

CHRISTCHURCH METHODIST CHURCH

Trustees Report and Financial Report



1st September 2022 – 31st August 2023.

Charity Number 1129001

Aims and Purposes

Christchurch Methodist Church Council (CMCC) has the responsibility of working with the Loughborough Circuit Ministry Team; the Reverends Andrew Lomax, Martin Swan, Sandra Marshall and Calvin Chung to promote the whole mission of the Church and manage the pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical work of the Church.

Rev. Martin Swan has a part time appointment to work with Christchurch specifically for all pastoral and ecumenical work at the church.

CMCC is specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church buildings known as Christchurch Methodist Church,
Field Street, Shepshed, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE12 9AL.

Objectives and Activities

The Church Council is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church, and to become part of our church community. The CMCC maintains an overview of worship in the church and ensures that this worship is relevant to all sections of our community.

When planning our activities for the year the Minister and the CMCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our church community through:

- Worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in Shepshed, who are members of our community
- Missionary and outreach work.

To ensure all of this can happen we need to maintain the fabric of the Church buildings.

Achievements – Serving our community

Based in the heart of the town the CMCC work to ensuring that our buildings are available to all community groups, and we reach out to provide a welcoming space for the community to gather.

On a Wednesday a community outreach project called Chat and Chomp is provided to offer a warm space, coffee, and a free meal to the community. During the colder months this group helps people to stay warm and fed.

On Friday mornings, Church members provide an open coffee morning at which residents of the town can pop in for a chat, a cup of coffee and a piece of home-made cake. These coffee mornings help to keep people in touch and offer a chance for meeting friends from the town.

In addition the following community groups use the premises:

- 6th Shepshed Guides
- Shepshed Brownies
- Christchurch Gilbert and Sullivan Group
- Knit and Natter
- ACT 1 Youth Theatre Group
- Chera Voce
- Slimming World
- Shepshed Dance classes
- Serenade
- Senior Choir
- Shepshed Craft Group
- Christchurch Writers Group
- Shepshed Seniors Club

Church members can also use the premises for celebrations with family and friends, for Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries, and personal celebrations.

Pastoral Care

Many of our Church members are no longer actively able to attend church due to ill health or advancing years. We maintain a weekly electronic service sheet to keep members in touch with the church community and avoid them feeling isolated and lonely and this has been a help to members who have moved away or moved into supported accommodation. Our members have felt that it was helpful for people to keep in touch with friends within the church.

In addition, church members in need of visiting, in either times of distress or loss are visited by the Minister as required. Our minister Rev. Martin Swan also has a pastoral role now in the town and is active in engaging with our community on pastoral matters.

Pastoral lay visitors visit those in need and a prayer chain is in place to support those within the Church family to pray for those in need. Even when members are isolated, the prayer chain helps them to remain in touch and care for the pastoral needs of others.

The Church also regularly collects food to support the food bank in the town and members volunteer there.

Worship

Worship normally takes place on a Sunday morning at 10.45 am and a Sunday evening at 6 pm takes place once a month. Ministers preach along with Lay Preachers, and Local Arrangement services occur once a month led by the Stewards.

Christchurch is a member of Churches Together in Shepshed (CTIS) and works with the other churches and denominations within the town on various ecumenical projects including Learning in Lent, the Easter Walk of Witness and the Remembrance Parade and Service. Together we support the Passion youth drop-in Centre, which engages young people in the town and provides a safe place, keeping young people off the streets.

Members from Christchurch regularly attend circuit services where Methodists from around the circuit can gather and worship together, these are hosted by different churches within the circuit.

Members who are not able to attend church are able to follow worship online with the Circuit every Sunday.

A building fit for the Community

A quinquennial inspection of the property has taken place and recommendations for repairs and work to be carried out over the next 5 years has been received. The trustees have undertaken some key work identified and are working through the list for other items.

In general, the property was found to be in an excellent condition, with no major work required. Large works are now challenging to the church community as more of our members age, it is harder to undertake large jobs without paying for work to be undertaken and this will need to be addressed in the future.

Financial Review and Reserves

For the period covered by this report the income on our unrestricted fund was £47900 and on the restricted fund was £2000. During this period, we paid £35200 to the Loughborough Circuit as our proportion of the circuit share for ministerial costs, and other church expenditure amounted to £12600. This expenditure includes donations to other charities or organisations of £1800.

Full details are given in the financial statements that were approved and signed by Church council in February 2024.

N.B. All accounts figures rounded to the nearest £100 in this report.

These figures show that income has recovered somewhat from the pandemic, but income is not as robust as previously, and with an aging congregation there is an identified risk to our future income.

The Church Council is aware of a risk to our income from loss of regular contributors and income from church donors has steadily reduced as church members have passed away.

Christchurch has always endeavored to hold a reasonable level of reserves, ideally at £25,000 although this has not often been possible. However, the legacies and the levels of reserves held at present mean that the trustees have confidence that whilst we may have a negative budget in 23-24 we will have sufficient reserves to cover this.

However, the long-term future of the church will rely on either additional income being generated, or expenditure being reduced.

The potential for income being generated from additional lettings, is not high given that the Church is let every evening of the week. The only potential lettings would be during the daytime which is far less popular.

The Church has a fixed energy contract for Gas for a few years but the during the period of this report the Electric contract has expired and a new contract has been signed which is much more expensive leading to considerably higher electricity bills.

Administrative Information

Christchurch Methodist Church is in Shepshed, Leicestershire and is part of the Loughborough Methodist Circuit. This forms part of the Leicester and Northampton District.

Church Council members and trustees for the period of this report were:

Circuit Superintendent Minister	Rev Andrew Lomax
Circuit Minister	Rev Martin Swan
Senior Steward	Lynn Hobson
Steward	Lorraine Cutts
Steward	Jane Dobson
Steward	Steve Price
Steward	Gladys Watret
Steward	Rosemary Grimley
Steward	Victoria Merrill
Church Treasurer	Dawn Scott
Assistant Treasurer	Lynn Hobson
Church Secretary	Ian Scott
Safeguarding representative	Michelle Price
Elected from AGM	Katie Brooks-Duncan
	Cynthia Popley
	Alan Hobson
	Nicole Jordan
Circuit Steward	Les Longmire

The administrative address for the church is:

Field Street, Shepshed, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE12 9AL

The Church Council meets quarterly to discuss and approve church business and the trustees and members are elected yearly at the Church Annual General Meeting held in May or June. Authority may be delegated to subcommittees formed at the wish of the Church Council.

Report produced by Dawn Scott on behalf of Christchurch Methodist Church Council

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Christchurch Methodist

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

Loughborough	Circuit	Circuit no.	23/10
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1129001

If not a registered charity **Her Majesty's Revenue and
Customs Gift Aid number**

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

Minister:

Reverend Martin Swan

Church Stewards:

Mr Steve Price

Mrs Gladys Watret

Mrs Jane Dobson

Mrs Rosemary Grimley

Mrs Victoria Merrill

Mrs Lorraine Cutts

Treasurer:

Mrs Dawn Scott

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	30,219		30,219	30,768
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	1,643		1,643	97
a4	Lettings	11,354		11,354	8,059
a5	Other receipts	4,676	2,000	6,676	30,725
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	47,892	2,000	49,892 (a7)	69,651

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	35,182		35,182	35,642
b3	Donations	1,855		1,855	6,084
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	2,276		2,276	2,140
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	5,594		5,594	4,379
b6					
b7	Other payments	2,941		2,941	5,301
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	47,848		47,848 (b9)	53,546

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	43	2,000	2,043
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		44,528	2,834	47,362 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	44,571	4,834	49,405
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	44,571	4,834	49,405 (c8)
					47,362 (c6)

SECTION D					
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS					
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		£		£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year				120
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		1,581		105
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		1,581		225
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)			

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**SECTION E****Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page**

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS		Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1	Traidcraft					52	52
e2							
e3							
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					52 (e11)	52 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	49,892 (a7)	47,848 (b9)	2,043	(c7)	47,362 (c6)	49,405 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	49,892	47,848	2,043		47,414 (x)	49,457 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2023**

		OPENING BALANCES		CLOSING BALANCES	
f1	Cash in hand	100		100	
f2	Bank Current Account	1,473		2,155	
f3	Bank Deposit Account				
f4	Central Finance Board	45,788		47,150	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes				
f6	Other funds				
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	47,362 (c6)		49,405 (c8)	
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	52 (e11)		52 (e12)	
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	47,414 (x)		49,457 (y)	

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

		At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,320,000	1,320,000
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of Church: Christchurch Methodist Church

Charity No.: 1129001

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer JS COB Date... 15/2/24
Name and address of treasurer ... 21 FIELD AVENUE, SHEPHERD ...
... LOUGH BOROUGH ... Post Code... LE12 9SH

Presentation to the Church trustees

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting ... Re MR
Name of the Chair of the meeting ... MARTIN SWAN ... Date 15-2-24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Christchurch Methodist Church

Charity Number 1129001

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Christchurch Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 2 to 3. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church: Christchurch Methodist Church

Charity No.: 1129001

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 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 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

Andrew Thorpe

Name of independent examiner Andrew Thorpe

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACA

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A

Address 52 Priory Road, Loughborough, LE11 3PP

Date 26 November 2023