

HIGH STREET METHODIST CHURCH WITNEY

Charity number: 1129034

High Street Methodist Church
40 High Street
WITNEY
OX28 6HG

Annual Return: 1 September 2023 – 31 August 2024

Trustees

Rev Jason Cooke	Graham Beechey
Dr Fraser Campbell Logue	Linda Burbage
Rebekah Coleman	Valerie Donogue
Margaret Maycock	Janet Buckle
Jonathan Miller	Jane Heath
Rev Andrew Biggs	Ian Cotton
Helen Williamson	Anne Emily Crawford
Heather Davies	Keith Early Crawford

Structure

High Street Methodist Church Witney is a member of the Methodist Church UK Connexion. The charity is governed in accordance with the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church.

Activities

The last 12 months (1 September 2023 – 31 August 2024) have seen the church continue to be a busy hub at the very heart of our community, and we should be proud

HIGH STREET METHODIST CHURCH WITNEY

Charity number: 1129034

High Street Methodist Church
40 High Street
WITNEY
OX28 6HG

Annual Return: 1 September 2023 – 31 August 2024

Trustees

Rev Jason Cooke	Graham Beechey
Dr Fraser Campbell Logue	Linda Burbage
Rebekah Coleman	Valerie Donogue
Margaret Maycock	Janet Buckle
Jonathan Miller	Jane Heath
Rev Andrew Biggs	Ian Cotton
Helen Williamson	Anne Emily Crawford
Heather Davies	Keith Early Crawford

Structure

High Street Methodist Church Witney is a member of the Methodist Church UK Connexion. The charity is governed in accordance with the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church.

Activities

The last 12 months (1 September 2023 – 31 August 2024) have seen the church continue to be a busy hub at the very heart of our community, and we should be proud

of the reputation we have within the town for being a place that is active in making Witney be the best it can be.

Our worshipping community remains constant in our weekly attendance numbers. Our membership numbers have declined, but this is due to the removal of those who had not been active for a number of years or had moved away, so the reduction in numbers doesn't display any real term drop off. Our pastoral team continues to provide exceptional care for the church membership, and the church does an excellent job of ensuring that it is a community rooted in love and fellowship.

Church life continues to be busy and thriving. The church community meal now provides free meals each week to those who either need a good meal or some good company, and the church coffee bar offers free drinks and snacks to anyone who needs them, a provision gratefully accepted by so many in the community with hundreds visiting each week. The Alpha team continues to put on at least two Alpha courses each year, and this is a ministry growing in both numbers and power. In addition to this, we continue to have successful small group ministries, prayer teams, and around 1,000 children attend our church each year to explore Christianity as part of the Experience programme. The church also oversees an Ecumenical Town Centre Chaplaincy team that has almost 20 chaplains now recruited and ministering to the town. Another ministry of note is the Dorcas team, who continue to use 'craftivism' to bring hope to the community and to challenge injustice in the world. These are just some of the ministries that are active through High Street Methodist Church.

The church staff and stewards continue to do an exceptional job of ensuring the day-to-day church activities run well, and just as importantly, that the church building remains one of the busiest buildings in all of Witney. U3A members use the building almost daily, as well as music societies, the horticultural society, the Women's Institute, weight loss classes, dance classes, and many many more. Three groups that use our building that I wish to make particular note of are Witney Community Fridge and Larder (WFR), Christians Against Poverty (CAP), and Apollos Clothing. These are all housing in the Wesley Centre meaning that this centre has now fulfilled it's long term vision of being a centre for social justice. WFR provides around 30,000 food collections each year, CAP helps numerous people exit debt as well as running LifeSkills courses, and Apollos is a relatively new charity that offers free clothing to anyone who needs it.

The annual report is a welcome opportunity that enables us to take a step back and see the large scope of work that takes place in and through the church, and we can truly say that the community would not be the same without us.

God Bless,

Rev Jason Cooke

of the reputation we have within the town for being a place that is active in making Witney be the best it can be.

Our worshipping community remains constant in our weekly attendance numbers. Our membership numbers have declined, but this is due to the removal of those who had not been active for a number of years or had moved away, so the reduction in numbers doesn't display any real term drop off. Our pastoral team continues to provide exceptional care for the church membership, and the church does an excellent job of ensuring that it is a community rooted in love and fellowship.

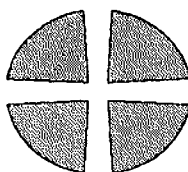
Church life continues to be busy and thriving. The church community meal now provides free meals each week to those who either need a good meal or some good company, and the church coffee bar offers free drinks and snacks to anyone who needs them, a provision gratefully accepted by so many in the community with hundreds visiting each week. The Alpha team continues to put on at least two Alpha courses each year, and this is a ministry growing in both numbers and power. In addition to this, we continue to have successful small group ministries, prayer teams, and around 1,000 children attend our church each year to explore Christianity as part of the Experience programme. The church also oversees an Ecumenical Town Centre Chaplaincy team that has almost 20 chaplains now recruited and ministering to the town. Another ministry of note is the Dorcas team, who continue to use 'craftivism' to bring hope to the community and to challenge injustice in the world. These are just some of the ministries that are active through High Street Methodist Church.

The church staff and stewards continue to do an exceptional job of ensuring the day-to-day church activities run well, and just as importantly, that the church building remains one of the busiest buildings in all of Witney. U3A members use the building almost daily, as well as music societies, the horticultural society, the Women's Institute, weight loss classes, dance classes, and many many more. Three groups that use our building that I wish to make particular note of are Witney Community Fridge and Larder (WFR), Christians Against Poverty (CAP), and Apollos Clothing. These are all housing in the Wesley Centre meaning that this centre has now fulfilled it's long term vision of being a centre for social justice. WFR provides around 30,000 food collections each year, CAP helps numerous people exit debt as well as running LifeSkills courses, and Apollos is a relatively new charity that offers free clothing to anyone who needs it.

The annual report is a welcome opportunity that enables us to take a step back and see the large scope of work that takes place in and through the church, and we can truly say that the community would not be the same without us.

God Bless,

Rev Jason Cooke



Church
Accruals Accounts
2023-2024

THE METHODIST CHURCH
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)

for the year ended 31 August 2024

High Street Methodist Church, Witney

Church

Registered Charity - Registration number (if applicable)

1129034

Witney & Faringdon

Circuit No

2303

Minister

Rev Jason Cooke

Church Stewards

Graham Beechey

Jane Heath

Janet Buckle

Helen Williamson

Linda Burbage

Fraser Logue

Richard Tweedy

Church Treasurer

Jonathan Miller

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024

Section A Statement of financial activities


Recommended categories by	Unrestricted £ F01	Restricted £ F02	Endowment £ F03	Total funds £ F04	Prior year £ F05
Incoming resources (Note 4)					
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	98,791	-	-	98,791	126,995
Other trading activities	108,392	-	-	108,392	105,014
Investments	1,639	-	-	1,639	1,772
Other	4,806	-	-	4,806	4,361
Total	213,627	-	-	213,627	238,142
Resources expended (Note 5)					
Expenditure on:					
Church Activities	158,892	1,145	-	160,037	157,064
Property	42,139	-	-	42,139	54,582
Other	14,267	1,081	-	15,348	15,468
	-	-	-	-	-
Total	215,297	2,226	-	217,523	227,114
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)	- 1,670	- 2,226	-	- 3,896	11,028
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	- 1,670	- 2,226	-	- 3,896	11,028
Extraordinary items	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	- 1,670	- 2,226	-	- 3,896	11,028
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	58,798	4,283	-	63,078	52,050
Total funds carried forward	57,128	2,057	-	59,185	63,078

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

Section B Balance sheet

	Guidance Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total this year	Total last year
		£ F01	£ F02	£ F03	£ F04	£ F05
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets (Note 8)	B02	16,811	-	-	16,811	22,415
Total fixed assets	B05	16,811	-	-	16,811	22,415
Current assets						
Debtors (Note 9)	B07	2,389	-	-	2,389	3,083
Cash at bank and in hand (Note 10)	B09	35,908	17,408	-	53,316	44,780
Total current assets	B10	38,297	17,408	-	55,705	47,863
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (Note 11)	B11	13,331	-	-	13,331	7,197
Net current assets/(liabilities)	B12	24,966	17,408	-	42,374	40,666
Total assets less current liabilities	B13	41,777	17,408	-	59,185	63,081
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year (Note 11)	B14	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities	B15	-	-	-	-	-
Total net assets or liabilities	B16	41,777	17,408	-	59,185	63,081
Funds of the Charity						
Endowment funds	B17	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted income funds	B18	-	2,057	-	2,057	4,283
Unrestricted funds	B19	57,128	-	-	57,128	58,798
Revaluation reserve	B20	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	B21	57,128	2,057	-	59,185	63,081

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all

Signature	Print Name	Date of
	Rev Jason Cooke	9-2-25
Jonathan Miller	Jonathan Miller	9 Feb 2025

Section C **Notes to the accounts****1. Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities applicable in the UK (effective from 1 January 2015) – the Charities SORP (FRSSE) – in replacement for the SORP's 2005 version specified in its related 2008 Regulations and in accordance with the 'true and fair override' provision contained therein."

2. Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the Church which are Unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose including those for internal organisations. There are also the following Endowment funds as listed. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 16 . Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3. Accounting policies**Basis**

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Church's financial position and activities.

Income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Church becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

Grants

Grants made by the Church from its own funds are recognised in full at the time of agreement or when the Church accepts that there is a legal or operational obligation to make the payment. When the grant is recurrent over more than one year the balance payable in future years is treated as a provision for future commitments in the Balance Sheet against the appropriate fund, the provision being released in future years as instalments are paid in accordance with the originally agreed terms.

VAT

Since the Church is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Church

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000.
The freehold property is shown at cost..

Investment Properties

Investment properties - no property is currently deemed to not be held for the long term purposes of the charity.

Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SOFA.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors include outstanding lettings invoices in August.

Creditors

Creditors include outstanding relating to utilities, telephones, etc in August.

Section C

Notes to the accounts

(cont)

Note 4

Analysis of income

	Analysis	funds	Income	funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
Donations and legacies:	Collections	76,768	-	-	76,768	76,671
	Gift Aid	14,033	-	-	14,033	14,452
	Donations	7,990	-	-	7,990	35,872
	Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
	Grant from Circuit	-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total	98,791	-	-	98,791	126,995
Other trading activities:	Lettings	102,490	-	-	102,490	98,671
	Coffee Bar	5,902	-	-	5,902	343
	Events Income	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	108,392	-	-	108,392	105,014
Income from investments:	Central Finance Board	1,615	-	-	1,615	1,772
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Other	24	-	-	24	-
	Total	1,639	-	-	1,639	1,772
Other:	Collections for external organisation	379	-	-	379	597
	Sundry Income	4,427	-	-	4,427	3,764
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	4,806	-	-	4,806	4,361
TOTAL INCOME		213,627	-	-	213,627	238,142

Section C Notes to the accounts (cont)
Note 5 Analysis of expenditure

	Analysis	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds £	Prior year £
Expenditure on church activities:	Circuit Assessment	88,539	-	-	88,539	88,118
	Salaries, NIC and Pension costs	58,788	-	-	58,788	59,310
	Grants and Donations	9,483	1,145	-	10,628	7,855
	Outreach/Mission*	2,082	-	-	2,082	1,780
			-	-	-	-
	Total expenditure on church activities	158,892	1,145	-	160,037	157,063
Expenditure on Property	Maintenance of church buildings	11,685	-	-	11,685	32,007
	Utilities (insurance, heat light etc)	24,850	-	-	24,850	22,575
	Depreciation	5,604	-	-	5,604	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total expenditure on property	42,139	-	-	42,139	54,582
Other	Sundry Expenditure	10,435	1,081	-	11,516	11,133
	Coffee Bar	3,831	-	-	3,831	4,335
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
	Total other expenditure	14,267	1,081	-	15,348	15,468
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		215,297	2,226	-	217,523	227,113

* Outreach was classed as Sundry Expenditure in previous accounts

Section C

Notes to the accounts

(cont)

Note 6 Details of certain items of expenditure**Independent examiner's fees****Assurance services other than audit or independent examination****Tax advisory fees****Other fees (for example: financial advice, consultancy, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner**

This year £	Last year £
420.00	420.00

Note 7 Paid employees**Salaries and wages****Social security costs****Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)****Other employee benefits****Total staff costs**

This year £	Last year £
56,153	56,453
2,333	2,513
303	344
-	-
58,789.00	59,310.00

for the charity whose contracts are with and are paid

--

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000

TRUE

11.2 Average head count in the year**The parts of the charity in which the employees work**

	This year Number	Last year Number
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	3	3
Total	3	3

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
------------------	------------------------------	---------------

Note 8 Tangible fixed assets

8.1 Cost or valuation

	Freehold land & buildings	Other land & buildings	Plant, machinery and motor vehicles	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
At the beginning of the year	-	-	-	26,538	26,538
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluations	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers *	-	-	-	-	-
At end of the year	-	-	-	26,538	26,538

8.2 Depreciation and impairments

**Basis	Straight Line	Straight Line	Straight Line	Straight Line	Straight Line
** Rate					

At beginning of the year	-	-	-	4,123	4,123
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	5,604	5,604
Impairment	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers*	-	-	-	-	-
At end of the year	-	-	-	9,727	9,727

8.3 Net book value

Net book value at the beginning of the year	-	-	-	22,415	22,415
Net book value at the end of the year	-	-	-	16,811	16,811

Section C**Notes to the accounts****(cont)****Note 9 Debtors and prepayments**

Trade debtors

Prepayments and accrued income

Other debtors

Total

This year	Last year
£	£
2,389	3,083
-	-
-	-
2,389	3,083

Note 10 Cash at Hand and in Bank

Held at Central Finance Board

Held at Bank

Held in Cash

Total

This year	Last year
£	£
29,441	28,973
23,855	15,194
20	613
53,316	44,780

Note 11 Creditors and accruals

Trade creditors

Accruals and deferred income

Other creditors

Total

Amounts falling due within		Amounts falling due after	
This year	Last year	This year	Last year
£	£	£	£
525	2,354	-	-
9,306	1,343	-	-
3,500	3,500	-	-
13,331	7,197	-	-

High Street Methodist Church, Witney

Number

1129034

Section C	Notes to the accounts	(cont)
------------------	------------------------------	---------------

Note 12 Transactions with trustees and related parties

12.1 Trustee remuneration and benefits

None of the trustees have been paid any remuneration or received any other benefits from an employment with their charity or a related entity (True or False)

TRUE

12.2 Trustees' expenses

No trustee expenses have been incurred (True or False)

TRUE

12.3 Transaction(s) with related parties

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period (True or False)

TRUE

Name of the trustee or related party	Relationship to charity	Description of the transaction(s)	Amount	Balance at period end	Provision for bad debts at period end	Amounts written off during reporting period
			£	£	£	£
Mission in Britain	Fund of	Donation	650			
Fund for Support of	Fund of	Donation	600			
Fund for Property	Fund of	Donation	900			
World Mission Fund	Fund of	Donation	850			

DECLARATIONS

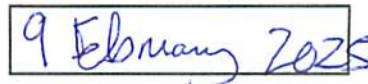
Treasurer

I confirm that these accrual based accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church Council / Members' Meeting / Leadership Group*.

Signature of Treasurer



Date



Name of Treasurer

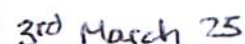
Jonathan Miller

Address

41 Wytham View, Eynsham, Witney, OX29 4LX


Presentation to the Church Council for approval.

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were presented to the Church Council at its meeting on



and were approved.

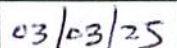
Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Jason Cooke

Date



Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

High Street Methodist Church Witney

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st August

2024

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Church's trustees are responsible for ensuring that the annual report and accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 present a true and fair view of the Church's income and expenditure for the year and of its assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date. The trustees consider that an audit is not necessary for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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, in nature or scale, or disclosures in the accounts, seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning 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. My 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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011.
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

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

(3) I have 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.

Name of independent examiner

ANTHONY HOLLIDAY

Signature of independent examiner

A Holliday

Relevant Professional qualification or body

REGULATED ACCOUNTANT

Name of firm (where appropriate)

SOLUTIONS IN ACCOUNTING LTD

Address

2 COMPTON WAY WITNEY OXON
OX28 3AB

Date

27/2/2025