

CHRISTCHURCH METHODIST CHURCH

Trustees Report and Financial Report



1st September 2023 – 31st August 2024.

Charity Number 1129001

Aims and Purposes

Christchurch Methodist Church Council (CMCC) has the responsibility of working with the Loughborough Circuit Ministry Team; the Reverends Karen Beecham, 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 Tuesday morning a Singing Café provides an opportunity for vulnerable adults, including those with dementia, to sing and remember past experiences in a comfortable supportive environment.

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 Ladies Choir
- Senior Choir
- Shepshed Craft Group
- Christchurch Writers Group
- Shepshed Seniors Club

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 these are led by either the Ministers from within the circuit or Lay Preachers, and Local Arrangement services occur once a month led by the Stewards. On the third Sunday of the month a 'Something Different' service is held in the morning, with an evening service being held on that evening.

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.

Once a month Connected Worship takes place at Christchurch on a Saturday evening with preachers, worship leaders, and worshipers coming from different denominations within Shepshed.

A building fit for the Community

A quinquennial inspection of the property took place in 2021 and recommendations for repairs and work to be carried out over the next 5 years have been received. The trustees have undertaken some key work identified and are working through the list for other items.

In this financial period major work was undertaken on the flooring in the back rooms which had to be dug up down to the sub floor level, a new sub floor was installed and then new flooring installed. This was to make safe areas of the flooring which were rising and causing an uneven surface for walking on. This work cost just over £12000 to complete.

Financial Review and Reserves

For the period covered by this report the income on our unrestricted fund was £53300. During this period, we paid £34000 to the Loughborough Circuit as our proportion of the circuit share for ministerial costs, £15700 on building maintenance (including the £12000 for the floor) and other church expenditure amounted to £11900. This expenditure includes donations to other charities or organisations of £1200.

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

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

These figures show a small increase in giving from regular members but also show a 23% rise in costs for electricity and gas.

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 had 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 which will expire within the next 2 years, and our electricity prices are fixed for the next few years, so these costs can be predicted.

One issue facing us is the aging congregation are no longer able to maintain the level of cleaning of the premises that once took place, and therefore our cleaning contract costs will increase as this work needs to be paid for in the future.

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 Karen Beecham
Circuit Minister	Rev Martin Swan
Steward	Lorraine Cutts
Steward	Jane Dobson
Steward	Steve Price
Steward	Gladys Watret
Steward	Rosemary Grimley
Church Treasurer	Dawn Scott
Assistant Treasurer	Lorraine Cutts
Church Secretary	Ian Scott
Safeguarding representative	The Minister
Elected from AGM	Katie Brooks-Duncan
	Cynthia Popley
	Alan Hobson
	Lynn Hobson
Circuit Steward	Bryan Harrison

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 Shepshed

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
Saturday 31 August 2024

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

1129001

If not a registered charity **His 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:

Rev. Martin Swan

Church Stewards:

Mrs Lorraine Cutts

Mrs Jane Dobson

Mrs Rosemary Grimley

Mrs Victoria Merrill

Mr Steve Price

Mrs Gladys Watret

Treasurer:

Mrs Dawn Scott

Christchurch Methodist Church Shepshed

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	32,739		32,739	30,219
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	2,180		2,180	1,643
a4	Lettings	12,340		12,340	11,354
a5	Other receipts	6,037		6,037	6,676
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	53,297		53,297 (a7)	49,892

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	34,025		34,025	35,182
b3	Donations	1,200		1,200	1,855
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	15,734		15,734	2,276
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	6,903		6,903	5,594
b6					
b7	Other payments	3,743		3,743	2,941
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	61,606		61,606 (b9)	47,848

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(8,309)	(8,309)	2,044
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	44,571	4,834	49,405 (c6)	47,362
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	36,262	4,834	41,096
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	36,262	4,834	41,096 (c8)
					49,405 (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				
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			1,612	1,581
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			1,612	1,581
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 2024 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)	53,297 (a7)	61,606 (b9)	(8,309)	(c7)	49,405 (c6)	41,096 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	53,297	61,606	(8,309)		49,457 (x)	41,148 (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 2024**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	100	100
f2 Bank Current Account	2,155	3,191
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	47,150	37,805
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	49,405 (c6)	41,096 (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	49,457 (x)	41,148 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
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 Shepshed No.: 1129001

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 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 *D Scott* Date *17/10/24*

Name and address of treasurer 21 Field Avenue, Shepshed, Loughborough

..... Post Code..... LE12 9SH

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *Rev Martin Swan*

Name of the Chair of the meeting *Rev MARTIN SWAN* Date *17/10/2024*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Christchurch Methodist Church Shepshed

Charity Number 1129001

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Christchurch Methodist Church Shepshed for the year ended 31 August 2024 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 Shepshed 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

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, Leicestershire, LE11 3PP

Date