish

Our pastoral visitors keep in touch with church members and also with regular church attendees by home visits, telephone, e-mail and at church and church meetings. Pastoral visitors are a unique and essential part of the Methodist Church and try and support the minister by keeping in touch with the church membership, particularly the elderly, bereaved and infirm.

WORLD SERVICE, MISSION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Lunch Club

After the long break the Lunch Club opened its doors once again in October 2021.

All of our members (except for two) returned & the group has gone from strength to strength. Since then we have celebrated all the festivals & the late Queen's 70th Jubilee.

Sadly a few members have passed away or moved into care but we have welcomed new members & the Lunch Club continues to be a happy & welcoming group to older residents of Birstall.

Birstall Methodist Coffee Shop

The weekday coffee shop was not able to reopen after the pandemic due to the retirement of the organisers and no voluntary replacement being found.

By this time Saturday was organising pop-up sessions during the week by request of the attendees. It was agreed that it would all be taken under the auspices of the Saturday committee, running Tuesday to Saturday.

It is now run to bolster church income in this difficult time.

After some trial runs church groups have been able to do some fundraising on occasional Saturdays.

World Church

The total amount raised for World Church in the year 2021-22 was £332.66. Thank you for the ever more vital support for our brothers and sisters in the world through your generous giving to the World Mission Fund.

World Day of Prayer

Our Ecumenical committee met in October this year to reflect on the World Day of Prayer which was held on 4th March 2022 and was held at St Teresa's Church when the country was England, Northern Island and Wales. The World Day of Prayer on 3rd March 2023 will be held in the Methodist Church when the country concerned is Taiwan.

Special Needs Playgroup

The group now has three paid workers and 18 children. We have grown quite a bit since last year!

Action for Children

Action for Children is an organisation related to the Methodist Church. The organisation was born in the Methodist Church. Their work is split into three main areas. 1) Best start in life. We know how important the early years are and they are there to help. From parenting advice to education and early intervention, they focus improving children's life chances. 2) Good mental health. Everyone has ups and downs in life. Mental and emotional well-being experts work with families and schools to make sure children and parents feel able to cope with challenges when they arise. 3) A safe and loving home. They make sure more children feel part of a family that cares for them. They find

homes for those without, protect children who have been abused and neglected, and help ensure young carers don't miss out on a childhood themselves.

Here are some highlights of the fundraising by the Leicester Support Group for the period 1/9/21 to 31/8/22: After the extensive lockdowns due to the pandemic it was a great relief to stage a Little BIG Band Concert at Anstey Methodist Church on 2 Oct 2021 where we raised an amazing sum of £305. Fortunately, the lockdowns only had a minimal effect on the Home Collecting Boxes income for the 2021 calendar year, which amounted to £497.46. In 2022 Action for Children Sunday at Anstey Methodist Church on 10 July raised £245. We would like to thank supporters in Birstall Methodist Church and Birstall Village for their continued support.

FINANCE

The closure of the church building from March 2020 meant a major change to the church's income and expenditure. Church staff were furloughed (until August 2021), collection receipts fell sharply and letting income stopped. Lettings began again (at a much reduced level) in June 2021. We had a reduction in some costs in 2020/21, such as heating and lighting, while the building was closed but in 2021/22 as the church re-opened, with much higher gas and electricity prices, costs increased markedly. In 2021/22 church income was up by £7,600 on 2020/21 (despite the loss of £6,200 in furlough payments received in 2020/21), with the Christmas Fair re-instated and donations from other Church Groups re-commencing, particularly the Coffee Shop.

But Expenditure increased by nearly £12,000, particularly in areas of Heating and Lighting and Staff Wages. Some costs were one-offs, such as £3,745 for the Walk in the Light project.

From the Annual Accounts, Income and Expenditure as a percentage of totals is as follows:

The break-down of income is:	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Personal Giving	36%	42%	46%
Fund Raising Events	11%	22%	10%
Donations from Church Groups	19%	4%	12%
Other Donations	4%	0%	3%
Lettings	20%	5%	19%
Gift Aid	9%	12%	9%
Other	0%	0%	0%

The breakdown of expenditure is:	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Circuit Share	52%	59%	51%
Caretaking & Security Staff	12%	13%	12%
Premises Expenditure (inc. repairs)	14%	10%	9%
Donations	2%	4%	8%
Heat and Light	9%	4%	8%
Insurances	1%	3%	3%
Other	7%	6%	4%
'Walk in the Light'	4%	0%	5%

The church effectively broke even in 2019/20 with a deficit of a few hundred pounds. The accounts for 2020/21 saw a deficit of just over £2,000, while the 2021/22 accounts saw a much more serious deficit of £6,660 (this does not include the £1,200 repayment of the loan to the circuit, which is not included in Expenditure in the formal accounts. With that included the deficit would be £7,860).

Fund Raising

The Christmas Festival in November 2021 was a great success, and raised just over five and a half thousand pounds. Nearly £640 was also raised on the door for Christians Against Poverty.

RESERVES POLICY

1. BACKGROUND

The Birstall Methodist Church requires financial reserves to (i) fulfil its commitment to outreach work, (ii) to fund its regular operating costs and (iii) for repairs and maintenance of the building.

2. OUR RESERVES

Ideally, we aim to hold in reserve sufficient money in our general funds to cover six month's expenditure i.e. £37,000, which is made up of expenditure categories as follows:

- Circuit Assessment
- Staff Wages
- Premises Expenditure
- Heat and Light

In general terms we very rarely achieve this ideal because regular income through Sunday collections, Standing Orders and Letting over a six month period are not sufficient to cover this expenditure, and Lettings income has been much reduced under lockdown restrictions. The Church relies increasingly upon donations from Church Groups and other sources and Fund Raising events to supplement its regular income.

At the end of August 2022 £29,878 was held in the church's reserves, and nearly £12,500 in our current accounts. Combined this was just over £42,200, while our outstanding loan to the Circuit was £43,000. Effectively this meant the church had no reserves, and this was taken into account when our annual Circuit Assessment amount was calculated.

3. MONITORING AND REVIEW

This Reserves Policy is monitored by the Church Treasurer who will submit a report to the Church Finance & Property Committee at its spring meeting. The Finance & Property Committee will review the Reserves Policy and recommend the changes necessary to the Church Council.

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Table 1		
		2021-2022
Income	Opening Balance	50,253.92
	Sunday Collections	8402.79
	Standing Orders	22703.22
	Gift Aid	6251.73
	Special Services	N/A
	Donations From Church Groups	8310.14
	Other Donations and appeals	1816.62
	Fundraising	6586.54
	Lettings	12520.50
	SNPG rent	0.00
	Furlough payments from HMRC	511.48
	Interest.	104.06
	Total Income	67,207.08
Expenditure		
	Circuit Assessment	38,216.62
	Staff Wages	9,105.75
	Heating Water Light	5,936.58
	Premises Expenses	433.23
	Telephone/internet	575.05
	Photocopy/Printing	228.35
	Computer Equipment	0.00
	Repairs	4,418.45
	fundraising costs	0.00
	Licenses	777.66
	insurance	2,347.14
	Donations	6,239.76
	Corrections	100.00
	ADS Accountants	408.00
	Walk in the Light	3,745.00
	Miscellaneous	1,420.26
	Payment of loan	1200.00
	Total Expenditure	75,151.85
	Surplus/Defecit	-7,944.77
	Closing Balance	42,309.15
	Bank Accounts	
	Barclays	9,859.69
	NatWest	2,613.14
	Central Finance Board	29,787.56
	TMCP	
	Unreconciled Chq's	48.76
	Total	42,309.15
	Balance Y/N	

	Funds	
	General	42,260.39
	Total	
Within these funds Walk of Light Balance of:		18,425.36
Loan from Trinity Church		-43,000.00

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. It includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts with the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the assurance that would be given in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed in the accounts) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements of the Charities Act 2006 have not been met; or

(1) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding to be reached.

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2006;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the Charities Act 2006 have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply appropriate*

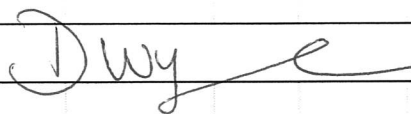
(3) I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for the charity ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the charity which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

** Please circle as appropriate*

Name

Denise Wynne

Signature



Relevant Professional qualification or body

Address

46 Highfield Road, Groby, Leicester, LE6 0GU

Date

16/1/23

BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1128974

Accounts



BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH

LEICESTERSHIRE

(Registered Charity No: 1128974)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21



BIRSTALL METHODIST CHURCH
LEICESTERSHIRE
(Registered Charity No: 1128974)

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

MINISTER:

Rev Paula Hunt

TRUSTEES AS AT 1st SEPTEMBER 2020

Rev Paula Hunt (Chair)

Mrs Wendy Allan	Mrs Ann Boettcher	Mrs Dorothy Bond
Mrs Janet Bradford	Mr Chris Brice	Mrs Jane Brice
Mrs Jane Corbett	Mrs Mary Downs	Mr Colin Flude
Mrs Shirley Harrison	Mr Charles Hilton	Mr John Kilby
Mrs Alison King	Mrs Marion Liquorish	Mr Tony Moore
Mrs Joan Pearson	Mrs Joan Rumball	Mrs Sylvia Taylor
Mrs Christine Tilford	Mr Richard Tinley	Mr John Towson
Mr Andrew Webster	Mrs Susan Wheeler	Mrs Margaret Young

LOCATION

Birstall lies about 5 miles north of Leicester City centre and is one of six churches which make up the Leicester North Circuit of the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

MISSION

The church continues to be guided by the mission statement formulated by the Leicester North Circuit – *'Deepening Discipleship – Making More Disciples'*.

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Membership

We are an open and inclusive organisation which values everyone who chooses to join us. Membership is open to all who wish to serve Jesus Christ and current membership stands at 111 with many friends who choose to worship with us.

Weekly Worship

Throughout lockdown, the church has held an online service every Sunday morning via Zoom. We have recently been able to welcome people back into the church, wearing masks and seated at an appropriate distance from each other, but have continued to share these services online. Services of Holy Communion were initially suspended, but have also resumed. There is an online Circuit Service every Sunday evening, also on Zoom.

Baptismal Roll

We have two children on the cradle roll, both from the same family This is due to the fact that all the other children previously on the roll have reached their third birthday. Birthday cards and Christmas cards continue to be sent. On the child's third birthday the Baptismal Secretary includes a leaflet for the Sunday Breakfast Club.

Sunday Breakfast Club

We are now back to meeting most Sundays. Attendance varies from week to week. Some weeks there are no children, but other weeks more than expected.

The Sunday Club have contributed to a number of services at church since the last report.

We are still using the WhatsApp group, as this seems to be a practical way to keep in touch with each other through the week.

School-based work

The Circuit employs a Schools and Community Worker, who is based in Birstall and Rothley. His responsibility in Birstall is to work with young people and local schools. He has engagement with the three schools in Birstall under the administration of the Lionheart Academy Trust (3 primary schools and a secondary school). He has also helped with Religious Study lessons. He has contributed to assemblies and has led workshops in the Primary Schools. He is also involved in working with the local Parish Church to deliver this work including: recording workshops and Easter Experience. Volunteers in this aspect of the work have assisted the worker.

Boys' Brigade

The Boy's Brigade was also closed in March 2020 due to the national lockdown. It successfully re-started in July 2021 once the go ahead was given by the UK government, Boys Brigade and the church. We have continued on a regular basis strictly following best practice and all guidelines sent to us to follow. We have always tried to do activities that promote social distancing . We hope to continue keeping a close eye on preventing any unnecessary risk to any leader or member. The Boy's Brigade currently meets on Fridays between 7 and 8:30pm.

Birstall Methodist Monday Women's Group

The committee have worked hard to make members feel safe & supported during these difficult times. Taking on letter writing, phone calls, cake & chocolate deliveries etc while we cannot meet. We hope to be back together as soon as it is possible to do so safely and look forward, feeling positive, to many future evenings of fun, friendship & fellowship together.

Thursday Group

When Thursday Group had to close, along with everything else, in March 2020, we never realised it would be for so long. As time went on, with repeated lockdowns, it became obvious that we were not going to be able to get together again for some time, especially as all our members are in the retired age group. Groups of us have been able to keep in touch with each other by phone, and help each other by swapping books and jigsaws. A newsletter was delivered to all members by hand in August 2020, and since then a couple of messages have been submitted to the Birstall Post, keeping each other in mind.

We are very hopeful that when restrictions are lifted we are able to resume our meetings in September/October 2021, bearing in mind that we don't meet in July and August, and with Covid conditions still uncertain.

Community Bible Study

This is a significant group within the Church. It not only attracts members of the Methodist Church but its membership includes Christians from other Churches within Birstall and beyond. Under the current restrictions physical meetings have had to stop and we have moved online.

The Pastoral Committee

Wherever possible our pastoral visitors have been keeping in touch by phone, email and spaced doorstep visits during Covid restrictions over the past year. Pastoral visitors are a unique and essential part of the Methodist Church. They try and support the minister in keeping in touch with the church membership, particularly the elderly and infirm.

WORLD SERVICE, MISSION AND NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Lunch Club

Like so many other organisations the pandemic has forced the Lunch Club to close its doors. We have however remained in regular contact with all of our members both by telephone & also by delivering a monthly newsletter. It is intended that the Lunch Club will open again in October 2021.

Weekday Coffee Shop

The weekday Coffee Shop was well supported but has had to close due to the pandemic. It is hoped that it will re-start when conditions allow.

Saturday Coffee Shop

The Saturday Coffee Shop was available for local groups and charities to hire to raise funds for their own group or charity, but also had to close due to the pandemic. The Coffee Shop began trading again in August 2021.

World Church

The total amount raised for World Church in the year 2020-21 was £375.60. Thank you for the ever more vital support for our brothers and sisters in the world through your generous giving to the World Mission Fund.

World Day of Prayer

Our Ecumenical Committee met to make arrangements for World Day of Prayer service that was held on 5th March 2021 and was hosted by St. Teresa's Church. The service is prepared by a different country each year and this year it was Vanuatu. This was on Zoom due to the pandemic.

Special Needs Playgroup

The group had to close due to the pandemic restrictions but re-opened in Spring 2021. One of the three paid workers decided to leave during lockdown. The decision was made not to replace her and keep the number of children low due to covid 19. Currently the group has two paid workers and only eight children. Going forward this is likely to change.

Action for Children

Action for Children is an organisation related to the Methodist Church. The organisation was born in the Methodist Church. Their work is split into three main areas. 1) Best start in life. We know how important the early years are and they are there to help. From parenting advice to education and early intervention, they focus improving children's life chances. 2) Good mental health. Everyone has ups and downs in life. Mental and emotional well-being experts work with families and schools to make sure children and parents feel able to cope with challenges when they arise. 3) A safe and loving home. They make sure more children feel part of a family that cares for them. They find

homes for those without, protect children who have been abused and neglected, and help ensure young carers don't miss out on a childhood themselves.

Fundraising by the Leicester Support Group for the period 1/9/20 to 31/8/21 was very low key due to the pandemic; the Little BIG Band was unable to organise any entertainments for this period of time. This had a devastating effect on our fundraising for Action for Children. Due to the generosity of a number of individual supporters we received donations to the value of £115. However, during this period we were able to send the donations received through the Home Collecting Boxes for the whole of 2020 which amounted to £729. We would like to thank supporters in Birstall Methodist Church and Birstall Village for their ongoing donations during this difficult time.

FINANCE

The closure of the church building from March 2020 meant a major change to the church's income and expenditure. Church staff were furloughed (although that ended in August 2021), collection receipts fell sharply and letting income stopped. Lettings began again (at a much reduced level) in June 2021. We have had a reduction in some costs, such as heating and lighting, but the overall effect has obviously been negative.

From the Annual Accounts, Income and Expenditure as a percentage of totals is as follows:

The break-down of income is:	2019-20	2020-21
Personal Giving	36%	42%
Fund Raising Events	11%	22%
Donations from Church Groups	19%	4%
Other Donations	4%	0%
Lettings	20%	5%
Gift Aid	9%	12%
Other	0%	0%

The breakdown of expenditure is:	2019-20	2020-21
Circuit Share	52%	59%
Caretaking & Security Staff	12%	13%
Premises Expenditure (inc. repairs)	14%	10%
Donations	2%	4%
Heat and Light	9%	4%
Insurances	1%	3%
Other	7%	6%
'Walk in the Light'	4%	0%

The church effectively broke even in 2019/20 with a deficit of a few hundred pounds, while the accounts for 2020/21 saw a deficit of just over £2,000.

Fund Raising

Pre-Covid, fund raising from special events was an essential part of the church's income. A substantial amount, making up the total raised through special events, came from our annual Christmas Festival. Although this could not happen in 2020 it is expected to take place in November 2021. A major fundraising drive took place during Lent 2021 with the challenge of raising up to £2,000 which would be matched by a generous anonymous doner. The drive was well supported and very successful with generous donations from many church members, as well as sales of jam, bird boxes, cakes, books, marmalade and fairy doors. In total over £4,000 was raised, with the match funding taking it to over £6,000.

RESERVES POLICY

1. BACKGROUND

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At the end of August 2021 £28,400 was held in the church's reserves.

3. MONITORING AND REVIEW

This Reserves Policy is monitored by the Church Treasurer who will submit a report to the Church Finance & Property Committee at its spring meeting. The Finance & Property Committee will review the Reserves Policy and recommend the changes necessary to the Church Council.

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Table 1

2019-20			2020-21		
55299.9	Income	Opening Balance	53,832.94		
10614.6		Sunday Collections	8,705.01		
15069.2		Standing Orders	16,361.33		
6597.13		Gift Aid	7,198.95		
N/A		Special Services	N/A		
2930.2		Donations From Church Groups	2,300.00		
13273.7		Other Donations and appeals	2,050.38		
7843.88		Fundraising	13,135.80		
13934.20		Lettings	3,072.50		
N/A		Furlough payments from HMRC	6,720.31		
284.62		Interest.	58.62		
		development fund			
70547.5		Total Income	59,602.90		113435.84
	Expenditure				
37686		Circuit Assessment	37,467.30		
8464.01		Staff Wages	8,112.40		
6750.03		Heating Water Light	2,727.62		
		Premises Expenses	418.05		
838.14		Telephone/internet	662.24		
1527.27		Photocopy/Printing	1,215.09		
		Computer Equipment	0.00		
6160.62		Repairs	4,166.78		
		fundraising costs			
1315.86		Licenses	0.00		
661.4		insurance	2,114.74		
1131.15		Donations	2,294.77		
-691.83		Corrections	0.06		
120.00		ADS Accountants	618.00		
2775		Walk in the Light	0.00		
4076.78		Miscellaneous	2,184.87		
1200		Payment of loan	1,200.00		
		dev fund			
72014.4		Total Expenditure	63,181.92		50253.92
-1466.93		Surplus/Defecit	-3,579.02		
53832.9		Closing Balance	50,253.92		
		Bank Accounts			
6981.6		Barclays	15,659.99		
642.48		NatWest	6,193.81		
46208.9		Central Finance Board	28,400.12		
N/A		TMCP			
		Unreconciled Chq's	403		
53832.9		Total	50,656.92		
Yes		Balance Y/N			
		Funds			
53832.9		General	50,254		
53832.9		Total	50,254		
24945.4	Within these funds Walk of Light Balance of:		22,170		
-45400	Loan from Trinity Church	All Reserves put into General Fund in May 2019	-44,200		

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*):

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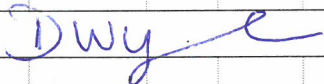
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(3) I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB"), which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

* Please circle as appropriate

Name	Denise Wynne
Signature	
Relevant Professional qualification or body	
Address	46 Highfield Road, Groby, Leicester, LE6 0GU
Date	5/5/22