

HIGH STREET METHODIST CHURCH MAIDENHEAD

England & Wales · Charity number 1129473

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-05-07

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

Contact

Address Methodist Church
King Street
Maidenhead
SL6 1EF

Phone 01628628104

Email office@methodistmaidenhead.org.uk

Website www.methodistmaidenhead.org.uk

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: See Annual Trustees Report

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Windsor And Maidenhead

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£182,458	£141,506	-	-
2023-08-31	£186,866	£140,441	-	-
2022-08-31	£174,246	£148,885	-	-
2021-08-31	£146,935	£139,592	-	-
2020-08-31	£166,253	£180,370	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANN PFEIFFER		
CLAIRE BOYCOTT		2012-08-30
ELIJAH KOMMU		2017-09-01
FELICITY ANN KENDON SRN		
Gill Harbut		2017-09-01
Glenice Irene White		2020-09-01
Ilse Statham		2019-09-01
JEAN LUCY BARNETT		
JOHN MARK STATHAM		2013-03-29
Judy Stimson		2018-09-01
Karen Ackling		2015-09-01
MARGARET MASKELL B ED		
MRS PAT CROWLE		2012-08-30
Matthew Edwards		2019-09-01
Peter White		2018-09-01
ROGER EDWARD NEAL		
Ruth Hill		2019-09-01
Ursula Maureen Over		2020-09-01

HIGH STREET METHODIST CHURCH MAIDENHEAD

England & Wales - Charity number 1129473

Accounts

High Street Maidenhead Methodist Church

Trustees Report for year ending 31 August 2024

Introduction

At the end of this Trustees' Report is an Appendix with a copy of the Annual Report submitted to the General Church Meeting in April 2024. This gives a good overview of what we have done and what has been achieved during the previous 12 months. (The church year runs from 1st September to 31st August.)

Ministerial and pastoral oversight has been provided by Rev. Dr Pete Phillips since 1st September 2022 until the present day.

Objectives

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union the advancement of:

- The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church
- Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church
- Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution or subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church
- Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

Church's Vision and Mission

- Seek to enable all to encounter God in ways which are Spirit-led and celebratory, through worship which is diverse and relevant to our local communities.
- To be a caring Christian community in the heart of Maidenhead

Through Learning and Caring

- To be aware of the nature and context of High Street Methodist Church.
- To explore the word of God, in study, prayer, and fellowship.
- To offer pastoral care to members and adherents.
- To support the presence and witness of the wider Christian Community within Maidenhead.
- To develop disciples by nurturing faith and recognising and developing gifts; to encourage new leaders.
- To value our place within the Methodist Connexion and the World Church.

Through Service

- To encourage team working.
- To be a prophetic and free church voice, and initiate action for social justice.
- To respond to needs locally and globally.
- To provide safe spaces for the community.
- To support both the Methodist and World Church through prayer and action.

- To work ecumenically whenever the opportunity arises and, when appropriate, with other faiths

Through Evangelism

- To offer love in the name of Jesus Christ.
- To confidently share and proclaim our faith in ways which are sensitive and respectful.

Brief financial review of the year

During the financial year ending 31st August 2024 the total income received was £182,429 and outgoings amounted to £141,506 leading to a surplus of £40,923. Total funds carried forward amount to £251,929 of which £70,479 are restricted funds set aside for specific projects or charitable work. Fuller details can be seen in the accompanying statement of accounts.

Structure, Governance and Management

High Street Maidenhead Methodist Church is part of the Thames Valley Circuit of the Methodist Church and is governed by the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act 1976 as amended March 2011. Overall control of the Circuit rests with the Methodist Conference. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of ministers in individual Circuits. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate Officers of the District for regional implementation. The District passes the control down to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent Minister, other ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards via the medium of the Circuit Meeting. The membership of the Circuit Meeting is laid down in the Constitutional Practices and Discipline of the Methodist Church. The Circuit Leadership Team comprises a Senior Circuit Steward, four other Circuit Stewards, the Circuit Treasurer, the Superintendent Minister and three other Ministers. Circuit meetings are held four times a year and are attended by the Circuit Leaders, Church Ministers, and representatives from the church congregations. High Street Methodist Church's congregation is governed by its Church Council which is chaired by the Minister in Pastoral Charge. The Church Council consists of Church Stewards and officers nominated and voted on by the entire Church membership at the Annual Church Meeting. Council Meetings are chaired by the Minister in Pastoral Charge, as delegated by the Superintendent Minister, with those attending becoming the Trustees of the church/charity. It is the Trustees who comprise the decision-making body and who will vote on proposals put before the meeting.

Volunteers

High Street Methodist Church, Maidenhead is grateful to the Church Stewards and other members of Church Council who freely volunteer their time to attend meetings and to carry out the administrative work required in order to run the church successfully.

Legal and Administrative Information

Full Name of Charity: Maidenhead High Street Methodist Church

Registration Charity Number: 1129473

Date of registration 4 January 2010

Main communication address: Methodist Church Office, King Street, Maidenhead SL6 1EF

Website: <http://www.methodistmaidenhead.org.uk>

Peter White acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the church during the year.

Independent Examiner of the accounts: Mr David Kinna, 18 Turpins Green, Maidenhead, SL6 4QE

Bankers: HSBC 35 High Street, Maidenhead SL6 1JQ; and, Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, 9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PE

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes: Central Buildings Oldham Street Manchester M1 1JQ

Local Trustees

The members of High Street Maidenhead Methodist Church Council Meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of church office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the church congregation.

Minister in Pastoral Charge: Rev Dr Pete Phillips

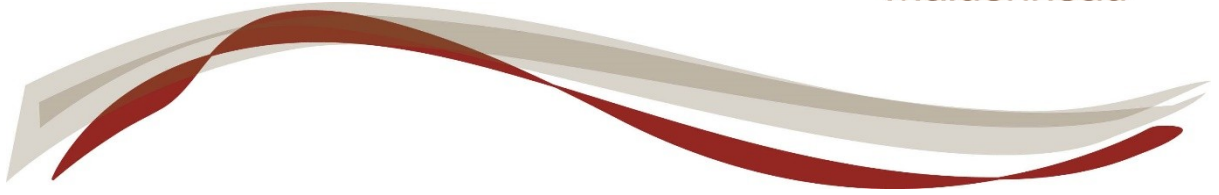
Church Stewards: Diana Phipps, Elijah Kommu, Ilse Statham, Margaret Maskell, Pat Crowle, Ruth Hill

Treasurer: Peter White

Other members of Church Council: Ann Pfeiffer, Charlotte Crichton, Claire Boycott, Felicity Kendon, Gill Harbut, Glenice White. Jean Barnett, Joy Brown, John Statham, Judy Stimson, Karen Ackling, Matthew Edwards, Maureen Over, Pauline Joseph, Roger Neal, Tim Rayers

Appendix 1

[Annual Report – April 2024.](#)



Annual Report

April 2024



“seeking to know Christ and to make him known”
Registered Charity No. 1129473

Minister's Report



I wrote my last annual report before I was signed off for a month or so with some health problems. Sadly, those health problems continue to be largely unresolved – a problem for many of us. But as I look back over a busy year, I am so glad that much of the progress we were making around a return to church life post COVID was sustained during the rest of 2023 and the beginning of 2024. We feel as though we have settled into the new routine of worship. Breakfast Church continues to thrive thanks to the help of so many people in making it work. Early morning communion on the 2nd Sunday of the month is the smallest of our services, normally, but a special time for reflection and praise. Our praise services have gone well with a growing openness to the presence of the Spirit and last month we were joined by others from around the circuit when it became a Circuit Service.

Worship

The 10.30 services remain as our core acts of worship each week and the new Worship Planning Group has begun to do some careful work about looking at who is preaching, what musical support is needed and how we can offer a varied diet of worship across each month. It's good to see more and more new people coming into worship at the moment and to see how warmly they are welcomed by the congregation as a whole. High Street is a lovely family church. When we shared the peace on Easter Sunday there was such a feeling of love and acceptance of all who were there – with a care and professionalism from the musicians and singers to offer a sacrifice of praise and worship to God. But we've had lots of other highlights and are blessed with a variety of musical skills and traditions. Thank you to all our musicians, organists, singers!

One of the authors I've been reading for my work at Spurgeon's argues that worship is God's dating agency! It's when we gather for worship that he meets with us. He engages with our hearts. He opens up new insights, new moments of revelation, new awareness of his presence. My passion for worship in so many forms is to give a wide range of opportunities to everyone who comes to High Street to meet with God. In the end that is the most important encounter anyone can have.

Sadly, we've said goodbye to too many people as well. We continue to grieve for those who have died and continue to support their loved ones and their families. It's been good to see many of them honoured by full congregations at the Thanksgiving Service. But it's also so good to see those who have been bereaved cared for and loved by the local church. We

continue to explore ways in which we can develop this further through continued pastoral visiting, a bereavement group, and through our annual services of remembrance.

We're also keen to enthusiastically welcome new people and to grow as a family together. Sometimes, we need to put some more effort into this and so we'll be looking at some new church meals – perhaps once every other month – where we can come together to get to know one another beyond the church services – more shared lunches, more opportunities to get to know one another. Indeed, it's been good to see the walks begin again on the second Sunday – somewhat challenged by the constant rain of a very wet Spring – and all the other informal get-togethers that happen around the various grouping so many people are involved in already. But we're also planning more, official, social events as well where we can come together to enjoy one another's company and be one family together. Watch out for the opportunities to join in the fun and get to know more people.

Over Lent, we've added to the Bible studies normally run online by Jean and Ilse. During the last two Lents, we've run a Bible Study at the manse on the Thursday evening which has also been open to people to attend by Zoom. These have been important for us to share together in fellowship and to learn more about our faith. We're currently looking at two ways to pick up on this. Firstly, **a monthly prayer meeting at the Church on the first Thursday of the month**. We're starting the first one, led by me, on **Thursday 2 May at 7pm**. We'll have opportunity to pray for different aspects of our faith – our witness in Maidenhead, our global impact, our individual walk with God, and for those in need. We're proposing that on the other Thursdays of the month, we offer a Bible Study at the manse and online for anyone who wants to attend from either High Street or St Marks (perhaps even wider afield?). We're going to use a different resource to support this work but a fair amount will be sharing around God's word together.

But are there other things – are there forms of worship like Taize, Healing Services, and Global traditions of worship which we aren't catering for. If so, then talk to me about them and let's see how we can deepen our own experience of worshipping God in new ways.

Mission and Evangelism

One of the highlights of the year has been the increased focus on mission and evangelism through the practical work which we do through Friday Lunch Club, the Friendship Group, Art Group and Choir, supporting uniformed organisations, hosting the various groups who meet at the church and so on. But that kicked into new life on asking a few people to follow through to form the Mission and Evangelism Group. They held some fantastically popular meetings at the beginning of this year offering some social opportunities for people to come into the church buildings. Mission and Evangelism is of course our core task as a church – to

share the Good News with all people. Wesley called Methodists to share social holiness – a shared vision for our community and we are actively engaging with the Borough and with other churches to look at how we might be more actively engaged in a mission and engagement within our part of Maidenhead. But it also means a social engagement with those who come in. We need to learn new ways of creating pathways into worship – into encounters with God and allowing people to know that we don't just run a social club at High Street – we run a place where we believe people can encounter the living God.

Finally, this GCM will be Di's last as Senior Steward. Di's term as Senior Steward has been one of the most difficult that anyone could have had. Ministers leaving, gaps before new ones came, COVID and the church building being forcibly closed and then the appointment of new part-timer who supported Man Utd. We need to find a proper time to celebrate Di's time as Senior Steward – perhaps at our first monthly church lunch. But just to say that she had led the church with passion, with determination and with zeal. Often she has borne the brunt of criticism and been the first port of call for those who like to comment on the church not being run the way that they like it to be run. She has had to have the patience of Job, the forbearance of Mary, the determination of Moses! Thank you, Di, for your care of High Street during your term as Senior Steward. We look forward to the farewell do!

Revd Dr Peter Phillips

Methodist Minister, Thames Valley Circuit

Tutor and Director for the Centre for Digital Theology, Spurgeon's College

Senior Steward's Report

A year in the life of our church has passed quickly – I can't believe a year has gone since we had our last General Church meeting. Pete has been with us eighteen months now and how wonderful it is to have him and we do value him as our Minister, juggling being our presbyter 50% of his time, finding time to do pastoral visits which I know are so much appreciated by those of our congregation who are sick or are housebound, bringing new ideas to our ways of worship, with the remaining 50% teaching at Spurgeon's College in South London. Who says that men can't multi-task!



We continue to live stream our morning services through our YouTube Channel, and although most of our congregation have returned to church to worship, as there are some of our church family who are unable to get to church, we continue with the live streaming. Indeed, some other churches in the Circuit have benefitted from this because of the expertise of our Tech Team – don't ask me how they do it though. However, you could find out if you offer to join the Team.

Pastoral work is important part of our life at High Street. Our pastoral visitors' work continues quietly and efficiently in the background, very well supported by Pete who always find time to visit folks who are unwell or need some spiritual healing. Felicity stood down as our Pastoral Leader last May and Ruth Hill took over. However Felicity has now bounced back to take up some of her Pastoral Leader duties again with Ruth assisting with the admin work.

It has been a sad year so far as eight of our congregation have died over the past twelve months – Chris Maskell, Alan Kendon, Su Permane, Kathleen Hazleden, Tony Stock, Mary Dixon, Ruth Holmes and just recently David Birch. We continue to pray for their family and friends.

The debate over whether we re-introduced our monthly coffee mornings/bric-a-brac sales located on the front porch of our church continued but it was decided not to. We did restart our Friday Coffee morning instead in the Wesley Hall, which included a bric-a-brac stall, but it was poorly supported and we thought it unfair to ask our volunteers to turn up with their scones and cakes with hardly anyone to offer them to.

Our Breakfast Church on the first Sunday of each month at 9am is an amazing outreach to not just our church but to the community out there in Maidenhead. The numbers attending have continued to increase. So our church offers different kinds of worship on Sundays - as well as Breakfast Church we offer more traditional services led by the Church Choir after Breakfast Church on the first Sunday, there is also a 9am Communion Service and 10.30/45am Communion service each month as well as our 10.30am Morning Worship services, and a 6pm Praise Service at High Street on the third Sunday of the month which is led by the Praise Band.

Our regular church groups/meetings continue to meet on our premises: Friendship Hour, Art Group, Choir, Praise Band, monthly Friday Lunch Club. Two weekly Bible Study groups and a weekly prayer meeting continue via Zoom.

Warm Welcome Drop-in: Several discussions were held with representatives from the Council and Brett Foundation during the winter months about High Street opening up our Kingsway Chambers premises as a drop in centre as we did last year. Our offer of help wasn't taken up as alternative venues were found.

Daily Holy Week devotions were planned again this year. We had a Holy Communion and an Ashing Ceremony (with bacon butties) and a Maundy Thursday/Foot Washing Communion Service led by the Chairman of our District, Rev. Dr. David Hinchliffe. Pete led our Easter Sunday Service which was enjoyed by many and had a wonderful feeling of fellowship.

The uniformed organisations continue to meet on our premises - Guides, Brownies, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and now Squirrels!. Thanks to them for organising the Christmas Fair on our behalf. Also, thanks to the Guides who tidied up the garden outside the church office/walkway to the side entrance.

Our premises continue to be hired out to groups such as the Dementia Support Group, Zumba classes, and Re-charge which is the parent and child drop-in group. Our Wesley Hall and Bromley Room are now being booked regularly for parties and other meetings. We get quite a bit of income from hiring out our premises and a big 'thank you' should go to John Statham who has looked after this for us.

We managed to keep our energy costs at a reasonable level this year despite the increase in charges. This was done by carefully scheduling when the heating was put on and thank you for your understanding with this if, on occasions, you felt cold on our premises.

Our Property Stewards and even ex-Property Stewards (Dave Herbert and Rosemary Holland) have once again done a fantastic job in looking after our premises. As we no longer employ caretakers, who also used to be present on site, they do a huge amount of work, spend a lot of time in opening up the church, setting up rooms, cleaning etc.

We also do not employ an administrator, and again, this work is carried out by volunteers, mainly John Statham. We hope to be able to appoint an administrator soon.

I think most of you may already know, I am standing down as Senior Steward at our General Church Meeting. It is certainly with mixed feelings that I am standing down because despite some of the difficulties I encountered, most of the time I have actually enjoyed the job. It has enriched my Christian belief, and although High Street is known to be a challenging church in some respects, there is so much good work that is done here - I love our church and the people in it. It is also good to have changes and I know that Ruth Hill, who has agreed to take over subject to confirmation at our GCM, will do an excellent job, perhaps in a different way, as we sometimes get too set in the way we do things and a new set of eyes will benefit the church I am sure. It has been great to work with Pete, despite the fact that

he is a Manchester United supporter and I am an Arsenal one. He works too hard and we must look after him. I have had great support from so many people and I am always reluctant to name them in case someone is left out, so please take this as a 'thank you' to the various teams and individuals who have been on this journey of mine.

Finally, we should not forget our Mission:

- To be the Methodist Church in Maidenhead town centre responding to the gospel of God's love in Christ and living out our discipleship in worship and mission.
- To be seen as a community hub with our church buildings being a safe space for all ages and groups to meet.

Diana Phipps

The Art Group

The art group continues to be an oasis of calm on a Thursday morning despite everything that is happening in our lives. Our numbers have been slow to pick up following the covid lockdown, but we have been glad to welcome new members with Natasha and her mother Lori. A few of us exhibited successfully at the Cookham Art Exhibition at the beginning of March, and also at their major exhibition last August. We are planning to meet to sketch and paint outdoors at the Sculpture Garden in the grounds of the Odney Club in early May as part of the Cookham Festival.



It has been a very great help to us to have the tables left up in the Bromley Room , as by far the majority of our group are physically quite unable to put tables up or down.

Ruth Daniel

The Flower Committee

In recovering from Covid , our style of flowers in the Church has changed through necessity. You may have noticed that we now use fewer flowers and normally place just one Arrangement under the Cross. We place extra decorations at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.



Flower Donors. We value those who give flowers. Each year we "lose" some - and would appreciate offers from some fresh Donors. When we have no Donor, the cost is funded from our Flower Funds which are fast diminishing as we have lost our ability to raise funds via Coffee Mornings etc. The gift is once more acknowledged in the weekly Church Notices.

Flower Arrangers. Again, as above, we are a small Group and 9 stalwarts who take turns to do this. However we still enjoy “arranging”. and welcome any others who would like to join and decorate the Church with us.

Flowers are usually distributed after Morning Service to cheer, thank or console.

Elizabeth Barker

Communion Services

The table below shows the numbers of people receiving communion at services held during the year from 1 March 2023 to 29 February 2024. For comparison, figures are also shown for the previous year and the last pre-covid year. It should be noted that all figures include the minister and at least one steward. The columns headed ‘10.30am’ include figures for services held at 10.45am.

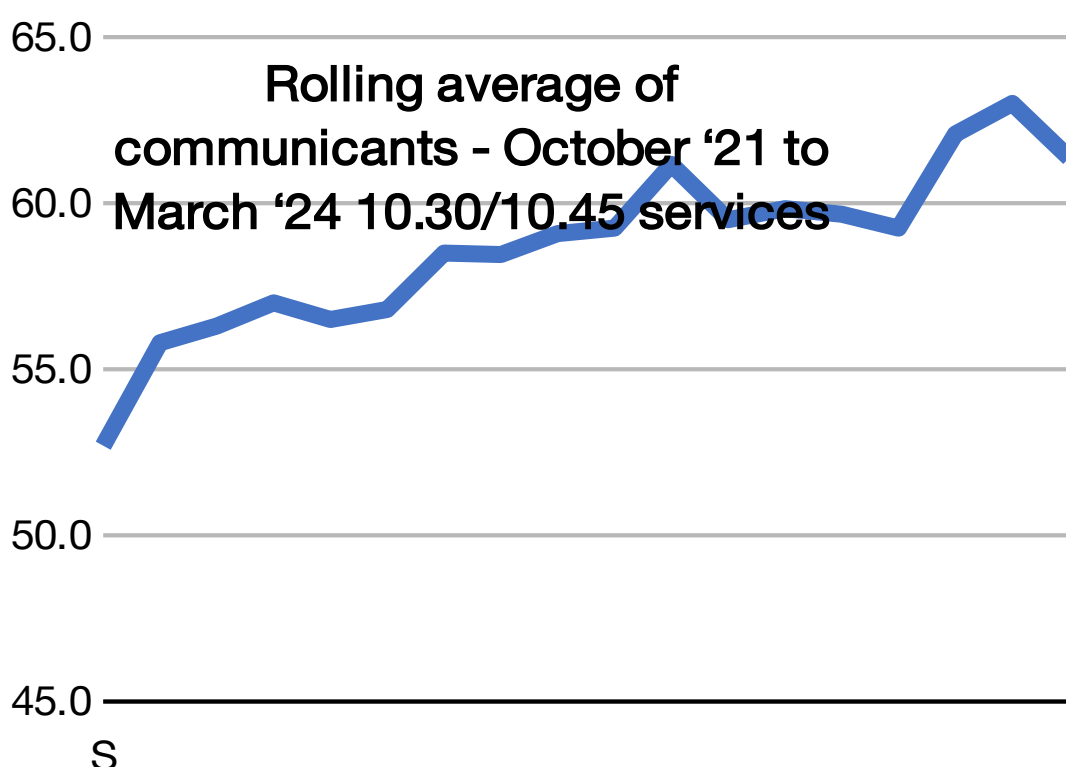
	2023-24		2022-23		2019-20	
Attendance	9.00am	10.30am	9.00am	10.30am	9.00am	10.30am
Services	10	11	3	11	8	12
Average	11	64	11	57	9	85
Maximum	22	89	14	67	16	115
Minimum	6	43	7	45	6	63

In addition, a service was held at 9.00am on Ash Wednesday 2024 with 11 communicants (19 in 2023). There was also one 6.00pm service held in the year with 24 people receiving communion. The last previous Sunday evening communion services were held in 2012-13 (3 services, average number of communicants 17, maximum 20, minimum 13)

The signs of a gradual post-pandemic recovery noted in last year's report, have been continued in 2023-24. However, there is some way to go before the pre-pandemic low of 77 (2013) is reached.

The graph below clearly illustrates this gradual rising trend in those receiving communion at the main Sunday morning services.

Friendship Hour



It is pleasing to report that the Friendship Hour meeting continues to flourish, and a number of new members have joined this year. On average, 25 members gather each month. We have enjoyed a varied programme of talks by outside speakers, craft activities, a time of worship and birthday greeting, all of which culminates every August in our Summer Tea Party. On this occasion, other churches in the Circuit are invited to join us.

We are saddened to report that our Treasurer for the past nine years, David Birch, passed away recently. We give thanks for his excellent and careful work and we shall miss his kind guidance very much. We offer our sincerest condolences to our member, Peggy Birch.

Kathleen McGuinness

Friday Lunch Club

High Street Methodist Church Lunch Club has met 11 times since the last Church AGM with an average attendance of 30. It re-opened on 14/10/22 after lock down and since then we have welcomed 24 new diners having a total list of 47. Diners are contacted by phone



before each meal.

Our thanks go to the cooks - Di, Jan. Hillary, Dorothy, Fel and the regular helpers Colin. Dave, Carol, Karen.

Kath England

Choir Report

The choir continues to practise every Friday from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Our main role is to lead the singing in the Sunday Morning Worship Services and, although small in number, we are keen to continue the tradition of 4 part hymn singing. Sadly, three faithful members of our choir died during 2023 and we remember the valuable contribution they made to music at High Street.

Our Choir Committee meet quarterly and, using the Preaching Plan and the Church Calendar, decide on appropriate music for the next few months. We have an extensive music library which we can dip into, but we are always looking for new music especially for small choirs. This year we have introduced anthems of different styles and from a variety of composers.

We have usually sung an anthem on the first Sunday of the month and also at special services including Christmas, Easter and the In Loving Memory Service. We are very grateful to those who have joined us to swell our numbers for several anthems this year. In addition, we have contributed to two Circuit Services, singing with Thames Valley Voices and members of other churches within the Circuit. We sang two anthems at the Celebration Service for Lay Preachers and lead the singing at the Circuit Carol Service at St Mark's.



In October five choir members took part in the 95th Free Church Choirs Festival at St Albans Cathedral, which was a really uplifting experience. We have sung several of the anthems we sang at the Festival in church this year. The Musical Director, Peter Williams, also invited us to join his choir at Ickenham URC in singing Stainer's Crucifixion on Good Friday 2023. Four of us were able to take part in this moving performance.

Our thanks to Pippa for leading the choir, in her role as Intergenerational Music Director, from April to August 2023 and we are grateful that she is still happy to sing with us in the choir. Thank you also to our accompanists: Pat Crowle, Michael Greenhalgh and David Marks.

We are very keen to build up our numbers and if you would like to join us you would be most welcome. Please have a word with Diana or one of the choir members if you would like to know more about it.

Gill & Angela

Harbut

Pastoral Committee

The Pastoral Committee continues to meet twice a year. Currently we have 14 Pastoral Visitors and 117 members. Sadly we have had several funerals during this last year so we miss valuable members of our church family.

Susan Permane died this year and as a visitor we miss her conscientious caring for many people. Lois Roberts has also retired as a visitor and we thank her for many years of caring and visiting.



The church family value and are very grateful for the pastoral visiting that Rev Pete Phillips manages to fit into his busy schedule.

Thank you to all those who show care and concern to many, often unknown.

Felicity Kendon

Property Stewards and Site Development Annual Report 2023

Since this time last year, several smaller items have been carried out / repaired, but thankfully, nothing too dramatic.



- 1) First of all, thank you to all the Property Team who have kept us going this past year. Many people carry out various tasks quietly and effectively, ensuring that our premises are ready for use for whatever is going on. Heating, cleaning, chair moving, bookings, opening / locking up, repairing, gardening, internet maintenance, computers, office supplies etc etc.
- 2) The main change to the buildings this year was the fitting of an automatically locking side door. This has increased security enormously – no-one can just wander in off the street unsupervised now. It does create some smiles when the door bell rings during a quiet part of a church service, but is generally seen as an improvement.

Over 60 access cards have been issued to folk who regularly come to the building during the week, or who carry out key tasks for the church. This has meant that the building can be left secure, without anyone needing to lock /unlock between uses. (e.g. after Art Club and before Beavers)

- 3) A smashed window in the front porch was replaced.

- 4) Various water heater and water pipe problems were solved.
- 5) The gents toilets had new LED lighting
- 6) Safety hooks were fitted to the wall to enable the safe servicing of our main clock. (Why were hooks never needed before, we wonder?)
- 7) The Wesley Hall floor was given a thorough deep clean and re-coat.
- 8) Normal servicing of equipment was carried out.

Continuing issues:

- 9) Parking continues to present problems – both with our own few spaces, and for people trying to get to services and events at our church. There seems to be little light in the tunnel, but most people find a way to manage, it seems.
- 10) The roof continues to leak at odd times, but when mopped up and dried out, it tends not to happen again for a long time, despite heavy rain. It seems to depend on the direction of wind and rain. We continue to monitor and pray!
- 11) The Wesley Hall lights will probably need to be up-graded soon, as they are difficult to reach to change bulbs, these bulbs are becoming obsolete, and they really should be changed to LEDs. If we are to continue with outside lettings of the Hall, they will probably need to be up-graded fairly soon.

Good News:

- 12) We have continued to have a variety of private hires this year – with quite a few birthday parties / celebrations in the Wesley Hall. These provide us with some income, and also some contact with a variety of people who would not normally come into our premises. The Thursday morning Re-charge toddlers group is often people's first contact with our church. (So too are some of our own events, such as film shows and discos that attract outsiders.)
Also the premises have been used by companies for public exhibitions / meetings.
- 13) Our 4 shops and 1 residential property continue to be occupied, providing us with essential income, although the roof over the shops is getting well past its life span – as we have already seen from one flat roof repair.
- 14) **Energy costs:** Thank you to everyone for working with us to reduce our energy costs, whilst still keeping warm. Our annual heating costs were not as high as we thought they might be.

Site Development. Last year it was reported that the Site Development Group were investigating the possibility of some redevelopment of our buildings. We have had several meetings with an architect and a social housing provider, with a view to seeing what could

be done. It seems however, that given the current world financial situation, any major development scheme would probably not be viable. The group will continue to consider what is best for our buildings for the future.

Ann Pfeiffer, on behalf of Property Stewards

Safeguarding

The Church Safeguarding Policy was revised in line with the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy and adopted by the Church Council in January. This should be read in conjunction with the Methodist Church Statement of Safeguarding Principles, and both can be found on the Safeguarding Noticeboard in the corridor. Another copy can be found in the Minister's vestry.

The Methodist Church requires that all those who work with children and vulnerable adults should attend the Creating Safer Spaces Foundation Level Course every 4 years. Many thanks to the four people from High Street who spent 3 hours on a Saturday morning attending one of these courses in June or October 2023. The feedback from these courses has been very positive.



DBS checks are also required for those working with children and vulnerable adults and should be renewed every 5 years. I will inform people a few weeks before the renewal is due. Many thanks to Pete who has been guiding people through this process and verifying the required documents this year. Many thanks also to Kathy Rickman, Circuit Safeguarding Officer, for completing DBS checks earlier in the year and for all her support again this year. If anyone takes up a new church role involving children or vulnerable adults, please contact me and I will arrange for the training and DBS check to take place.

In October I produced some Guidelines for Streaming and Photography in Church as there had been some concerns that people were being shown on the YouTube streamed services without giving their permission. These guidelines were discussed by the Leadership Team and Church Council and are now in place.

As Church Safeguarding Officer, I continue to attend Circuit Safeguarding Meetings throughout the year to keep up to date with Safeguarding in the Circuit, District and wider Methodist Church. Philippa Read left the post of District Safeguarding Officer at the end of September. She has been a great help and support to the Circuit, and likewise Philippa has used the Circuit as a model of good practice in following the correct procedures, when training others. Clare Coles has just been appointed as the new DSO and I look forward to meeting her at a Circuit Safeguarding meeting soon.

In her final letter to the Circuit, Philippa concluded with this reminder - 'Remember safeguarding is everyone's responsibility' - which is also my reminder to you all. Thanks again for your support.

Gill Harbut

Sunday Coffee

It's been an amazing year for the Sunday coffee team we've now increased our team of helpers to 35. So, I'd like to say a massive thank you to everyone, for supporting this team of people, and for welcoming our newbies. From April 2023 to April 2024 we have raised, through the generous donations of the congregation, a massive sum of £1,167.49, and of course this doesn't include the donations made on the card machine, to the following charities: Church Funds/ Redevelopment Fund, The Benevolent Fund, The Young Carers Service, The Uniformed Organisation at High Street, Action for Children, Choir music for Christmas, The Brain Tumour Charity, Crisis, The Malaysia Fund, Water-aid and Breast Cancer Now so a big thank you to everyone for their generosity. Finally, I'd like to thank this great bunch of people on behalf of the congregation, for the fantastic service they provide on a Sunday after the Church service.....it's a vital part of our fellowship, and is so much appreciated! If anyone would like to join our coffee team, then please just let me know, as you'd be most welcomed.



Karen Ackling

The Technical Team

This is the range of tasks the "tech team" undertakes.

- 1) Operation and setting up of all sound equipment within and around the church premises, this covers the Wesley Hall and sanctuary, as well as the use of portable PA for such events as the Christmas Fair and Walk of Witness.
- 2) Operation of all vision facilities within the premises, ranging from the cameras and streaming system in the sanctuary to the projector in the Wesley Hall and TVs around the suite of buildings.
- 3) The setting up and maintenance of the church broadband and wi-fi infrastructure.
- 4) Responsibility for all the PCs (at least 6) and associated IT equipment (printers, monitors, et al). This also includes all their software.
- 5) Setting up (including all necessary rigging) of all event lighting in the sanctuary and hall.



- 6) Web design and maintenance of the church website and social media presence.
- 7) The team also has to be closely involved in the planned replacement of all the above facilities.

This year, very sadly, all this work has been impacted by the continuing illness of one of the key members of the team. Our prayers continue to go out to him and his family.

A full audit of the technical facilities at High Street and its likely replacement cost at current market prices, especially if, as inevitably seems will be the case in the future, professional installation is needed.

The total replacement cost of all our technical facilities, including the specialised event lighting in the church and hall is likely to be significantly in excess of £100K, which is why the team has suggested the need to create a technical budget to fund this work on a rolling basis over a period of perhaps 10 or maybe more years. This is also made more complicated by the uncertainty of the timing of any major work on our premises. The first item to need updating is the current sound desk and associated items in the sanctuary, at a current figure of around £6000. This would release the existing desk to continue for a few more years in the Wesley Hall, where it would lead a less demanding life but still provide better facilities for the Breakfast Church.

During the year High Street has continued to successfully stream to YouTube the 10:30am services held in the Sanctuary, and the reliability of our facilities has remained high.

Tim has introduced since the start of 2024 new software called Presenter for song words and liturgy, produced by Worship Tools. This is much quicker and easier to assemble and more intuitive to run than PowerPoint which it replaces. Currently the team is using the free version but there is a paid version offering more comprehensive facilities if needed in the future.

The tech team is always needing additional members, especially for sound operations which is the most critical area of shortfall. Training in all our tasks will be provided and currently this is already beginning to include some of our young people.

Roger Neal

Thursday Prayers

We have recently changed our time to 2.30pm and pray for around half an hour: for the needs of the church; the town and the world. The joint prayer time encourages us to continue through the week ahead. I have begun to sometimes put a topic for the week on our WhatsApp group. I hope this encourages some to join us in their own private prayer time.



Jean Barnett

Tuesday Bible Study



by
Unknown
Author is
licensed
under

Tuesday Bible study continues. We sadly miss Dennis Howarth and Susan Permane, however we have been blessed with Brenda Cheeseman from Hampshire Avenue who joined us recently, along with our dear Emma Marrs, making our total membership back up to five once more. We would love to have some more people join us on a Tuesday afternoon 2.30pm-4.00pm. We are reading and discussing the gospel of Mark at the moment, as it coincides with the lectionary gospel this year. We enjoy a very open fellowship with each other which we would love to share.



Jean Barnett

Worship Planning Group

This group started to meet in September 2023 and includes representatives from different areas of church life, including, (among others), stewards, musicians, technicians, and worship leaders.

So far, the group has been involved in planning Christmas and Easter activities, which has meant a lot of discussion about the best way to provide worship for these events.

The group has not yet been able to plan worship before the preaching plan is produced so to date members have tried to provide music which complements the preacher. From now we hope to make suggestions for worship prior to the plan coming out.

It is recognised that Breakfast Church and the Praise and Preaching service have drawn in people who find those ways of worshipping more accessible, and the group is aiming to promote other ways of worshipping if possible, and to be more involved in local arrangement services.

Ruth Hill

Treasurer's Report

High Street Methodist Church Financial Accounts Year 2022 – 23

Summary in 'round' numbers (to the nearest £1,000)

Our finances are divided into two categories:

- General income and expenditure, and
- Reserved or restricted funds.

Income for the year consisted of £175,000 into the General Account and £15,000 into Restricted Funds. A total of £190,000.

Expenditure from the General Account was £136,000, and from Restricted Funds was £7,000.

Overall cash in the bank grew from £164,000 to £211,000. (N.B. £8,000 of this belongs to one of our tenants, being a deposit against default of rental payments.)

Full details can be seen on the charts below.

Where does our income come from?

- Your giving to our General Account was £72,000. When Gift Aid is added to this (£19,000 from the tax man) it brings the total of your generosity up to £91,000. Make a note of how important Gift Aid is.
- **If you are a taxpayer, please sign up for Gift Aid to be collected on your contributions. It increases the value of your gift by 25%.**
- A further part of our income results from letting of our properties. Currently all the properties are occupied which means that we gain a further £77,000 this way. This is not always the case.

How can you give?

First, and most important, on behalf of all the Church Trustees, our grateful thanks for the money and time that you give for the upkeep of the church, its work and ministry. Without these we could not continue.

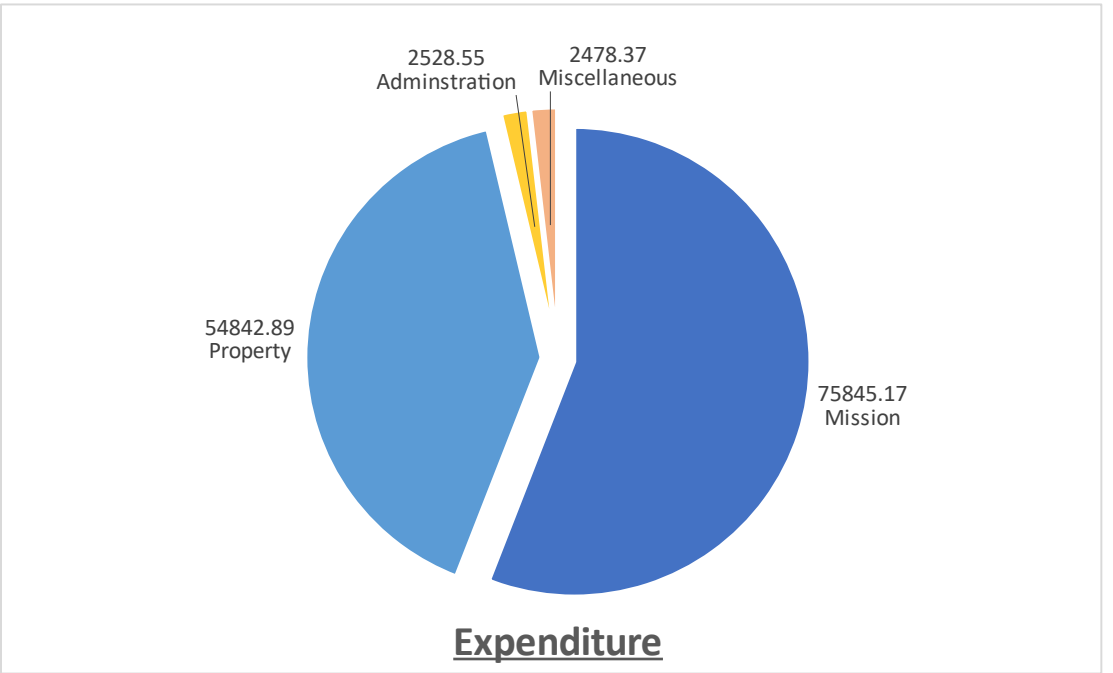
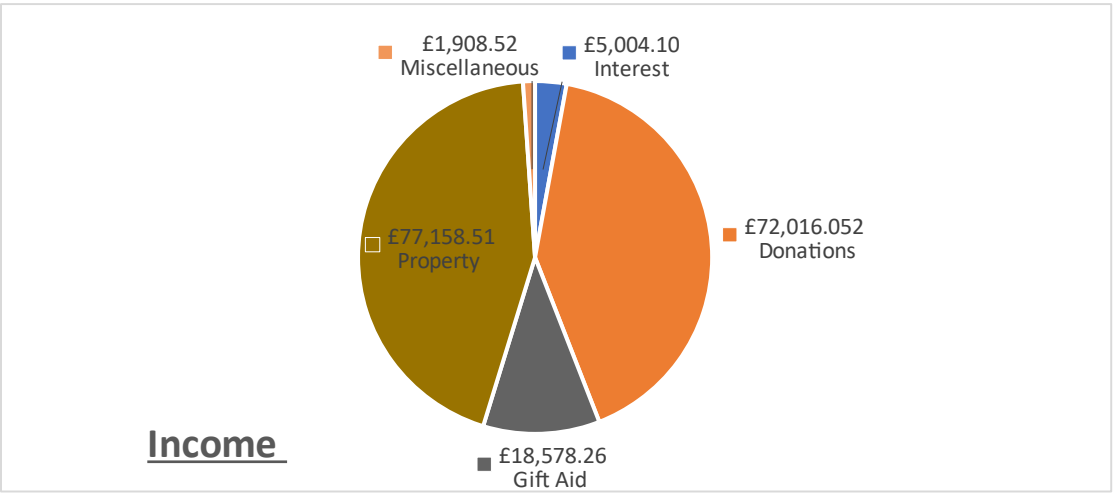
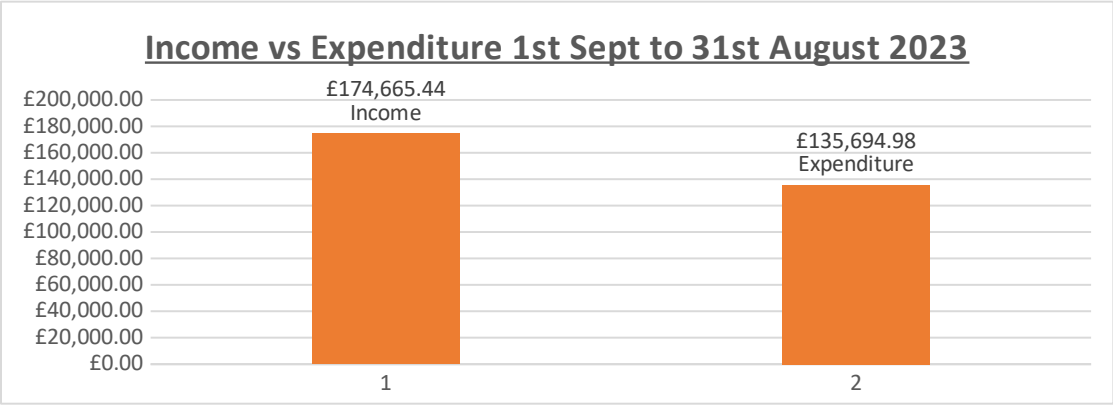
The most efficient way of giving money is through a regular monthly standing order from your bank. Many members have now adopted this method. The benefits are:

- It is paid whether you are in church this week or on holiday (or have forgotten your wallet!).
- There are no fees deducted for the transaction.

However, be assured that we are pleased to receive your gifts whichever route you choose, be it card, cheque, cash, or through ChurchSuite. We are of course affected by inflation and welcome anything extra that you can give to offset rising costs.

This year we are also benefiting from 3 separate legacies. Have you written your will, and have you thought about giving in that way?

General Account (in pictures)



High Street Methodist Church					
Income and Expenditure 1st Sept 2022 to 31st Aug 2023					
				<u>2022-23</u>	
General Income					
Interest				£5,004.10	
Donations to Church Funds				£72,016.05	
	Stripe		£4,160.98		
	Cash		£4,454.05		
	Cheques		£1,942.00		
	Bank Transfer in		£60,169.02		
HMRC JRS Grant (furlough)				£0.00	
	Go Cardless		£1,290.00		
Gift Aid				£18,578.26	
Property Income				£77,158.51	
	Room Rent		£14,663.53		
	House Rent/Offices/Shops		£62,494.98		
Grants					
Miscellaneous				£1,908.52	
Total Income				<u>£174,665.44</u>	
General Expenditure					
Church Mission				£75,845.17	
	Circuit Assessment		£69,976.00		
	Music		£5,869.17		
	Misc		£0.00		
Property				£54,842.89	
	Utilities and Insurance		£28,609.53		
		Gas	£12,107.50		
		Electricity	£7,693.67		
		Water	£575.37		
		Insurance	£8,232.99		
	Church Maintenance		£13,370.60		
	Investment Property Maintenance		£819.00		
	Legal Fees		£0.00		
	Caretaking Costs		£8,578.00		
	New Equipment		£3,465.76		
Administration				£2,528.55	
	Bank/Card Fees		£271.72		
	Payroll Fees		£0.00		
	Wages		£0.00		
	Consumables		£1,052.45		
	Telecomms/Broadband		£478.38		
	IT costs		£726.00		
	Audit/Ind Exam		£0.00		
Publicity				£0.00	
Miscellaneous				£2,478.37	
Total Expenditure				<u>£135,694.98</u>	
Income less Expenditure				<u>£38,970.46</u>	
Balance brought forward				£126,929.54	
Net Income vs Expenditure				£38,970.46	
Transfer to Restricted Funds					
Net Balance Carried forward				<u>£165,900.00</u>	

High Street Methodist Church						
Income and Expenditure 1st Sept 2022 to 31st Aug 2023						
<u>Ringfenced Funds</u>			<u>2022-23</u>			
			<u>B/forward</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>
<u>CHURCH FUNDS</u>						
Benevolent Fund			£552.51	£72.75	£0.00	£625.26
Art Group			£200.00	£0.00		£200.00
Junior Church			£174.85	£0.00	£14.06	£160.79
Messy/Breakfast Church			£556.79	£0.00	£251.90	£304.89
Christmas Fair			£0.00	£1,574.12	£0.00	£1,574.12
Gift Day			£15,148.95	£0.00	£0.00	£15,148.95
Student Tokens			£0.00	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
Library/Books			£325.00	£167.53	£224.77	£267.76
Friendship Hour			£0.00	£500.00	£100.00	£400.00
Grants			£0.00	£4,263.20	£77.20	£4,186.00
Diana's New Dishwasher Fund			£2,776.00	£0.00	£2,776.00	£0.00
Property Development Fund			£6,869.04	£5,518.62	£50.00	£12,337.66
Gang Show			£2,101.54	£0.00	£1,185.40	£916.14
TENANT DEPOSIT			£8,001.25	£55.99	£0.00	£8,057.24
Choir Fund			£191.77	£28.60	£66.86	£153.51
	TOTALS		£36,897.70	£12,200.81	£4,746.19	£44,352.32
<u>CHARITIES</u>						
Water Aid			£25.50	£20.30	£45.80	£0.00
Action for Children			£378.16	£1,222.62	£1,039.38	£561.40
Christmas Charities			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Ukraine			£251.98	£377.19	£609.17	£20.00
Missions			£0.00	£985.72	£842.47	£143.25
Whitechapel			£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	TOTALS		£655.64	£2,605.83	£2,536.82	£724.65
	GRAND TOTAL		£37,553.34	£14,806.64	£7,283.01	£45,076.97

High Street Methodist Church					
Balance sheet					
		31st August 2023		31st August 2022	
Assets					
Cash/Cheques					
HSBC	Current Account	£ 33,037.47		£ 20,259.47	
	Deposit Account	£ 8,057.24		£ 8,001.25	
CFB		£ 169,882.26		£ 136,222.16	
	TOTAL		£ 210,976.97		£ 164,482.88
Funds					
General Church Fund			£165,900.00		
Benevolent Fund			£625.26		
Art Group			£200.00		
Choir Funds			£153.51		
Friendship Hour			£400.00		
Junior Church			£160.79		
Messy/Breakfast Church			£304.89		
Xmas Fair			£1,574.12		
Gift Day			£15,148.95		
Gang Show			£916.14		
Library			£267.76		
Grants			£4,186.00		
Property Development Fund			£12,337.66		
Diana's New Cooker Fund			£0.00		
Whitechapel			£0.00		
Ukraine			£20.00		
Water Aid			£0.00		
Christmas Charities			£0.00		
Action for Children			£561.40		
Missions			£143.25		
Student Tokens			£20.00		
TENANT DEPOSIT			£8,057.24		
			<u>£210,976.97</u>		

Peter White

Church Treasurer

Our Mission is:

To be the Methodist Church in Maidenhead town centre responding to the gospel of God's love in Christ and living out our discipleship in worship and mission. We will do this through:

- Worship which increases awareness of God's presence and celebrates God's love
- Helping people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care
- Being a good neighbour to people in need and challenging injustice
- Leading more people to become followers of Jesus Christ

Our Vision is:

To be a visible, energetic, caring Christian community in the heart of the town, with an age range from zero to a century plus.

To provide engaging worship for adults and young people on Sunday, with Bible study, prayer and fellowship groups throughout the week.

To explore different styles of worship through Breakfast Church and other formats, in order to appeal to a wider cross section of the community.

To increase attendance and involvement through welcoming, fresh, and inviting social and worship activities.

To be financially viable through regular giving, generous donations, investments and grants.

To make our premises attractive, warm, comfortable, and inviting by refreshing, refurbishing and maintaining a high standard for the sanctuary and ancillary rooms.

To be seen as a community hub with our church buildings being a safe space for all ages and groups to meet from the Alzheimer's Club to the Zumba Dance Class (A to Z).

To grow our relationship with the active Uniformed Organisations which have a long history of being engaged with us.

To help people in need and challenge social injustice through action and fund raising for Methodist and other local charities.

To widen our outreach, by continuing to broadcast our worship on YouTube, and by maintaining an informative and attractive on-line presence:

In Brief:

A caring Christian community in the heart of Maidenhead

Published by Maidenhead Methodist Church

Address: High Street Methodist Church, King Street,
Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1EF

Telephone: 01628 628104 (office)

Website: www.methodistmaidenhead.org.uk

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Maidenhead High Street Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2024

Thames Valley	Circuit	Circuit no. 36	36/4
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1129473

if not a registered charity His Majesty's Revenue and
Customs Gift Aid number

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(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 Dr Peter Phillips

Church Stewards:

Ruth Hill	Margaret Maskell
Elijah Kommu	Ise Statham
Felicity Kendon	

Treasurer:

Peter White

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
			£	£	£		£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		67,580		67,580		90,594
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		8,942		8,942		5,004
a4	Lettings		77,898		77,898		77,159
a5	Other receipts		168	27,870	28,038		14,109
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		154,588	27,870	182,458	(a7)	186,866

	SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		72,772		72,772	69,976
b3	Donations		2,500		2,500	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		26,024		26,024	26,233
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		21,326		21,326	28,610
b6						
b7	Other payments		16,406	2,478	18,884	15,622
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		139,028	2,478	141,506 (b9)	140,441

	SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR (a6-b8)		15,560	25,392	40,952	46,425
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		165,900	45,077	210,977 (c6)	163,827
c3	Sub total (c1+c2)		181,460	70,469	251,929	210,252
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c3+c4)		181,460	70,469	251,929 (c8)	210,252 (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	725	656
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	573	2,606
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	1,272	2,537
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)	26	725

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							
e2							
e3							
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	182,458 (a7)	141,506 (b9)	40,952	(c7)	210,977 (c6)	251,929 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	182,458	141,506	40,952		210,977 (x)	251,929 (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		
f2	33,037	31,828
f3	8,057	8,211
f4	169,882	211,890
f5		
f6		
f7	210,976 (c6)	251,929 (c8)
f8	(e11)	(e12)
f9	210,976 (x)	251,929 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1		
g2	8,600,000	9,007,939
g3	412,000	412,000
g4		
g5		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

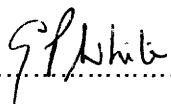
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

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

Name of Church .. Maidenhead High Street Methodist

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  Date 1st Oct. 2024

Name and address of treasurer G P White, Chatsworth, St Leonards Hill,
Windsor, SL4 4AT

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 ... 2/10/24

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting PETER HUMPHREYS Date 2/10/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Maidenhead High Street Methodist Church

Charity Number .. 1129473

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the High Street Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 1 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 .. Maidenhead High Street Methodist

Number 1129473

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.

¹ 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.

~~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 DAVID KINNA

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 18 TURPINS GREEN

..... MAIDENHEAD

Post Code ..SL6 4QE..

Date 5/3/2025

* delete or circle as appropriate

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Maidenhead High Street Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2024

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if not a registered charity His Majesty's Revenue and
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Rev Dr Peter Phillips

Church Stewards:

Ruth Hill	Margaret Maskell
Elijah Kommu	Ise Statham
Felicity Kendon	

Treasurer:

Peter White

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
			£	£	£		£
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d1	Balance brought forward from last year		725	656
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		573	2,606
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		1,272	2,537
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)	26	725

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							
e2							
e3							
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	182,458 (a7)	141,506 (b9)	40,952	(c7)	210,977 (c6)	251,929 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	182,458	141,506	40,952		210,977 (x)	251,929 (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		
f2	Bank Current Account	33,037	31,828
f3	Bank Deposit Account	8,057	8,211
f4	Central Finance Board	169,882	211,890
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	210,976 (c6)	251,929 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	210,976 (x)	251,929 (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)	8,600,000	9,007,939
g3	Other Assets	412,000	412,000
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

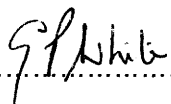
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

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

Name of Church .. Maidenhead High Street Methodist

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  Date 1st Oct. 2024

Name and address of treasurer G P White, Chatsworth, St Leonards Hill,
Windsor, SL4 4AT

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 ... 2/10/24

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting PETER HUMPHREYS Date 2/10/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Maidenhead High Street Methodist Church

Charity Number .. 1129473

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the High Street Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 1 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 .. Maidenhead High Street Methodist

Number 1129473

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.

¹ 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.

~~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 DAVID KINNA

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 18 TURPINS GREEN

..... MAIDENHEAD Post Code ..SL6 4QE..

Date 5/3/2025

* delete or circle as appropriate

HIGH STREET METHODIST CHURCH MAIDENHEAD

England & Wales - Charity number 1129473

Accounts

High Street Maidenhead Methodist Church

Trustees Report for year ending 31 August 2023

Introduction

The life of High Street Methodist has slowly returned to more normal activities this year. At the end of this Trustees' Report is an Appendix with a copy of the Annual Report submitted to the General Church Meeting in April 2023. This gives a good overview of what we have done and what has been achieved during the previous 12 months.

Ministerial and pastoral oversight has been provided by Rev. Dr Pete Phillips since 1st September 2022 until the present day.

Objectives

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union the advancement of:

- The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church
- Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church
- Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution or subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church
- Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

Church's Vision and Mission

- Seek to enable all to encounter God in ways which are Spirit-led and celebratory, through worship which is diverse and relevant to our local communities.
- To be a caring Christian community in the heart of Maidenhead

Through Learning and Caring

- To be aware of the nature and context of High Street Methodist Church.
- To explore the word of God, in study, prayer, and fellowship.
- To offer pastoral care to members and adherents.
- To support the presence and witness of the wider Christian Community within Maidenhead.
- To build disciples by nurturing faith and recognising and developing gifts; to encourage new leaders.
- To value our place within the Methodist Connexion and the World Church.

Through Service

- To encourage team working.
- To be a prophetic and free church voice, and initiate action for social justice.
- To respond to needs locally and globally.
- To provide safe spaces for the community.
- To support both the Methodist and World Church through prayer and action.

- To work ecumenically whenever the opportunity arises and, when appropriate, with other faiths

Through Evangelism

- To offer love in the name of Jesus Christ.
- To confidently share and proclaim our faith in ways which are sensitive and respectful.

Brief financial review of the year

During the financial year ending 31st August 2023 the total income received was £186,866 and outgoings amounted to £140,441 leading to a surplus of £46,425. Total funds carried forward amount to £210,252 of which £44,352 are restricted funds set aside for specific projects or charitable work. Fuller details can be seen in the accompanying statement of accounts.

Structure, Governance and Management

High Street Maidenhead Methodist Church is part of the Thames Valley Circuit of the Methodist Church and is governed by the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act 1976 as amended March 2011. Overall control of the Circuit rests with the Methodist Conference. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of ministers in individual Circuits. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate Officers of the District for regional implementation. The District passes the control down to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent Minister, other ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards via the medium of the Circuit Meeting. The membership of the Circuit Meeting is laid down in the Constitutional Practices and Discipline of the Methodist Church. The Circuit Leadership Team comprises a Senior Circuit Steward, four other Circuit Stewards, the Circuit Treasurer, the Superintendent Minister and three other Ministers. Circuit meetings are held four times a year and are attended by the Circuit Leaders, Church Ministers, and representatives from the church congregations. High Street Methodist Church's congregation is governed by its Church Council which is chaired by the Minister in Pastoral Charge. The Church Council consists of Church Stewards and officers nominated and voted on by the entire Church membership at the Annual Church Meeting. Council Meetings are chaired by the Minister in Pastoral Charge, as delegated by the Superintendent Minister, with those attending becoming the Trustees of the church/charity. It is the Trustees who comprise the decision-making body and who will vote on proposals put before the meeting.

Volunteers

High Street Methodist Church, Maidenhead is grateful to the Church Stewards and other members of Church Council who freely volunteer their time to attend meetings and to carry out the administrative work required in order to run the church successfully.

Legal and Administrative Information

Full Name of Charity: Maidenhead High Street Methodist Church

Registration Charity Number: 1129473

Date of registration 4 January 2010

Main communication address: Methodist Church Office, King Street, Maidenhead SL6 1EF

Website: <http://www.methodistmaidenhead.org.uk>

Peter White acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the church during the year.

Independent Examiner of the accounts: Mr David Kinna, 18 Turpins Green, Maidenhead, SL6 4QE

Bankers: HSBC 35 High Street, Maidenhead SL6 1JQ; and, Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, 9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PE

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes: Central Buildings Oldham Street Manchester M1 1JQ

Local Trustees

The members of High Street Maidenhead Methodist Church Council Meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of church office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the church congregation.

Minister in Pastoral Charge: Rev Dr Pete Phillips

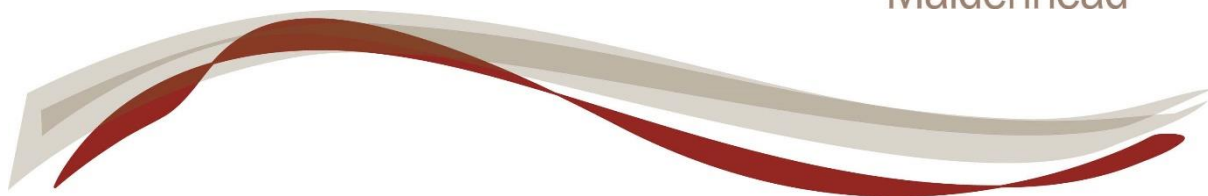
Church Stewards: Diana Phipps, Elijah Kommu, Ilse Statham, Margaret Maskell, Pat Crowle, Ruth Hill

Treasurer: Peter White

Other members of Church Council: Ann Pfeiffer, Charlotte Crichton, Claire Boycott, Felicity Kendon, Gill Harbut, Glenice White. Jean Barnett, Joy Brown, John Statham, Judy Stimson, Karen Ackling, Matthew Edwards, Maureen Over, Pauline Joseph, Roger Neal, Tim Rayers

Appendix 1

High St **Methodist** Church 
Maidenhead



Annual Report

March 2023



Minister's Report

It's been a busy first seven months as the half-time minister at High Street. We've established a new pattern of worship – focussing on the morning service which we send out online, but also encouraging more engagement with Breakfast Church, reintroducing a 9am monthly Communion, and a new 6pm monthly Preaching/Praise service. The results are good – with increased attendances overall. Breakfast Church is up to about 35-40 people each month, and the 10.30 service has gone above 100 on a couple of occasions with average attendance above 60 alongside about 20 regular viewers on the YouTube feed. We've also had a number of big services with Jessica's dedication/New Members' Service (what a brilliant event that was and such a lovely meal afterwards) and Samuel Shiell's baptism (87 guests and they seemed engaged and very happy to be there). It was great to see how much our guests for these services were welcomed. Of course, more services mean more work for musicians, musical director, technicians and stewards. A big thanks to all those who have helped out. We'll keep a review through the stewards' meeting/leadership team on whether we are all doing too much, we need to bring in more people to support the services, or need to cut down. But I think things are going well.

Sadly, we've also had some funerals and some sad moments as we note continued illness for some of our members and friends. We continue to lift them up in prayer.

We've held a Warm Welcome Drop In throughout February and March with attendance not too bad – sometime half a dozen people dropping in, sometimes more like 20. It's been good to work alongside Tamsin and see the work she and her team do in Recharge and to see Carol and Ruth working alongside her when they can. Many thanks to Di who has worked so hard in the kitchen for the drop-in, as she has with Friday Lunch Club and the big meals we have had to welcome Theresa and I and also Jessica's dedication. Thankyou too to those of you who dropped in to welcome the people coming to the drop in. It looks likely that we'll restart the Friday morning coffee after Easter as a response to this event.

Many thanks to Jean and Ilse who run Bible studies for us at High St. I'd like to see more of these and during Lent we held a meeting both online and in the manse which seemed to go well. As are the lent devotions shared with St Marks – thanks to the team, Jean, Ilse, Carys, Eileen, Alan and myself. It would be good to get some feedback on these and for the rest of the Easter events as they unfold. But it would be good to do more Bible study.

Committees - Mission and Evangelism

When I arrived at the Church, I looked at all the committees and held my head in my hands. We have lots of them. I thought by now I'd have worked through them and sorted out where I think we are going in the future but too many other things have crept up and filled my time. The Worship Committee has moved into abeyance, alongside the Mission Outreach Committee, but the Choir Committee has been resurrected! One new committee which was passed by the Church Council was the Mission and Evangelism Committee. This will incorporate some of the people from Mission Outreach and the Publicity Committee. The key role will be to look at how we do mission and evangelism from High Street. When we set up the Warm Welcome Drop In, we noted that many of our meetings are invitational rather than open to all. In contrast, most of St Mark's meetings are already drop-ins. We want to look at ways we can offer more opportunities for us to share our faith in the local community but also encourage others to drop in to events at the Church. A report recently circulated argues that 75% of the UK population doesn't know someone who is a Christian. Perhaps, we are all doing too well at camouflage and not well enough at evangelism. Can we offer more socials at High St and in our homes? – I was so pleased as I was writing this to see Meg's initiative of an Easter Games Evening for the young people? Perhaps we need a general games and pizza evening for the rest of us??? And I do hope there are lots of us on the Walk of Witness this Good Friday!

Committees/Stewards – New Leaders

We also need to recognise that it's time for change in some of the roles in the Church – time for some people to step down after long and dedicated service, time for new people to take up the yoke. I am signalling two posts which need filling either at the General Church Meeting or the subsequent Church Council. These posts will be made vacant at the General Church Meeting.

Felicity Kendon has done a sterling role as Pastoral Secretary but for a whole number of reasons (including Alan's health and her own), she will step down as Pastoral Secretary at the General Church Meeting. We are seeking a successor. Can you serve in this role?

Diana Phipps has worked tirelessly as Church Council Secretary for too long – especially alongside her ongoing role as Senior Steward. We need someone to take over the minutes and management of the Church Council alongside me. Di will step down from this post after the General Church Meeting. Can you serve in this role?

I am sure that each of these people would be willing to work with a new appointee for a year to show them the ropes. But I am not willing to ask them to serve again because no one else comes forward.

So, a direct challenge to pray AND ACT about this. Can you do one of these key jobs? Can you help share the load of the administration of High Street? If so, speak to me or to one of the office holders. If you want a chat, send me an email (drpmphillips@gmail.com) or phone me (07876 337157).

Your Church Needs YOU!!!

Energy Prices

I want to thank all the people that have worked so hard to keep an eye on our energy consumption over the winter and to bring in a little money to help meet the bills and to the circuit for their 'rebate' on the assessment. We don't know how the figures will pan out but we seem to have weathered the storm and are still afloat! Thanks especially to Peter White, Ann Pfeiffer, Dave Herbert and Roger Neal – but there is an army of you who have helped.

Building

We'll be talking at the meeting about our building and our site. At present, as you will see in the property report, we have very little parking in and around the church, especially with the Nicholson Car Park closed and West Street car park in maximum use. We complained to the Council and had a meeting which wasn't totally positive. We can now use the Hines Meadow Car Park and the Stafferton Way car park for free on Sundays (among other places) but we recognise these parking places are further away. We've also been reallocated some passes for car parking in the centre of the town. This means those with passes (including me) will try to use car parks rather than the parking at the back of the Church. But we are still going to have issues. So:

- bring a friend on Sundays – give someone else a lift to limit the number of cars
- if you are mobile park further away – Hines Meadow/Stafferton Way/Reflex (under Odeon)
- if you have a disabled card, use it to park nearer
- if there is a space at church and you cannot walk far and don't have a disabled pass, park there. But think of those less able than you are. We may have issues with the preacher's space when I'm not the preacher. Someone blocked Richard Cattley from parking there. You may end up preaching!

When we come to think about the future, we really need to think about what we are going to do about parking – do we go for a scheme which allows parking for us? for housing associated with the scheme? for others in the neighbourhood? Or is the parking situation around High Street/King Street too difficult for us to continue to be viable as a venue here?

High Street as a Central Hall

Finally, something to discuss. Back in the day, the Rank Foundation gave Methodism a lot of money to establish a series of Central Hall's across the country. Many of these have now closed, sadly. But some remain and are central venues for the local community – sometimes hubs for food distribution, for drop ins, for help groups to meet. To some extent, I think High Street has in the past and still does fulfil the role of a Central Hall. I wonder as we contemplate the future whether we need to think more of how we might fulfil this idea more – being a central venue, being a place to hold meetings, being a focus for the town. A lot of that suggests we stay in the centre (see the last paragraph) rather than being a gathered church meeting on an out of centre space. St Mark's already does a great job of being a non-town centre Methodist Church.

I have a feeling that the Central Hall model is something we need to investigate more as what God is calling to us as we move forward with the building scheme and without mission and evangelism strategy. It might also be useful for funding bids. But if we embrace it, it does mean us taking more of a central role in the town as well – in terms of supporting others, engaging with the council, and with other service providers in the centre. Is this God's vision for the future of High St? Should we pivot in this direction to keep on sharing God's Glory on the High St?

Thank you

Thank you so much for welcoming me into ministry at High Street. It's been a great six months in which I have tried to do far too much as a half-time minister. I haven't done enough visiting or met with all the people I wanted to, but we're still here and moving forward and seeing good progress already after only six months. God is good. I believe he has more for us. I am keen to find out what that is and spend time and space seeking his will for our church. Please join me in that and share with me what you think is God's wisdom for us as a church pushing closer into God's will for Maidenhead.

Pete xxx

Revd Dr Peter Phillips

Methodist Minister, Thames Valley Circuit

Tutor and Director for the Centre for Digital Theology, Spurgeon's College



Senior Steward's Report



We welcome him! No, not 'Him' with a capital letter H as we would address our dear Lord, but 'him' as in Rev Dr Pete. What a joy it is to have Pete as our Minister, having been without one for so long. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Vicci for stepping in to oversee work and activities at High Street and doing so in addition to her work as Superintendent Minister and care of three other churches.

Pete has certainly made a difference to our lives at High Street – I only hope we can keep up with his energy and ideas. Pete is only supposed to spend 50% of his time across High Street and St Marks, the other 50% at Spurgeon's College in South London, heading up the Centre for Digital Theology and lecturing there both in Digital Theology and New Testament/Greek. However, I know very well that he is spending more than 50% of his

time working with us at High Street, St Mark's and other Circuit work. We also welcome Theresa and the rest of his family to Maidenhead.

Our ancillary building which includes the Wesley Hall, 5 meeting rooms and 2 kitchens are also open for business and meetings, and more of our rooms have been hired out to non-church groups and businesses.

Live streaming services through our YouTube Channel have been a great success and have benefitted those members of our congregation/Circuit who are still nervous about attending in person, and are watched by others not associated with our (or any) church. A huge thanks to members of our Tech Team who enable this to happen. They are always on the lookout for folks to join their team.

Our pastoral work continues through our great team of pastoral visitors ably led by Felicity Kendon. I need at this point to let you know that Felicity is standing down as our Pastoral Leader in May. She has done this job for many years, with the utmost professionalism and care for others. I know you would like to thank her for the work she has done for High Street. We are looking for someone to take over from her. Is this something you could do? I know that pastoral visiting is important to Pete, and since his arrival at High Street, he has spent much time visiting those of the congregation who are unwell and those who are unable to attend church.

The monthly coffee mornings/bric-a-brac sales located on the front porch of our church continued until October when it got too cold to stand outside! This was not just to raise funds, but to let people know that our church is still here and open for business, at the top of the High Street. There is some debate as to whether we start this again. Discussions have taken place and we are thinking that we restart our Friday Coffee morning instead, which would include a bric-a-brac stall but to have this in the Wesley Hall.

Our Breakfast Church on the first Sunday of each month at 9am continues to flourish with about 40 people attending. This is to encourage not just younger folks to attend, but those looking for a more modern style of worship. The main service now starts at 10.45am on that Sunday and follows more traditional lines led by the Church Choir. Pete has also added a 9am Holy Communion service and a 6pm service at High Street to the Circuit preaching plan – both monthly and both reflecting different traditions of worship. Church groups/meetings continue to meet on our premises: Friendship Hour, Art Group, Choir, Music Group, monthly Friday Lunch Club. Bible Study groups and a weekly prayer meeting continue via Zoom.

Warm Welcome Drop-in: This is an initiative, suggested by Churches Together in Maidenhead, which was taken up by Pete, to help some folk living in Maidenhead to save energy costs by opening up our premises on a Thursday afternoon from 12.30-4pm. This has proved to be very worthwhile, bringing different people onto our premises. It meets in the Bromley Room and offers hot soup and rolls, cake, coffee, tea. We organise some activities (there is a very competitive jig saw puzzle group there), and there is the opportunity for those who wish to quietly pray to do so in the Choir Vestry. This initiative continues to the end of March. Also, a good working relationship with the Recharge Group

which also meets on our premises on a Thursday has developed – they make some cakes for us, free of charge!

We have created a daily devotion which shared online for every day in Lent. High Street took the lead in the Circuit Ash Wednesday pilgrimage which began at High Street on 22 February with bacon butties, Holy Communion and an Ashing Ceremony, and a walk followed around the Circuit ending at St. Andrew's in Slough.

It is good to have the uniformed organisations continue to meet on our premises (Guides, Brownies, Scouts, Cubs, Beavers). Thanks to them for organising the Christmas Fair on our behalf.

There are still concerns over getting volunteers for Young Church. Again, if this is something you would like to help with, please talk to Pete or Diana.

Some of our premises are hired out to groups such as the Dementia Support Group, Zumba classes, and Re-charge which is the parent and child drop-in group. We also find that our Wesley Hall and Bromley Room are great venues for children's birthday parties. We get quite a bit of income from hiring out our premises and a big 'thank you' should go to John Statham who looks after this for us.

Following the church's decision to stay on our current site, the refurbishment of our buildings began in small ways, by sprucing up some of the rooms, installing new screens in the sanctuary and changing some of the lighting to LEDs. This has made a difference to the brightness of the spaces. However, we continue to have a variety of leaks and troublesome issues, as well as the need to make long term improvements. A small site development group has been established and is working through these issues. Fund raising now begins in earnest to cover the costs of any refurbishment and/or building work. We are fortunate in that all four of our shops along King Street are let.

High Street, as many churches and indeed individuals, faces considerably higher costs for energy this year - so we are being as frugal as we can with heating, whilst still providing a comfortable space for worship and various activities.

Parking in Maidenhead has become even more difficult than before because the Council has closed the Nicholson's multi-storey car park because it has structural problems. This causes us considerable parking problems, and have had a discussion with the Council to make them aware of the difficulties we face with car parking - both at present and in the future.

As we no longer employ caretakers, the work is now covered mostly by our excellent team of Property Stewards, however, this is still a challenge and dependent on volunteers. I think you will agree with me that they do an excellent job.

We also do not employ an administrator, and again, this work is carried out by volunteers, mainly John Statham, who has set up ChurchSuite which is a web-based database management software created for churches.

I would like to thank Pete, my fellow Church Stewards, Property Stewards, and all those who lead the various groups and activities at High Street for their continued support over the last year. Looking after and running our church can only be done by working together as a part of God's team.

Finally, we should not forget our Mission:

- To be the Methodist Church in Maidenhead town centre responding to the gospel of God's love in Christ and living out our discipleship in worship and mission.
- To be seen as a community hub with our church buildings being a safe space for all ages and groups to meet.

Diana Phipps

The Art Group

As the country slowly started to emerge from the lockdown, a request went out to all church groups to have a fund-raising event to help finance the re-decoration of the church rooms. The Art Group chose to stage an Art and Crafts Exhibition, and to contribute 10% of any work sold to the church. This was held very successfully over the last weekend of July 2022, and, combined with the catering stalwarts, a substantial sum was raised.



The Art Group has maintained its numbers remarkably well. A few have chosen not to return, but we have been very pleased to welcome others to our friendly Thursday morning group. All are welcome, - regardless of age or ability - as we step off the hectic world for a few hours each week and re-charge our own batteries.

Ruth Daniel

The Flower Committee

In recovering from Covid (!), our style of flowers in the Church has changed through necessity. You may have noticed that we now use fewer flowers and normally place just one Arrangement under the Cross. We place extra decorations at Easter, Harvest and Christmas Flower Donors. We value those who give flowers. Each year we "lose" some - and would appreciate offers from some fresh Donors. When we have no Donor, the cost is funded from our Flower Funds which are fast diminishing as we have lost our ability to raise funds via Coffee Mornings etc. The gift is once more acknowledged in the weekly Church Notices.



Flower Arrangers: Again, as above, we are a shrinking (!) Group and 9 stalwarts take turns to do this. However, we still enjoy "arranging". Flowers are usually distributed after Morning Service to cheer, thank or console.

Elizabeth Barker

Communion

The table below shows the numbers of people receiving communion at services held during the year from 1 March 2022 to 28 February 2023. For comparison and completeness, figures are also shown for the last pre-covid year and for the services held after 'normal service'

was resumed in September 2021. It should be noted that all figures include the minister and at least one steward.

	2022-23		2019-20		2021-22	
Attendance	9.00am	10.30am	9.00am	10.30am	9.00am	10.30am
Services	3	11	8	12	0	4
Average	11	57	9	85	-	49
Maximum	14	67	16	115	-	57
Minimum	7	45	6	63	-	36

In addition, services were held at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve 2022 with 32 receiving communion, and at 9.30am on Ash Wednesday 2023 with 19 communicants.

It is too soon for any firm appraisal but there may be signs of gradual, if partial, recovery following the pandemic. The figures for 2019-20 indicate the scale of the reduction in communicants, while noting that the numbers at 10.30am were on a slow upward trend from 2013 (77).

Michael Minors

Friendship Hour Report

It is encouraging to report that Friendship Hour is maintaining a good attendance of at least 20 members per meeting, and that membership is growing. Over the past year, amongst other topics,

we've enjoyed an illustrated talk by the CWGC, a Poetry session, some church reminiscences and a Jubilee Party for the late Queen's special celebration when we admired appropriate red, white and blue flower arrangements. Our monthly Wednesday afternoon meetings are open to new members at any time, men and women, and an interesting programme for the year ahead is already taking shape. Maybe we shall see you?



***Kathleen
McGuinness***

Friday Lunch Club

It is a joy to have the Lunch Club up and running again. Thank you to our cooks – Jan Fenner, Fel Binner, Dorothy Minors, Hillary Simpson; to our helpers – Carol & Dave Herbert, Colin Freer; Kath England who phones around to check to see who is coming and collects the money; Pete who joins us each month to give pastoral support.

We have 41 people on our list and an average attendance of 29, with 22 being from the 'original' pre-Covid list.



We are continuing to do this monthly, rather than fortnightly as in pre-Covid times, mainly because we are short of helpers. So, if you think this is something you could help us with, please let Diana know.

Diana Phipps

Intergenerational Music Director Report

I'm sorry to say that the music has not gone as well as I was hoping this year but there have been positives and I'm working hard to make more improvements.



Choir - sadly, due to illness, we have had some members who have not been able to attend regularly and may not be able to in the future. We really need to find new members urgently.

The members who are able to attend have been singing one anthem per month in the morning services and are enjoying singing some familiar songs as well as learning new ones. I have arranged music to suit the choir better and written arrangements including some other instruments such as clarinet, cello and recorder.

Music Group - sadly again, due to illness or other commitments, some people have not been able to play as often as they were so I have had to spend time reshuffling and trying out different ways to boost numbers.

Through February, I ran sessions every Wednesday where anyone could come and try out singing. Although I was a little disappointed with the uptake, I did have one person who is integrating well with the worship band and another who I'm hoping will join us soon. If anyone is hiding any musical abilities, please come forward and join us as we really need more musicians!

After discussions with Pete and Di, I am introducing one service in the month when the music group and choir are going to play together.

With the introduction of the evening service, Pete asked me to set up a worship band. We meet together weekly and are most definitely a work in progress!! However, we are working hard and improving all the time. This week, we spent time arranging the instruments into positions which allow us to work together better. This has meant we can see and hear each other better which will improve our playing.

In addition to these things, I have rearranged and simplified rehearsals for all these groups. Instead of three or four rehearsals a week, often on different or changing evenings from week to week, I have combined them into two nights a week. Wednesday for the Sunday morning rehearsal and worship group and Friday for choir.

I am also working on a more transparent and structured rehearsal schedules, so everyone knows what they are doing and when.

Moving forward, I intend to keep working on how I structure rehearsals so they are more accessible to everyone, try and boost numbers of musicians, and work on getting musicians working together. I hope to be able to write more arrangements to include the instruments we have and encourage and support younger/newer musicians into the services.

Thanks to all those who support the music within the church and to those who support me personally.

Pippa Jones

Mission and Outreach Committee

During the church year of 2021-2022, this committee has three times on 2 September, 4 January and 26 April.



We reviewed our plans:

- Both the 'Whitechapel' collection and the collection for the 'Baby Bank' had been successful.
- The planned Alpha course was deferred to the Autumn due to a busy schedule.
- The proposed pancake party had to be cancelled (not enough adults to manage the children).
- A collection and barbeque were held for the Ukraine.
- Drop-in Cream Teas were held to raise funds for the repairs and renovation to the church. These were very well supported and a big thank you to all who hosted and helped, especially Felicity and Jan Fenner.
- Tim managed the 'Church Family Picnic' and 'Mini Olympics' which went very well. The weather was lovely and everyone appeared to be enjoying themselves. Many thanks Tim.
- It was suggested that we have at least one 'Event' especially for 'All You Can'.
- Another charity (Children Heard and Seen), based in Oxford was suggested.
- These last two suggestions have been put to one side at present as we need to continue with raising funds for the church renovations.

Many thanks to all.

Pat Crowle

Pastoral Committee

The Pastoral Committee has continued to meet during this year as we have worked to cover the pastoral needs of the church family, with the help and guidance of our minister Rev. Pete Phillips whose many pastoral visits have been very much appreciated.

We have 14 Pastoral Visitors, who keep aware, and in contact with the church members, their work often unknown to many.

The committee would welcome anyone interested, who felt that this work could be part of their ministry. Please speak to the minister or the Pastoral Secretary.

Our membership now stands at 126 having received 13 members into the church family at a joyous service on 12 March 2023.

Since the last report 2 members have died, Christine I'Fll and John Hateley, and we give thanks for their life within the church.

The church family is very grateful for the work and devotion our Pastoral Visitors give to their work.



Felicity Kendon

Prayer Time

Thursday at 2.00pm until 2.30pm is the time when our church is invited to pray for particular concerns. Easy access through ChurchSuite on zoom. Sadly only two people now attend. We would love others to join us.

Contact Jean on 0779 631 2283



Jean Barnett

Daily morning prayers on WhatsApp

I have loved doing this ministry and try to connect with the season and the life and needs of our church family. If you have any favourite prayers you would like me to use, or feel like composing a prayer of your own, please get in touch with me. I select what I feel led to use the night before and send it out on WhatsApp the following morning at approximately 8am. This is a tremendous privilege and joy to me, and I love hearing from those of you to whom these prayers have touched a chord. Thank you for your messages of support.

If anyone in the congregation has a private prayer or concern they need support with, there is a small discreet team who will pray for people without making anything public. Please contact Jean and our prayer team will pray for them.

Jean Barnett

Property Stewards and Site Development Annual Report 2023

During 2022-23, our church premises have continued to keep the property team busy – both with the ordinary run of the mill tasks, and with one off repairs or investigations. Some tasks have been successful, others remain frustrating.

Since the last report to this meeting, the following are reminders of what has been done.

- The downstairs corridor and room 2 (upstairs) had new ceiling tiles and LED lighting. The downstairs toilets had automatic light switches installed, to help prevent them being left on overnight.
- General tidying up was carried out in various cupboards and particularly the garage and stage areas, to enable the gang show to be performed.
- The flower sink worktop was divided to make it lighter to lift.
- The vinyl floors were scrubbed and resealed
- Carpeted floors were thoroughly cleaned
- The Bromley room was redecorated
- TV screens were installed in the church for projection (has anyone noticed?!)
- Water was found to be dripping into the Upson room and often down into the kitchen too. This was eventually traced to one of the internal downpipes- where the roofing material had worn with age, allowing rain to collect under the lip of the downpipe. A simple repair has halted it – for now.
- General servicing of boiler, cleaning, putting bins out etc and essential repairs identified by the electrical survey,
- Purchase of a new dishwasher, and demise of the water heater on the Bromley side of the kitchen.



Outstanding tasks / investigations:

- Installation of one electronic door device to the side entrance.
- External noticeboards. The one with out-of-date information has been taken down, awaiting a new one. The Perspex poster cabinet has been vandalised, and decisions about repair /renewal are still being thought about.
- The organ has had a few problems, some of which have been repaired, but new ones crop up from time to time.
- Even the piano has tired feet – one set of wheels have crumbled, so need to be replaced.
- Energy costs. As everyone is aware, our energy costs have risen hugely this winter, resulting in us limiting the number of spaces we heat, and waiting until really chilly weather before switching it on last Autumn. Due to the global issues, there is still very little clarity about our future energy costs, so we continue to be as careful as we can, whilst still trying to provide a warm welcome for those who use our premises.
- Parking. Another issue that has come to the fore this year, is the town centre parking – or lack of. Many people are finding it difficult to park on Sundays, and expensive to park to help run activities that the church is running. Whilst we knew that parking would become more difficult, the unexpected early closure of the Nicholson's car park has brought the issue into focus.

Our Minister, Senior Steward and two Property Stewards recently met with officers of the council to try to impress on them that the church and local businesses too, are suffering from a lack of public parking at this end of the town. While the officers were as helpful as they could be, they could not offer any solutions for the long term. The church therefore needs to be aware of, and monitor the situation – and hope that the forecast change in demographics of the town centre (i.e. non car users), will filter positively into the life of the church! In addition, some folks have found that their normal bus timetables have changed significantly, also affecting the ability to attend activities.

The property team would welcome more people to help manage all our property issues – especially as Roger is actively trying to reduce his involvement. Rosemary Holland is standing down as a Property Steward, although she will continue to help keep our property clean and tidy when she can. A big 'thank you' to Rosemary.

Site Development:

The work carried out this year, as detailed above, enables us to continue worshipping and opening our suite of premises for various activities – but there is always more work that needs to be done – both for the short term and the long term.

There are no new refurbishment projects planned at the moment, because the Site Development group has spent some considerable time thinking about the long-term future. It is recognised that we have a larger suite of premises than we are likely to need in the future, but there is no simple way of reducing them.

Out of the blue last Spring, we were approached by a company who asked if we would consider redeveloping some of our premises, to create some housing and new church premises – whilst retaining the church sanctuary and the shops. Whilst that particular

approach has not developed further, the group has started to consider redevelopment as a long-term option. With the advice of Methodist Headquarters (TMCP), a Quantity Surveyor is helping us to consider some potential schemes that have been proposed by three different architects – all at no cost to us thus far.

If any scheme does look like a real possibility, some decisions will need to be taken fairly soon. Church Council are regularly up-dated, but as yet, there is no simple way forward.

Parking in the town - for both the medium and the long term – will continue to be a major factor in any plans and decision making. Even when Nicholson's car park is rebuilt, it will be further away than before. West Street car park will become the medium-term home for Shopmobility – reducing space availability by maybe half, and Grove Road car park is usually very busy.

Questions being considered include:

Will our church be viable if there is no car park available to us within a short distance? Do we need to find / develop parking of our own? Will the Council policy regarding town centre parking enable our church to continue with its operation and mission?

***Ann Pfeiffer, on behalf of Property
Stewards***

Safeguarding



The Church Safeguarding Policy was updated, reviewed and adopted by the Church Council in January. This can be found on the Safeguarding noticeboard in the corridor and includes my contact details and those of the Circuit Safeguarding Officer and the District Safeguarding Officer.

Another copy can be found in the Minister's vestry.

The Methodist Church requires that all those who work with children and vulnerable adults should attend the Creating Safer Spaces Foundation Level Course every 4 years. Courses were held in October and February this year. Many thanks to the 7 people from High Street who have spent 3 hours on a Saturday morning attending one of these courses. As a trainer, I have really appreciated their active participation and positive feedback. There are still a few people at High Street who need to attend one of these courses and I will inform them when the next date is set.

DBS checks are also required for those working with children and vulnerable adults and should be renewed every 5 years. I will inform people a few weeks before the renewal is due and Rev Dr Pete Philips is now able to start this process and verify required documents. Many thanks to him for undertaking this.

Many thanks also to Kathy Rickman, Circuit Safeguarding Officer, for all her support again this year and to Sue Clifford, who is now sharing this role with her.

As Church Safeguarding Officer, I attend Circuit Safeguarding Meetings 3 times a year. The September meeting was attended by Graham Snelling, who is standing in as District Safeguarding Officer while Philippa Read is on sick leave. He emphasised that it is important to create a good culture in our churches, where everyone feels safe and respected and safeguarding is seen as everyone's responsibility. This is also stressed in the Safeguarding

Training and on the Methodist Church Policy statement which you will find on the Safeguarding Board. To quote the first bullet point:

‘The creation of a safe environment and culture, where all are welcome and everyone feels able to speak out about safeguarding concerns’

If anyone does have anything that concerns them, please speak to me about it. Many thanks for your support in this.

Gill Harbut

Saturday Morning Coffee and Bric-a-brac Stall



As our Church was unable to restart regular Friday or Saturday coffee mornings after Covid, we decided to at least run a coffee morning and bric-a-brac stall on the last Saturday of each month out on our front porch. We felt it was important to let the general public know that we, our church, is still here and open for business. The bric-a-brac stall we ran alongside the coffee and cakes was very much a success and we continued to run both until the cold days of October forced us to stop! We are now considering restarting the Friday Coffee Mornings and bric-a-brac stall and this will be inside in the Wesley Hall. We hope to start this after Easter.



Diana Phipps

Sunday Coffee

I'd like to first thank my 28 coffee helpers who've helped to serve coffee after the morning service during this last year. We're very lucky to have such a willing group of volunteers.

From April last year to the end of February this year we've managed to raise the fantastic amount of £993.68 for the following various charities: Church funds, DASH, Disaster fund, Water Aid, Shelter, Action for Children, HSMC Choir fund, Methodist Mission, Thames Hospice, The Brain Tumour Charity, NSPCC, Christian Aid, GOSH and for Ukraine.



It is fun and also a great way of meeting the other members of the congregation....so if you'd like to join us, we'd love to have you!

Karen Ackling

The Technical Team

The Team continues to provide support for worship and other activities.



This, in the main, comprises supporting live in person worship in the church and also live online via our YouTube channel, as well as the breakfast church.

As with other church operations the technical team is both small and overstretched, as many members are multi-tasking around the church, covering admin., music, stewarding and property.

We always welcome volunteers; hopefully we can provide adequate training! Those with any photographic / film or music experience, or Graphics / PowerPoint, are particularly welcome. Most of the tasks are not actually technical, much more operational.

Roger Neal

Tuesday Bible Study



We are a very small group who meet faithfully each week on a Tuesday at 2.30pm on Zoom. We would welcome any newcomers to the group: easy access through ChurchSuite. I believe we have each developed our Christian faith during the past year through our discussions and fellowship. You can too if you can spare the time.

Jean Barnett

Worship Committee

The Last meeting of the Worship Committee was held on 11 October at 7pm with the previous meeting being 4 May of church year 2022). This was our first meeting with Pete. During the meeting Pete outlined his plans for Worship in the future. The main points included:

1. To reintroduce the monthly 9am Service
2. To hold a monthly Evening service - (NB to be recorded)
3. The Morning Service will continue to be the main Service - there would be a balance of different styles of worship across the 3 services.
4. To introduce short daily devotions on line.
5. For Lent he is planning a pilgrimage to Burnham and then on to St Andrews (a combination of walking and driving).



All of the above has been achieved. Alex Lane has agreed to play for the 9am Communion. In the meanwhile, as there are so many committee meetings Pete would like to discuss with the Leadership Team how to deal with them, perhaps some could work on certain aspects of worship rather than regular Committee Meetings.

There was some discussion re. the quality of sound. Angela noticed that when listening on zoom it is only possible to hear the singers at the mics.. Pete said that having gone round the church during the service, he had found the sound was different in different places and would look into it.

The choir now present an anthem on the first Sunday of the month.

The survey which Charlotte had so painstakingly worked at, had still not been used. All agreed that it might now be out of date and it was suggested that it be brought to the next

Church Council Meeting, or when we next meet as the Worship committee....(depending on the reorganisation of committees.)

Pat Crowle

Treasurer's Report

This report refers to two separate time periods:

- a. The Methodist Church year from 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022. For more information on this see the Standard Form of Accounts of which Peter White has a copy (5 pages and too many to include in this report).
Income from offerings and Gift Aid totalled £83,677 and other income from Lettings and various items of a Restricted nature brought the total to £174,246.

On the Expenditure side the Circuit Assessment i.e. money we pay towards the costs of Ministry and the wider Methodist Church, was the largest item at £68,712 with Maintenance and Utilities adding a further £40,000 and other payments added another £40,000 approximately.

That brings the total to £148,885 and shows a surplus for the year of £25,361. This was divided between Unrestricted funds of £14,117 and Restricted funds of £11,244.

Overall this was a satisfactory result, but it highlights two important issues:

1. All of our offerings are taken up by the Circuit Assessment and it is the Gift Aid that provides a small surplus there – so please ensure that you Gift Aid your contributions, if you are able. It adds another 25% to your donation.
 2. We are greatly dependent on Lettings and the money we receive from renting out our properties in order to maintain and run our buildings. Therefore, we hope and pray that the businesses which use our shops will not be adversely affected by a downturn in the economy.
- b. The current year from 1st September to 28th February. For information see the tables of Income and Expenditure for the General Account and for Restricted Funds – Appendix 1. Once again the situation looks fairly healthy with a temporary surplus at the end of February of £14,000. However, on the 1st March this was tipped into a small deficit of approximately £1,500 when we paid the next quarterly instalment of the Assessment.

The greatest threat is that we shall have to meet some hefty bills for gas and electricity before the winter has passed. But I need to tell you that the Circuit have generously given us a grant of £13,000, discounted from next year's Assessment, in order to help us with fuel payments; and Berkshire Community Foundation have given us a grant of £1,000 to run our Warm Church project.

Finally, we are grateful for all the financial support that each of you give towards the running of our church and our mission within the community. We are aware that money is tight at the present time and all our costs and outgoings are increasing, but if you have a chance to review and increase your giving it will be appreciated.

Peter White

High Street Methodist Church
Income and Expenditure 1st Sept 2022 to 28th Feb 2023

2022-23

General Income

Interest		£690.39
Donations to Church Funds		£34,787.44
Stripe	£1,649.00	
Cash	£1,901.28	
Cheques	£875.00	
Bank Transfer in	£29,722.16	
Go Cardless	£640.00	
Gift Aid		£0.00
Property Income		£40,432.71
Room Rent	£7,560.53	
House Rent/Offices/Shops	£32,872.18	
Grants		
Miscellaneous		£0.00

Total Income **£75,910.54**

General Expenditure

Church Mission		£38,218.17
Circuit Assessment	£34,988.00	
Music	£3,230.17	
Misc	£0.00	
Property		£19,958.10
Utilities and Insurance	£7,234.06	
Gas	£1,431.70	
Electricity	£1,994.36	
Water	£316.08	
Insurance	£3,491.92	
Church Maintenance	£4,027.69	
Investment Property Maintenance	£819.00	
Legal Fees	£0.00	
Caretaking Costs	£4,411.59	
New Equipment	£3,465.76	
Administration		£1,378.76
Bank/Card Fees	£122.06	
Payroll Fees	£0.00	
Wages	£0.00	
Consumables	£670.74	
Telecomms/Broadband	£222.96	
IT costs	£363.00	
Audit/Ind Exam	£0.00	
Publicity		£0.00
Miscellaneous		£1,484.82

Total Expenditure **£61,039.85**

Income less Expenditure **£14,870.69**

Balance brought forward	£126,929.54
Net Income vs Expenditure	£14,870.69
Transfer to Restricted Funds	
Net Balance Carried forward	<u>£141,800.23</u>

High Street Methodist Church
Income and Expenditure 1st Sept 2022 to 28th Feb 2023

<u>Ringfenced Funds</u>	<u>2020-21</u>			
	<u>B/forward</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>
Benevolent Fund	£552.51	£72.75	£0.00	£625.26
Art Group	£200.00	£0.00		£200.00
Junior Church	£174.85	£0.00	£14.06	£160.79
Messy/Breakfast Church	£556.79	£0.00	£228.00	£328.79
Action for Children	£378.16	£753.22	£1,039.38	£92.00
Christmas Fair	£0.00	£1,574.12	£0.00	£1,574.12
Gift Day	£15,148.95	£0.00	£0.00	£15,148.95
Library	£325.00	£152.53	£99.90	£377.63
Missions	£0.00	£742.47	£199.47	£543.00
Grants	£0.00	£4,263.20	£77.20	£4,186.00
Property Development Fund	£6,869.04	£2,052.68	£50.00	£8,871.72
TENANT DEPOSIT	£8,001.25	£1.98	£0.00	£8,003.23
Water Aid	£25.50	£20.30	£45.80	£0.00
Christmas Charities	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Diana's New Dishwasher Fund	£2,776.00	£0.00	£2,776.00	£0.00
Whitechapel	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Ukraine	£251.98	£357.19	£609.17	£0.00
Gang Show	£2,101.54	£0.00	£1,185.40	£916.14
Choir Fund	£191.77	£28.60	£26.86	£193.51
Student Tokens	£0.00	£20.00	£0.00	£20.00
Friendship Hour	£0.00	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00
Total Ringfenced Funds	£37,553.34	£10,019.04	£6,351.24	£41,221.14

High Street Methodist Church

Balance sheet

	28th Feb 2023	31st August 2022	31st August 2021	31st Aug 2020	31/08/2019	31/08/2018
Assets						
Cash/Cheques						
HSBC	£ 18,981.59	£ 20,259.47	£ 16,341.52	£11,838.78		
Current Account	£ 8,003.23	£ 8,001.25	£ 100.82	£3,400.82		
Deposit Account			£ 2,491.17	£1,444.44		
			£4,126.02	£12,155.70		
CFB	£ 156,556.55	£ 136,222.16	£ 115,407.11	£102,284.69		
TOTAL	£ 183,541.37	£ 164,482.88	£ 138,466.64	£ 131,124.43	£145,241.00	£179,890.00

Funds

General Church Fund	£141,800.23
Benevolent Fund	£625.26
Art Group	£200.00
Choir Funds	£193.51
Friendship Hour	£500.00
Junior Church	£160.79
Messy/Breakfast Church	£328.79
Xmas Fair	£1,574.12
Gift Day	£15,148.95
Gang Show	£916.14
Library	£377.63
Grants	£4,186.00
Property Development Fund	£8,871.72
Diana's New Cooker Fund	£0.00
Whitechapel	£0.00
Ukraine	£0.00
Water Aid	£0.00
Christmas Charities	£0.00
Action for Children	£92.00
Missions	£543.00
Student Tokens	£20.00
TENANT DEPOSIT	£8,003.23
	£183,541.37

Our Mission is:

To be the Methodist Church in Maidenhead town centre responding to the gospel of God's love in Christ and living out our discipleship in worship and mission. We will do this through:

- Worship which increases awareness of God's presence and celebrates God's love
- Helping people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care
- Being a good neighbour to people in need and challenging injustice
- Leading more people to become followers of Jesus Christ

Our Vision is:

To be a visible, energetic, caring Christian community in the heart of the town, with an age range from zero to a century plus.

To provide engaging worship for adults and young people on Sunday, with Bible study, prayer and fellowship groups throughout the week.

To explore different styles of worship through Breakfast Church and other formats, in order to appeal to a wider cross section of the community.

To increase attendance and involvement through welcoming, fresh, and inviting social and worship activities.

To be financially viable through regular giving, generous donations, investments and grants. To make our premises attractive, warm, comfortable, and inviting by refreshing, refurbishing and maintaining a high standard for the sanctuary and ancillary rooms.

To be seen as a community hub with our church buildings being a safe space for all ages and groups to meet from the Alzheimer's Club to the Zumba Dance Class (A to Z).

To grow our relationship with the active Uniformed Organisations which have a long history of being engaged with us.

To help people in need and challenge social injustice through action and fund raising for Methodist and other local charities.

To widen our outreach, by continuing to broadcast our worship on YouTube, and by maintaining an informative and attractive on-line presence:

In Brief:

A caring Christian community in the heart of Maidenhead

Published by Maidenhead Methodist Church
Address: High Street Methodist Church, King Street,
Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1EF
Telephone: 01628 628104 (office)
Website: www.methodistmaidenhead.org.uk

Appendix 2



A date for your diaries – **Saturday, 10 June 2023 at 7.30pm.**

A Concert at High Street Methodist Church,
Maidenhead

Easter Services and Events

Sunday, 2 April	Palm Sunday	9.00am: Breakfast Church 10.45am: Morning Worship 6.30pm: Circuit Service	High Street High Street St. Mark's
Thursday, 6 April	Maundy Thursday	12 noon: Local Arrangement 6.00pm: Holy Communion	St. Mark's High Street
Friday, 7 April	Good Friday	11.00am: Walk of Witness, terminating at High Street with coffee and hot cross buns	Providence Place (near Sainsbury's) to High Street
Sunday, 9 April	Easter Day	9.00am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Morning Worship	High Street High Street

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Maidenhead High Street Methodist

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

Thames Valley	Circuit	Circuit no.	36/4
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1129473

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:

Rev Dr Peter Phillips

Church Stewards:

Diana Phipps

Ruth Hill

Margaret Maskell

Elijah Kommu

Ilse Statham

Treasurer:

Peter White

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
		£	£	£		£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		90,594		90,594	83,677
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		5,004		5,004	527
a4	Lettings		77,159		77,159	70,778
a5	Other receipts		1,909	12,201	14,109	19,264
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		174,665	12,201	186,866 (a7)	174,246

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		69,976		69,976	68,712
b3	Donations					250
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		26,233		26,233	25,583
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		28,610		28,610	14,399
b6						
b7	Other payments		10,876	4,746	15,622	39,941
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		135,695	4,746	140,441 (b9)	148,885

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	38,970	7,454	46,425	25,361
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		126,930	36,898	163,828 (c6)	138,466
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	165,900	44,352	210,252	163,827
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	165,900	44,352	210,252 (c8)	163,827 (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			656		
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			2,606		4,249
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			2,537		3,593
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)			725		656

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	Flower Committee	52	35	16	(1)	362	377
e2	Friday Lunch Club	1,410	1,174	236		98	334
e3	Friendship Hour	497	563	(67)	10	590	533
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	1,958	1,773	186	9	1,050 (e11)	1,245 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	186,866 (a7)	140,441 (b9)	46,425	724 (c7)	163,828 (c6)	210,976 c8+d4
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	188,825	142,214	46,611	733	164,878 (x)	212,221 (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		
f2 Bank Current Account	20,260	33,037
f3 Bank Deposit Account	8,001	8,057
f4 Central Finance Board	136,222	169,882
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	164,483 c6+d4	210,977 c8+d4
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	1,050 (e11)	1,245 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	165,533 (x)	212,222 (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)	7,253,360	7,253,360
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

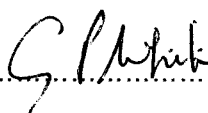
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

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

Name of Church High St, Maidenhead No.....

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.

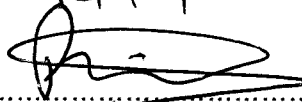
Signature of treasurer  Date 2/12/23

Name and address of treasurer Peter White

Chatsworth, SL4 4AT

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 18/11/24

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Peter M. Lewis Date 21/2/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Maidenhead High Street Methodist Church

Charity Number .. 1129473

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the High Street Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages ..1 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 .. Maidenhead High Street Methodist Church

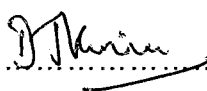
Independent Examiner's Statement

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 DAVID KINNAIRD

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 18 TURPINS GREEN

..... MAIDENHEAD Post Code SL6 4QE

Date 14/2/2024

* delete or circle as appropriate

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Maidenhead High Street Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

Thames Valley	Circuit	Circuit no.	36/4
----------------------	----------------	--------------------	-------------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1129473

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:

Rev Dr Peter Phillips

Church Stewards:

Diana Phipps	Ruth Hill
Margaret Maskell	Elijah Kommu
Ilse Statham	

Treasurer:

Peter White

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
		£	£	£		£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		90,594		90,594	83,677
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		5,004		5,004	527
a4	Lettings		77,159		77,159	70,778
a5	Other receipts		1,909	12,201	14,109	19,264
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		174,665	12,201	186,866 (a7)	174,246

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		69,976		69,976	68,712
b3	Donations					250
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		26,233		26,233	25,583
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		28,610		28,610	14,399
b6						
b7	Other payments		10,876	4,746	15,622	39,941
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		135,695	4,746	140,441 (b9)	148,885

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	38,970	7,454	46,425	25,361
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		126,930	36,898	163,828 (c6)	138,466
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	165,900	44,352	210,252	163,827
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	165,900	44,352	210,252 (c8)	163,827 (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			656		
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			2,606		4,249
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			2,537		3,593
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)			725		656

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
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e2	Friday Lunch Club	1,410	1,174	236		98	334
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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		
f2	Bank Current Account	20,260	33,037
f3	Bank Deposit Account	8,001	8,057
f4	Central Finance Board	136,222	169,882
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	164,483 c6+d4	210,977 c8+d4
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SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
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g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	7,253,360	7,253,360
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g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

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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 High St, Maidenhead No.....

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 G. White Date 2/12/23

Name and address of treasurer Peter White

Chatsworth, SL4 4AT

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 18/1/24

Signature of the Chair of the meeting [Signature]

Name of the Chair of the meeting Peter M. [Signature] Date 21/2/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Maidenhead High Street Methodist Church

Charity Number .. 1129473

Responsibilities and basis of report

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* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church .. Maidenhead High Street Methodist Church

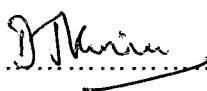
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- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner DAVID KINNAIRD

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 18 TURPINS GREEN

..... MAIDENHEAD Post Code SL6 4QE

Date 14/2/2024

* delete or circle as appropriate

HIGH STREET METHODIST CHURCH MAIDENHEAD

England & Wales - Charity number 1129473

Accounts

High Street Maidenhead Methodist Church

Trustees Report for year ending 31 August 2022

Introduction

The life of High Street Methodist Church having been affected by the Covid 19 pandemic in the previous two years has slowly returned to more normal activities this year. At the end of this Trustees' Report is a copy of the Annual Church Report submitted to the Annual Church Meeting in April 2022. This gives a good overview of what we have done and what has been achieved during the year.

Ministerial oversight has continued to be provided by Reverend Vicci Davidson, Superintendent Minister of the Thames Valley Circuit. This is due to change with Rev. Dr Pete Phillips being appointed for High Street church from 1st September 2022

Objectives

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union the advancement of:

- The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church
- Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church
- Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution or subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church
- Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

Church's Vision and Mission

- Seek to enable all to encounter God in ways which are Spirit-led and celebratory, through worship which is diverse and relevant to our local communities.
- To be a caring Christian community in the heart of Maidenhead

Through Learning and Caring

- To be aware of the nature and context of High Street Methodist Church.
- To explore the word of God, in study, prayer, and fellowship.
- To offer pastoral care to members and adherents.
- To support the presence and witness of the wider Christian Community within Maidenhead.
- To build disciples by nurturing faith and recognising and developing gifts; to encourage new leaders.
- To value our place within the Methodist Connexion and the World Church.

Through Service

- To encourage team working.
- To be a prophetic and free church voice, and initiate action for social justice.
- To respond to needs locally and globally.

- To provide safe spaces for the community.
- To support both the Methodist and World Church through prayer and action.
- To work ecumenically whenever the opportunity arises and, when appropriate, with other faiths

Through Evangelism

- To offer love in the name of Jesus Christ.
- To confidently share and proclaim our faith in ways which are sensitive and respectful.

Brief financial review of the year

During the financial year ending 31st August 2022 the total income received was £174,246 and outgoings amounted to £148,885 leading to a surplus of £25,361. Total funds carried forward amount to £163,872 of which £36,898 are restricted funds set aside for specific projects or charitable work. Fuller details can be seen in the accompanying statement of accounts.

Structure, Governance and Management

High Street Maidenhead is part of the Thames Valley Circuit of the Methodist Church and is governed by the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act 1976 as amended March 2011. Overall control of the Circuit rests with the Methodist Conference. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of ministers in individual Circuits. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate Officers of the District for regional implementation. The District passes the control down to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent Minister, other ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards via the medium of the Circuit Meeting. The membership of the Circuit Meeting is laid down in the Constitutional Practices and Discipline of the Methodist Church. The Circuit Leadership Team comprises four Circuit Stewards, a Senior Circuit Steward, the Circuit Treasurer, the Superintendent Minister and three Ministers. Circuit meetings are held four times a year and are attended by the Circuit Stewards, Church Ministers, and representatives from the church congregations. High Street Methodist Church's congregation is governed by its Church Council which is chaired by the Minister in Pastoral Charge. The Church Council consists of Church Stewards and officers nominated and voted on by the entire Church membership at the Annual Church Meeting. Council Meetings are chaired by the Minister in Pastoral Charge, as delegated by the Superintendent Minister, with those attending becoming the Trustees of the church/charity. It is the Trustees who comprise the decision-making body and who will vote on proposals put before the meeting.

Volunteers

High Street Methodist Church, Maidenhead is grateful to the Stewards and other members of Church Council who freely volunteer their time to attend meetings and to carry out the administrative work required in order to run the church successfully.

Legal and Administrative Information

Full Name of Charity: Maidenhead High Street Methodist Church

Registration Charity Number: 1129473

Date of registration 4 January 2010

Main communication address: Methodist Church Office, King Street, Maidenhead SL6 1EF

Website: <http://www.methodistmaidenhead.org.uk>

Peter White acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the church during the year.

Independent examiner: Mr David Kinna, 18 Turpins Green, Maidenhead, SL6 4QE

Bankers: HSBC 35 High Street, Maidenhead SL6 1JQ. and Central Finance Board, 9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PE

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes: Central Buildings Oldham Street Manchester M1 1JQ

Local Trustees

The members of High Street Maidenhead Methodist Church Council Meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of church office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the church congregation.

Minister in Pastoral Charge: Rev Vicci Davidson, Superintendent Minister and chair of Church Council

Church Stewards: Diana Phipps, Elijah Kommu, Ilse Statham, Margaret Maskell, Pat Crowle, Ruth Hill

Treasurer: Peter White

Other members of Church Council: Ann Pfeiffer, Charlotte Crichton, Claire Boycott, Felicity Kendon, Gill Harbut, Glenice White. Jean Barnett, John Statham, Judy Stimson, Karen Ackling, Matthew Edwards, Maureen Over, Pippa Jones, Roger Neal, Sue Le Page, Tim Rayers

Annual Church Report

Cont.

Annual Report

April 2022



"seeking to know Christ and to make him known"
Registered Charity No. 1129473

Minister's Report

The last year has had its challenges, but it has also been a year of looking forward, of starting new things and of creating new energy for the future. Our beloved Minister Revd Carmel Ieraci curtailed in the face of the covid-induced difficulties of living and working half a globe away from her family and we wish her the very best for her ministry in Australia. Circuit Superintendent Minister, Revd Vicci Davidson took over the pastoral charge of High Street pro tem in May 2021, and has encouraged the church to generate forward momentum now, rather than wait for the arrival of a new Minister. However, the church has now had a new Minister appointed and looks forward with joy to the start of Revd Dr Pete Phillips who will be coming to the circuit on a 50% appointment with pastoral charge of High Street and in support of the Deacon at St Marks from the 1 September 2022.



High Street has hosted three Circuit Services this year. The farewell service for Revd Carmel in particular made use of the skills of our brilliant AV team, allowing Carmel to join us from Australia and people from around the world to join us online. At the end of January, the unusual decision was taken by the Circuit staff to have a morning Circuit service, with local churches encouraged to close for the morning, or to offer an informal Bible Study, whilst as many as possible came to High Street for a service around the music of Johnny Cash. Then on Palm Sunday, the Circuit Service in the evening was led by three choirs from around the Circuit: the High Street Choir, the Windsor Choir and Thames Valley Voices – the Circuit Choir that rehearses at St Andrew's, conducted by Anthony Nicholls with Paul Leddington-Wright at the organ.

At Christmas we took part in the Churches Together drive to give a gift to those who may be alone at Christmas and in a return to pre-Covid times, we hosted the service and eating of hot cross buns at the end of the Easter Walk of Witness.

Food and Fellowship has also been a feature, and the Harvest Supper and Talent Show were well-attended and enjoyed by all. The congregation were thrilled to commission Elijah Kommu as a Worship Leader and the service was followed by a wonderful lunch for which many thanks are due to Di and the brilliant kitchen team.

Covid numbers were on the rise however, and these events were the last of the big social events over the winter period as we recognised the need to balance bringing people back to some sort of normality with public health concerns.

We started a new fresh expressions service recognising the need for a modern worship style to draw in some of the new families moving into the town and Breakfast Church on the first Sunday of the month has become an important part of the calendar for many of our folk, seeing the development of our worship band "Plugged In" to support it. A huge thanks to those who run the different tables each month and also to the fantastic team who prepare the breakfast, led by Lavinia and Elijah. This has also allowed the choir the opportunity to focus on anthems and four-part harmony singing for the first Sunday of the month and the inter-generational element of the music, led by Pippa Jones and supported by so many able and generous musicians has been a strength as we have returned to on site worship. Again, the work of the AV team in allowing our worship to be streamed has been a gift to the Circuit and wider.

The uniformed organisations, in concert with the church membership, produced a fantastic Christmas fair and were welcomed enthusiastically to a Parade Service in March. We are all looking forward to the Gang Show in May, to which I hope many of the congregation will lend their support as willing audience members, contributing to this fun event which will we hope raise funds for

church and guiding/scouting movements alike. We have been indebted to the work of the leaders and of Elanor Davidson and Meg Jones in making this happen.

High Street Methodist Church has always had a strong heart for social justice and work in the community and we have contributed in a number of ways to local, national and international fundraising which will be reported on by the Mission and Outreach Committee. We are also looking forward to opening the upper room in the Kingsway Chambers as an after-school club in response to the need identified in the local borough survey and having now successfully employed a Circuit lay-worker to take the lead on this project.

The buildings themselves are being well used, and a huge vote of thanks is due to the Property Stewards and those leading on room hire and cleaning. We were particularly happy to welcome Re-Charge back to our premises to run a toddler group for the families that they work with.

Meanwhile, a small sub-committee from the art group has been formed to help us in deciding on colour schemes and encouraging members to get hands on in the decorating and refurbishment of the ancillary buildings. Work is continuing to explore ways of developing these, but this should not stop us having a light, bright, fit for purpose set of rooms and halls now.

The Friendship Hour has reconvened and I have spent some lovely afternoons with them, as well as popping in to the Art Group and various of the Uniformed Organisations. Meanwhile, two Bible study groups led by Ilse Statham on a Thursday evening and Jean Barnett on a Tuesday afternoon continue to meet online on a weekly basis. I am particularly grateful to Jean as this meeting was usually led by Carmel, but four churches and the superintendency have meant that this has not been possible for me to sustain.

Finances are not as robust as they once were, and I would encourage members of the congregation to review their giving as I would encourage those who may still have a little extra time to give to look at what they might do to support the church in practical ways. However, even as I write this sentence, I am aware that for many, and probably most of our folk, the giving of time and money is already more than generous. On that note, we have launched a fund-raising campaign for the refurbishment of the building (you may have already picked up on the external lighting and the redecorating of room three and the upper room in the Kingsway Chambers and room two is now underway). Rather than have another committee, we have asked a small team of people to work on co-ordinating a diary of fundraising activities, with the idea that members of the congregation will offer to lead on a one-off activity. On that note, you may wish to save the date for the evening of the 2 July when we will be having a concert of modern worship songs given by our own musicians and friends. If evenings are not your thing, then you may care to join us for a cup of coffee, piece of cake and rummage through the bric-a-brac stalls outside the church on the last Saturday of each month (10.30am – 12.30pm).

The past two years have stretched us all. I remain incredibly grateful to the Church here at High Street for the welcome and support you have given me and the other members of the staff team as we seek to serve God and the people in these difficult times. The church has a fantastic team of stewards, finance and property people, musicians, technicians and administrators who have had to respond to a diminishing membership, reduction in income and the loss of paid staff with our two caretakers and administrator being made redundant over the last two years. People have worked hard, played hard and baked and consumed a lot of cake! Worship, fellowship and support of the community have continued to be our response to the difficulties of the times and I have been proud to make the journey with you over the last year.

God bless, Vicci

Senior Steward's Report



Well, another year has passed and as we gradually emerge from the Covid pandemic, we run into another crisis – the war in the Ukraine. Our church has already started support for these folks, mainly in the form of monetary donations and I am sure this will continue. Please remember these people in your prayers.

Looking back to where we were last year, it is so good to see so many of our groups restarting – Friendship Hour and Art Group, to name but a few. Some have decided to 'cease to meet' and for good reasons. In particular, the Toddlers Club which met at our church for many years and which had many youngsters and their parents/child-minders attending. The ladies from our church who ran the Club are, if they don't mind me saying, retired folks, most of whom are in their eighties, and felt that it was time to call it a day. I would like to thank them, on your behalf, for their dedication to this Club over the many years that they supported it.

However, a non-church group called Parent & Child Drop-in use our premises on a Thursday from 10am to 2pm, so if you want to know more, do call in and meet them, and spread the word to those who might like to join in.

There are so many people for me to thank for their contribution to our church life, so much of which is done in the background without being seen. There is always the worry when giving out thanks that you miss someone out, so my apologies in advance if I have failed in this respect. Four groups in particular have worked hard during what I call 'the Covid years' – our Church Stewards, our Property Stewards, our Tech Team and our musicians. Some have worked to make sure our church buildings were safe and clean to worship in, as we no longer had caretakers to do this, others developed their technical skills to broadcast our services, first through Zoom and then via our YouTube channel, and our musicians in the form of the Choir and the Music Group, both led by Pippa Jones. We are fortunate, too, in that we have a wonderful team of organists/pianists to lead our singing during worship.

There also are some smaller groups, such as Sunday Coffee, flower arrangers, Art Group, Friendship Hour, Communion Stewards. Then there are the Door Stewards – do you know that some of them are in their late 80's and 90's yet still turn up every week and greet our congregation as they enter our Sanctuary. All these people have returned to 'duty'. Our pastoral visitors, led by Felicity, have done a brilliant job in keeping those unable to attend church in touch with what is going on.

Individuals have also been busy through the Covid years – Peter White our Treasurer, Gill Harbut our Safeguarding Officer, John Statham our ChurchSuite expert, Karen Ackling our Sunday coffee organiser.

It was also good to see the Uniformed Organisations back on the premises and we thank them for taking charge of organising our Christmas Fair. We look forward to their Gang Show on 21 May – I know there has been a lot of time and activity in preparing for this, so put the date in your diary.

You will see in the Property Stewards' Report that there has been much planning and activity going on regarding our church premises. Following a survey sent out to our members, the decision was made to stay in our current premises, retain the Sanctuary, and look to improve our ancillary buildings.

We do have concerns regarding Young Church. We desperately need help with this. We thank Jill Pockett for her previous leadership of this group. It is wonderful that Kate Garwood has stepped in

to cover one Sunday a month but we do need other people to cover the other Sundays. If you feel this is something you can help with, please let me know.

Finally, we are hugely indebted to Revd Vicci Davidson, for taking High Street under her wing after Revd Carmel's departure to Australia last year. She already looked after three churches, as well as the Circuit Superintendency. She has brought energy, new ideas and initiatives to our church. I wonder sometimes if she, herself, ever manages to get any sleep. Her enthusiasm and her will to get things done are awesome. Thank you, Vicci.

We look forward to September when our new Minister, Revd Dr Pete Phillips starts work at High Street on a 50% appointment with pastoral charge of High Street and who will also support the newly appointed Deacon at St Marks, and I end with the same quote as I gave last year, from Romans 15 v13:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Diana Phipps

The Art Group

The Art group was glad to be able to start up again in September - we are an oasis of peace in an uncertain world. Some previous members have not returned for various reasons, but we have welcomed three new members, so numbers have kept fairly steady.

In the autumn a few of our group were involved in painting the second mural in the Wesley Hall at the request of Vicci.



We paint in many different styles and media. We have widely varied strengths and abilities, progressing at our own speed and in our own ways. Technology has even been used to create portraits which are amazingly accurate. All are welcome.

Ruth Daniel

Bible Study

Reverend Vicci has done her busy best to encourage us with this small and faithful group. She has helpfully provided suggestions for study during the whole year. Vicci has been able to lead some of the sessions herself but as the year has worn on she has been increasingly busy with Circuit affairs. In her absence we have kept the ship afloat.



We are a group of about 6 people nearly all of whom would be unable to travel to a regular House Group, so we meet on Zoom on a Tuesday afternoon at 2.30pm. We have grown in our knowledge of the Bible and also grown in faith by supporting one another prayerfully. We would like to enlarge our group and would welcome anyone who cares to join us.

Jean Barnett

The Flower Committee

In recovering from Covid (!), our style of flowers in the Church has changed through necessity. You may have noticed that we now use fewer flowers and normally place just one arrangement under the Cross.



Flower Donors. We value those who give flowers. This year we have “lost” some - and would appreciate offers from some fresh Donors. When we have no Donor, the cost is funded from our Flower Funds which are fast diminishing (!) as we have lost our ability to raise funds via Coffee Mornings etc. **Flower Arrangers.** Again, as above, we are a shrinking (!) Group and 9 stalwarts take turns to do this. However, we still enjoy “arranging”. Flowers are usually distributed after Morning Service to cheer, thank or console.

Elizabeth Barker

Friendship Hour Report



Along with other organisations, the Friendship Hour meeting needed to close during Covid and its following restrictions, but members were not isolated as we ensured that regular phone calls and emails kept everyone in touch. The “big day” arrived when everyone was invited to a “Welcome Back” gathering on 1 September 2021, with cakes, stories and plenty of chat! Since then, our monthly meetings have continued to be well attended, usually about 20 members. Our programme has included table games, a Bring & Buy sale, Christmas event and a most interesting illustrated talk on “Guernsey During the War”. Friendship Hour is open to new members at any time, men and women, and a new and exciting programme is ready for the months ahead.

Kathleen McGuinness

Friday Lunch Club

We have not re-started this yet, mainly because many of our members are elderly and vulnerable and are concerned about the Covid situation. However, I am in the process of phoning our former members to see if there is enough interest to start the Club up again. Initially, it will be only once a month instead of fortnightly as we used to do, because we have lost two of our cooks and some of our helpers in the kitchen. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Judy Stimson and Pam Proctor who, for many years, were on the cooks’ rota. Also, I am thanking some of the folks who used to help with washing up and serving the lunch – Kath England, Mary Stock, Su Permane. Anyone who would like to join our team, either assisting with cooking, or serving the lunches, please do speak to me.



Diana Phipps

Music Report April 2022

I am very happy to report that the music at High Street is going from strength to strength. As you all know, there was a really lovely performance of Stainer’s Crucifixion on Palm Sunday involving our own church choir along with choirs from Windsor and the Thames Valley Voices. I was proud of our singers and to have been a part of that and delighted the Paul Leddington Wright was able to play the organ for us.



Going back to last October, I thoroughly enjoyed organising and taking part in High Street’s Talent Show where so many people of every age gave recitals, comedy acts, sang, danced and played instruments. I was blown away by the talent we have within our church family and, even though it took myself and a small team of people many hours of hard work, I can’t wait until we can do something similar again.

Breakfast Church has been successful and John and I have set up a band – Plugged In – which plays. This mainly involves the children and we are so blessed with the wonderful young musicians we have. They are incredibly talented and have a great love for the Lord, music and each other. I am enjoying encouraging their musicianship and watching them grow. I spend a lot of time transposing music for them, as well writing Cello and harmony parts to ensure that all abilities are catered for. I firmly believe that every musician should be encouraged and included as much as possible. They meet for two rehearsals, usually the Saturday evenings, before Breakfast Church and work extremely hard. I have arranged for them to play before the service on the Sunday after Breakfast Church as well, as this shows a continuation in the music between Breakfast Church and our main service. It also encourages intergenerational worship and ensures all ages have a sense of belonging in the church family.

The music group have been working on their repertoire, musicianship and the ability to be flexible and work together. We have a wonderful group of musicians (but need more – especially guitarists, drummers or female singers who can reach the higher notes!!!) who work together and blend beautifully. We meet on a Wednesday evening for rehearsal and then Sunday morning for an hour before the service. I am very grateful for the dedication and enthusiasm of the members.

The choir meets every Friday at 7pm and have been working hard on the Stainer (no doubt Di will be sad we are no longer able to “Fling wide the gates” although I’m sure we can sing it for fun occasionally!!) along with anthems and the hymns. I consider myself very blessed to have had the opportunity to get to know this wonderful group of people since lockdown has eased and I thoroughly enjoy singing some lovely hymns in good 4-part harmony (well, usually 3-part! Any new people very welcome and we could definitely use a tenor or two!!). I am currently planning the anthems for the next few months and looking forward to expanding their repertoire, as well as revisiting some old favourites.

Moving forward and alongside these continuing groups, I am planning an evening of praise and worship on the evening of Saturday 2 July. It will be Breakfast Church turned into Supper Church mixed with old favourite hymns (maybe jazzed up a bit!) and some new ones. There will be the Plugged-In band, music group, choir and some small groups or solos. I am aware this is the first some of you have heard of this so watch out for more details.....

Vicci and I are also discussing a holiday club for the summer and have some great ideas. Again, watch this space.

Thank you all for your support through this year. I feel that now lockdown restrictions have finally gone, we can all get our teeth into some really good music again and continue to grow and keep moving forward.

Pippa Jones

Mission and Outreach Committee

During this current year September 2021 - September 2022 the Mission and Outreach Committee have met twice; on 2 September 2021 and 4 January 2022.



The Toilet Twinning project closed officially at the end of August 2021. One thousand pounds went to Tear Fund to build safer / cleaner toilets. You should be able to see what they look like as photos are on the back of the main toilet doors. The remains of the fund (about £250) went to the Tap Twinning arm of Tear Fund.

In September we launched the Baby Bank collection; a collection for all things baby. The charity itself was (I believe) started in Windsor so that nurses, social workers and such could have access to basic needs more or less immediately, as soon as the need was identified. Rebecca came to church on 12 December and spoke well about their aims and achievements. She went away with several bags of goodies, clothing and other necessary items to stock the shelves; and also £400. Thank you to all who responded.

Shortly after that, in February we started another collection; this time for Whitechapel. This also was successful especially as Jenny Impey was in Maidenhead visiting friends and she volunteered (?) to take the first batch of the collection. Later on, Tony came to collect the rest (several bags) and was very happy to leave with a full car. Again, thanks to all who contributed.

We have a meeting towards the end of April and one of the suggestions is that we have 'an event' to raise money for 'All We Can:' It is more than possible that we might still be looking the terror that is going on in Ukraine and wondering what else we can do to help.....and then the Queen's Jubilee.....

Pat Crowle

Pastoral Committee

The Pastoral Committee meets twice a year and the pastoral work continues among our church family, much of it being unacknowledged but valuable.

We have 13 Pastoral Visitors and have recently been joined by Dorothy Khombe and Carol Herbert. Our membership stands at 115. Since last year one member has transferred out and Rachel Donald died. Richard Cheek has been added to our membership. We have several folks who wish to become members and arrangements are being made with the Minister.

In February a retiring collection raised money to enable the church to send a greeting and voucher to our 2 University students. Azaria Joseph and Elizabeth Kinna.

On behalf of the church family I would like to thank the devoted and loyal Pastoral Visitors for all their work.



Felicity Kendon

Prayer Time

The Thursday lunchtime prayers meet online via ChurchSuite at 2.00pm for 30 minutes.

This group was started by Revd. Carmel and continued by myself. Susan Permane and I are the only two people who meet together at the moment but would be pleased to welcome anyone else to join us. We share a thought for the day and pray for our church and the world. You don't need any skills, just a desire to build up the prayer life of our church and to pray for the world.

Daily morning prayers on WhatsApp

I have loved doing this ministry and try to connect with the season and the life and needs of our church family. If you have any favourite prayers you would like me to use, or feel like composing a prayer of your own, please get in touch with me. I select what I feel led to use the night before and send it out on WhatsApp the following morning at approximately 8am. There are 9 other people who have heard about this service and asked to be included; they are all outside of our church family, but known to me personally. This is a



tremendous privilege and joy to me, and I love hearing from those of you to whom these prayers have touched a chord. Thank you for your messages of support.

If anyone in the congregation has a private prayer or concern they need support with, there is a small discreet team who will pray for people without making anything public. Please contact Jean and our prayer team will pray for them.

Jean Barnett

Property Stewards and Site Development Annual Report 2022

We have now been 'open' again for a year, following the Lockdown period when our buildings were closed. During the year, we have become increasingly busy, with church activities, lettings, and property maintenance. To begin with we were managing basic cleaning with a small team of volunteers, but as activities increased, we realised that we would need to revert to having some paid cleaning support.

We therefore engaged the services of David Hicks, to do cleaning and some small maintenance tasks – for just 2 hours a day, 5 days a week. On days when the premises are busy, cleaning the toilets is the main task. On quieter days, time is spent mopping floors and doing odd jobs that have been requested. 10 hrs a week is nowhere near enough time to do all that is required, so volunteers are still carrying out many of the tasks – both cleaning and looking after the buildings, including opening and locking for lettings and meetings, and putting out the bins!

Thank you, to all those volunteers who help out, in so many ways.

A few ordinary things that have gone on during the past year:

- Organ and piano tuning / repairs
- Boiler servicing, gas safety certification, fire extinguisher and clock servicing and dishwasher repairs
- Repair of water leak in gents' toilets
- Installation of new screen of the church balcony and new cameras for streaming,
- Thorough de-scaling of urinals, and new flushing system
- A working party of many volunteers for a general clean up
- An emergency repair to a gas pipe
- The removal of a buddleia from the porch roof!
- Constant investigations of a water leak in room 3
- Cleaning out of heating grills to improve efficiency



A few more unusual things that have happened:

- Amazing coloured lights on the outside of the building, just in time for Christmas
- A thorough inspection of all our electrical installation
- The discovery that the water leak in room 3 was not coming from the roof, but was instead from the water tanks above the ceiling. Our Methodist Insurance team jumped into action, and did a thorough job of repairing the fault. This involved stripping out the tank room, allowing everything to dry, replacing new tanks, and redecorating Room 3, including the fitting of new lights and ceiling tiles. Disruption to the use of toilets was minimised by the insurance team, and

was helped by the positive attitude of church members and hirers to our temporary arrangements.

- The Upper room above our Kingsway suite of shops was repainted so that an After School Club can open there for 4 days a week next term.
- We gained a new tenant in the vacant Shop 3. An oriental baguette and coffee shop.
- Increased hiring of the premises for dance groups and birthday parties etc.
- The opening of a new 'parent and child' toddler group, managed by the Re-Charge organisation
- The re-starting of a Saturday coffee morning (once a month) – this time outside the front porch, showing passers-by that the church is indeed open and alive.
- A survey of the congregation, about the thorny question of whether the church should stay on site or move elsewhere.

Next steps

- Work starts at the end of this month, to rectify the electrical issues that were found in the survey. This will probably be noticed by most, in the corridor and kitchen where lights keep failing....
- Redecoration of other rooms, to make them more attractive for users. Room 2, followed by the Bromley Room
- The opening of the After School Club – with the aid of a paid Circuit Lay-Worker, plus a team of volunteers

Site Development

The congregational survey last summer resulted in Church Council taking the decision to stay on site, to retain the sanctuary, and to refurbish the ancillary buildings – possibly even reducing how much space we continue to use / look after.

The Site Development Group has therefore been meeting regularly to plan ways of achieving this, starting with the all important questions of – why are we here? what do we want our buildings to help us achieve? The group has therefore considered again the church's Mission and Vision Statement. Without major changes, the new documents have now been adopted. (Our Mission & Vision Statement can be found on the back page of this Report.)

The first goal was to improve the visual appearance of our building – both inside and out. We need to show that we are a live church community, by being visible outside, and by having attractive indoor rooms and activities.

Phase 1 is complete – we now have a beautifully lit exterior, which has made us much more visible to local residents.

Phase 2 is underway – the redecoration of our rooms. Room 3 was re-decorated by the insurance company, and Room 2 (both upstairs rooms) is being redecorated this week by a small team of volunteers. For future rooms, we would welcome a larger group of volunteers please...

Phase 3 concerns some electrical up-grades, in particular new lighting and new ceilings in some areas. The kitchen and main corridor will probably be first.

Phase 4 External noticeboards. The permanent noticeboard near the rose bed has been re-designed to be simple and to show that the church is welcoming and alive. This will not contain much detail, so that it doesn't quickly become out of date. The larger noticeboard near the side entrance, will contain posters that can be up-dated as frequently as details change. Both boards will include an

electronic link for folk to find out more via our website etc. We hope both will be produced before too long.

Our covered way and outdoor space has been the subject of some discussion, but no improvement plan has yet been devised. Watch this space....

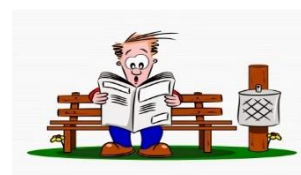
Staying on our own site with our existing buildings means that it is harder to attract much in the way of grant funding, because grant bodies tend to prefer alterations / extensions / new builds. Refurbishment and repairs are not often considered worthy of grants. We therefore need to engage in serious fund raising, to afford the costs of refurbishing what we have. After redecoration, will come the costly infrastructure improvements that will be required for the church to operate and deliver its mission for the next few decades. Just before Easter, an embryonic fundraising plan was launched. Lots of Ideas and volunteers are needed please! (See Glenice White).

Ann Pfeiffer

Publicity & Promotions

Publicity and Promotions are ready and willing to advertise events that the congregation are planning, so please ask! We will also be requesting funding in the 2022/23 budget to support the advertising of future events so if you have an event in mind for later in the year, please let us know.

If you're creative or have experience with poster design and would be interested in helping, please also get in touch.



Tim & Charlotte

Safeguarding



Training, which is an important part of Safeguarding, has featured highly this year. As Church Safeguarding Officer, I completed the Online Advanced Creating Safer Spaces Course in November, organised by the Southern and Islands Learning Network. This included 6 hours personal e-learning followed by a 2 hour Zoom gathered session. I also attended a useful webinar on record keeping organised by the same Learning Network.

The updated Creating Safer Spaces Foundation Level Course, which has replaced the previous Foundation and Refresher Courses, should be undertaken by all those who work with children and vulnerable adults every 4 years. Owing to ongoing Covid restrictions, the face to face training planned for June 2021 could not go ahead and 5 courses were rearranged for autumn 2021 and spring 2022. After attending Trainers' Training last year, I joined Kathy Rickman and Glenice White as a trainer and have helped to deliver these courses. Many thanks to the 13 people from High Street who have given up 3 hours on a Saturday morning to attend one of these courses. Their active participation and positive feedback is much appreciated.

Thanks also to Rev Vicci Davidson, for verifying the DBS checks, which need to be renewed every 5 years for those working with children or vulnerable adults.

I would also like to thank Kathy Rickman, our Circuit Safeguarding Officer for all her advice and support this year. In September Sue Clifford started working alongside Kathy in preparation for taking on the Circuit Safeguarding role.

The Church Safeguarding Policy was updated, reviewed and adopted by the Church Council in January. The Report Summary can be found on the Safeguarding noticeboard and includes my contact details and those of the Circuit Safeguarding Officer and the District Safeguarding Officer. The full version can be found in the Minister's vestry. It is stressed on the courses that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Thank you for your help in this.

Gill Harbut

Saturday Morning Coffee and Bric-a-brac Stall



As our Church was unable to restart regular Friday or Saturday coffee mornings, we decided to at least run a coffee morning and bric-a-brac stall on the last Saturday of each month. We felt it was important to let the general public know that we, our church, is still here and open for business. We are there on our front porch from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Helpers on the day are always welcome, and offers to bake cakes are also gratefully received. If you can help, please let me know.



Diana Phipps

Sunday Coffee

It was lovely that in July last year we were able to once again offer coffee after the Sunday services. Due to Covid restrictions we decided to offer a waitress service and it worked a treat, allowing people to stay seated at their tables and be waited on. To allow for this we increased our numbers to 3 helpers each Sunday, which has worked brilliantly. In March we purchased a new dinky coffee urn which is slightly smaller than our original one, but so much easier to manage. I'm so very grateful, as is the congregation, for the 26 helpers that are now supporting the coffee rota. We have raised up to the end of March £1,149.16....which is absolutely fantastic.... for the following charities: Ukraine, Methodist Mission, Action for Children, Whitechapel Mission, Christmas Fayre, Baby Bank, Church Funds, Church Breakfast Club, Slough Refuge Centre, WaterAid, Tearfund and Christmas collections. If anyone is interested in joining the Sunday coffee rota then please let me know, we'd love you to join us.



Karen Ackling

The Technical Team

The Team continues to provide support for worship and other activities. This, in the main, comprises supporting live in person worship in the church and also live online via our YouTube channel, as well as the breakfast church and, soon to be restarted, the kids film club, as well as the soon to be launched after school club.



Technically we are reasonably well equipped but some items are in urgent need of replacement, notably the main church projector, the keyboard monitor speaker, and the Wesley Hall PC. These are covered separately in property matters.

Almost all worship services in the church have been successfully live streamed, with viewing figures occasionally exceeding 500, with only two special services not making it to YouTube. These were not for technical reasons.

As with other church operations the technical team is both small and overstretched, as many members are multi-tasking around the church, covering admin., music, stewarding and property.

We always welcome volunteers; hopefully we can provide adequate training! Those with any photographic / film or music experience, or Graphics / PowerPoint, are particularly welcome. Most of the tasks are not actually technical, much more operational.

Roger Neal

Worship Committee

The Worship committee has only met once during this church year. (A second meeting was planned for 5 January 2022, but that date proved to clash with the stewards next meeting, and, the Worship group was shelved for a while).

Business discussed included:

- mainly the plans for Christmas
- bringing the Communion table back into focus
- the general mess that the Sanctuary was in (mostly due to Covid) and how to tidy it up

There was considerable discussion re: music in church, ranging from:

- bringing the music group and the choir together
- highlighted the need for a greater range of instrumentalists
- how to meld the different styles of music; and it was decided that a mixture of the two styles would be desirable.

Pat Crowle

Finance Report

Current Year Accounts

The current state of our finances for the first seven months of the current Methodist year (Sept 2021 to April 2022) can be seen on the two reports below:

Income and Expenditure
Balances



Notes:

All monies owing to the various Charities for which we have been collecting have been paid. See page 2 of I and E.

- Gift Aid has been received up to end of March.
- Solicitors' fees have started to be claimed for new leases work.
- Rents have been received from all Commercial properties for the past two quarters, following a break of 3 to 4 years when this has not been the case.
- Letting of church rooms is bringing an income of approx. £1,200 per month - thanks to John's efforts.
- A small start has been made with a Property Development Fund – expenditure on Outside Lighting and Room 2 Refurbishment leaves it with a deficit of £508 at present.
- Some fairly heavy bills are expected for routine maintenance – mainly a backlog of electrical work.

Peter White

Income and Expenditure 1st Sept 2021 to 31st August 2022

Year to Date 08/04/2022

		<u>2021-22</u>	<u>Budget ytd</u>
<u>General Income</u>			
Interest		£26.69	
Donations to Church Funds		£45,430.23	£43,750
Stripe	£907.61		
Cash	£0.00		
Cheques	£1,992.10		
Bank Transfer in	£40,815.52		
Go Cardless	£1,715.00		
Gift Aid		£7,009.68	£8,750
Property Income		£49,477.41	£0
Room Rent	£8,797.50		£5,833
House Rent/Offices/Shops	£40,679.91		£20,417
Grants			£0
Miscellaneous		£334.40	£583
Total Income		<u>£102,278.41</u>	<u>£79,333</u>
<u>General Expenditure</u>			
Church Mission		£54,634.58	
Circuit Assessment	£51,534.00		£34,356
Music	£3,100.58		£3,033
Misc	£0.00		£1,167
Property		£25,757.98	£0
Utilities and Insurance	£9,160.48		£9,917
Gas	£2,764.37		£0
Electricity	£2,009.40		£0
Water	£314.47		£0
Insurance	£4,072.24		£0
Church Maintenance	£6,193.85		£11,667
Property Maintenance	£0.00		£11,667
Professional Fees	£6,334.80		£15,750
Caretaking Costs	£3,869.66		£11,667
New Equipment	£199.19		£2,917
Administration		£1,592.91	£0
Bank/Card Fees	£148.05		£175
Payroll Fees	£0.00		£0
Wages	£0.00		£0
Consumables	£750.46		£292
Telecomms/Broadband	£210.40		£438
IT costs	£484.00		£583
Audit/Ind Exam	£0.00		£0
Publicity		£0.00	£583
Miscellaneous		£315.58	£0
Total Expenditure		<u>£82,301.05</u>	<u>£104,794</u>
Income less Expenditure		<u>£19,977.36</u>	<u>-£25,460</u>
Balance brought forward		£115,588.81	
Net Income vs Expenditure		£19,977.36	
Transfer to Restricted Funds (Cooker)		-£2,776.00	
Net Balance Carried forward		<u>£132,790.17</u>	

High Street Methodist Church
Income and Expenditure 1st Sept 2021 to 31st August 2022

Year to Date 08/04/2022

2020-21

<u>Ringfenced Funds</u>	<u>B/forward</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u>
Bromley Trust	£325.00		£325.00	£0.00
Benevolent Fund	£1,772.01	£0.00	£1,219.50	£552.51
Art Group	£200.00			£200.00
Community Stall	£1,838.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1,838.00
Junior Church	£294.59	£0.00	£15.24	£279.35
Messy/Breakfast Church	£596.00			£596.00
Organ Fund	£235.00		£235.00	£0.00
Action for Children	£56.12	£567.87	£623.99	£0.00
Christmas Fair	£0.00	£1,343.84	£0.00	£1,343.84
Gift Day	£17,041.97	£0.00	£1,568.02	£15,473.95
Library	£325.00	£0.00	£0.00	£325.00
Missions	£194.24	£220.06	£414.30	£0.00
Grants	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Property Development Fund	£0.00	£1,085.93	£1,594.25	-£508.32
Slough Refugee Fund	£0.00	£846.88	£846.88	£0.00
Baby Bank Project	£0.00	£512.13	£512.13	£0.00
TENANT DEPOSIT	£0.00	£8,000.04	£0.00	£8,000.04
Water Aid	£0.00	£20.00	£20.00	£0.00
Christmas Charities	£0.00	£534.83	£534.82	£0.01
Diana's New Cooker Fund	£0.00	£2,776.00	£0.00	£2,776.00
Whitechapel	£0.00	£30.00	£30.00	£0.00
Ukraine	£0.00	£811.17	£811.17	£0.00
Total Ringfenced Funds	£22,877.93	£16,748.75	£8,750.30	£30,876.38

Balance sheet

Date: 08/04/2022

		31st August 2021	31st Aug 2020	31/08/2019	31/08/2018
Assets					
Cash/Cheques					
HSBC	Current Account	£ 16,341.52	£11,838.78		
	Deposit Account	£ 100.82	£3,400.82		
	Property Stewards Account	£ 2,491.17	£1,444.44		
	Property Account	£4,126.02	£12,155.70		
CFB		£ 115,407.11	£102,284.69		
	TOTAL	£ 138,466.64	£ 131,124.43		
Funds					
General Church Fund					
Benevolent Fund		£ 115,588.71	£ 110,925.39		
Art Group		£ 1,772.01	£ 1,772.01		
Community Stall		£ 200.00	£ 200.00		
Junior Church		£ 1,838.00	£ 1,838.00		
Messy/Breakfast Church		£ 294.59	£ 294.59		
Xmas Fair		£ 596.00	£ 596.00		
Gift Day		£0.00	£0.00		
Library		£ 17,041.97	£ 12,050.00		
Grants		£ 325.00			
Property Development Fund		£0.00			
TENANT DEPOSIT		£0.00			
Diana's New Cooker Fund		£0.00			
Whitechapel		£0.00			
Ukraine		£0.00			
Bromley Trust		£ 325.00	£ 325.00		
Organ Fund		£ 235.00	£ 235.00		
Slough Refugee Fund		£0.00			
Baby Bank		£0.00			
Water Aid		£0.00			
Christmas Charities		£0.01			
Action for Children		£ 56.12	£ 56.12		
Missions		£ 194.24			
		£138,216.28	£127,675.99	£145,241.00	£179,890.00
		£163,666.54			

Our Mission is:

To be the Methodist Church in Maidenhead town centre responding to the gospel of God's love in Christ and living out our discipleship in worship and mission. We will do this through:

- Worship which increases awareness of God's presence and celebrates God's love
- Helping people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care
- Being a good neighbour to people in need and challenging injustice
- Leading more people to become followers of Jesus Christ

Our Vision is:

To be a visible, energetic, caring Christian community in the heart of the town, with an age range from zero to a century plus.

To provide engaging worship for adults and young people on Sunday, with Bible study, prayer, and fellowship groups throughout the week.

To explore different styles of worship through Breakfast Church and other formats, in order to appeal to a wider cross section of the community.

To increase attendance and involvement through being welcoming, with fresh and inviting social and worship activities.

To be financially viable through regular giving, generous donations, investments, and grants.

To make our premises attractive, warm, comfortable, and inviting by refreshing, refurbishing, and maintaining a high standard for the sanctuary and ancillary rooms.

To be seen as a community hub with our church buildings being a safe space for all ages and groups to meet, from the Alzheimer's Club to the Zumba Dance Class (from A to Z).

To grow our relationship with the active Uniformed Organisations which have a long history of being engaged with us.

To provide:

- a Friendship Hour for the more elderly
- a Friday Lunch Club for the lonely, and
- regular Coffee Mornings open to the public

To help people in need, and challenge social injustice, through action and fund raising for Methodist and other local charities.

To widen our outreach, by continuing to broadcast our worship on YouTube, and by maintaining an informative and attractive on-line presence.

A caring Christian community in the heart of Maidenhead

Published by Maidenhead Methodist Church
Address: High Street Methodist Church, King Street,
Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1EF
Telephone: 01628 628104 (office)
Website: www.methodistmaidenhead.org.uk

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Maidenhead High Street

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2022

Thames Valley

Circuit

Circuit no.

36/4

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1129473

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:

Rev Vicci Davidson

Church Stewards:

Diana Phipps

Margaret Maskell

Ilse Statham

Pat Crowle

Elijah Kommu

Ruth Hill

Treasurer:

Peter White

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	83,677		83,677	96,505
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	527		527	119
a4	Lettings	70,778		70,778	32,796
a5	Other receipts	757	18,507	19,264	17,514
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	155,739	18,507	174,246 (a7)	146,934

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	68,712		68,712	68,997
b3	Donations		250	250	8,143
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	25,583		25,583	21,277
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	14,399		14,399	15,567
b6					
b7	Other payments	32,928	7,013	39,941	25,609
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	141,622	7,263	148,885 (b9)	139,593

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	14,117	11,244	25,361
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		115,588	22,878	138,466 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	129,705	34,122	163,827
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(2,776)	2,776	(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	126,929	36,898	163,827 (c8)
					138,466 (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	4,249	
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	3,593	
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	656	
	(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 2022 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 Choir		244	(244)		244	
e2 Friday Coffee		649	(649)		649	
e3 Flowers	55		55		306	361
e4 Friday Lunch					98	98
e5 Friendship Hour					590	590
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	55	893	(838)		1,887 (e11)	1,049 (e12)
Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	174,246 (a7)	148,885 (b9)	25,361	(c7)	138,466 (c6)	163,827 (c8)
e9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	174,301	149,778	24,523		140,353 (x)	164,876 (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 2022**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	22,959	20,259
f3 Bank Deposit Account	101	8,001
f4 Central Finance Board	115,406	136,222
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	138,466 (c6)	164,482 (c8)
Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	1,887 (e11)	1,049 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	140,353 (x)	165,531 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2021	At 31 August 2022
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	6,850,646	7,253,360
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 .. **Maidenhead High Street Methodist Church**

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

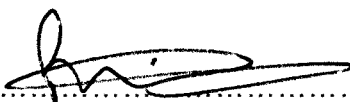
Signature of treasurer  Date..... 24/9/2022

Name and address of treasurer Peter White

Chatsworth, St Leonards Road, Windsor, SL4 4AT

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 ~~were~~/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on ...23/11/23

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting ...PETER M Phillips Date ...11/1/23

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Maidenhead High Street Methodist Church

Charity Number .. 1129473

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the High Street Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages 1 to 4. 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 .. Maidenhead High Street Methodist Church

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.

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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 DAVID KINN

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 18 TURANS GREEN, MAIDENHEAD

..... Post Code SL6 4QE

Date 10/1/2023

* delete or circle as appropriate

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Maidenhead High Street

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

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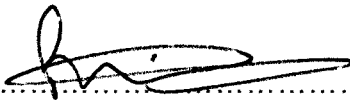
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Name of the Chair of the meeting ...PETER M Phillips... Date ...11/1/23...

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Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner DAVID KINNIK

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 18 TURANS GREEN, MAIDENHEAD

..... Post Code SL6 4QE

Date 10/1/2023

* delete or circle as appropriate

HIGH STREET METHODIST CHURCH MAIDENHEAD

England & Wales - Charity number 1129473

Accounts

High Street Maidenhead Methodist Church

Trustees Report for year ending 31 August 2021

Introduction

Along with almost all other charities the life of High Street Methodist Church has been affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. At the end of this Trustees' Report is a copy of the Annual Church Report submitted to the Annual Church Meeting in March 2021. This gives a good overview of what we have done and what has been achieved during the year.

A significant event has been the change in ministerial oversight. Reverend Carmel Ieraci left in May 2021 to return to her native Australia and pastoral charge of the congregation has passed to Reverend Vicci Davidson, Superintendent Minister of the Thames Valley Circuit

Objectives

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the date of union the advancement of:

- The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church
- Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church
- Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution or subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church
- Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

Church's Vision and Mission

- Seek to enable all to encounter God in ways which are Spirit-led and celebratory, through worship which is diverse and relevant to our local communities.
- To be a caring Christian community in the heart of Maidenhead

Learning and Caring

- Be aware of the nature and context of High Street Methodist Church.
- Explore the word of God, in study, prayer and fellowship.
- Offer pastoral care to members and adherents.
- Support the presence and witness of the wider Christian Community within Maidenhead.
- Build disciples by nurturing faith and recognising and developing gifts; encourage new leaders.
- Value our place within the Methodist Connexion and the World Church.

Service

- Encourage team working.
- Be a prophetic and free church voice, and initiate action for social justice.
- Respond to needs locally and globally.
- Provide safe spaces for the community.
- Support both the Methodist and World Church through prayer and action.
- Work ecumenically whenever the opportunity arises and, when appropriate, with other faiths

Evangelism

- Offer love in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Confidently share and proclaim our faith in ways which are sensitive and respectful.

Brief financial review of the year

During the financial year ending 31st August 2021 the total income received was £146,935 and outgoings amounted to £139,592 leading to a surplus of £7,342. Total funds carried forward amount to £138,486 of which £22,878 are restricted funds set aside for specific projects or charitable work. Fuller details can be seen in the accompanying statement of accounts.

Structure, Governance and Management

High Street Maidenhead is part of the Thames Valley Circuit of the Methodist Church and is governed by the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act 1976 as amended March 2011. Overall control of the Circuit rests with the Methodist Conference. The Connexional Office implements decisions made by Conference and is also responsible for the stationing of ministers in individual Circuits. Connexional decisions are passed to the Chair of the District and the appropriate Officers of the District for regional implementation. The District passes the control down to Circuit level for local implementation by the Superintendent Ministers, ministerial staff and Circuit Stewards via the medium of the Circuit Meeting. The membership of the Circuit Meeting is laid down in the Constitutional Practices and Discipline of the Methodist Church. The Circuit Leadership Team comprises four Circuit Stewards, a Senior Circuit Steward, the Circuit Treasurer, the Superintendent Minister and three Ministers. Circuit meetings are held four times a year and are attended by the Circuit Stewards, Church Ministers and representatives from the church congregations. High Street Methodist Church's congregation is governed by Church Council and chaired by the minister in pastoral charge. The Church Council consists of Church Stewards and officers nominated and voted on by the entire Church membership at the Annual Church Meeting. Meetings are chaired by the Minister in Pastoral Charge as delegated by the Superintendent Minister, with those attending becoming the Trustees of the church. It is the Trustees who comprise the decision making body and who will vote on proposals put before the meeting.

Volunteers

High Street Methodist Church, Maidenhead is grateful to the Stewards and other members of Church Council who freely volunteer their time to attend meetings and to carry out the administrative work required in order to run the church successfully.

Legal and Administrative Information

Full Name of Charity: Maidenhead High Street Methodist Church

Registration Charity Number: 1129473

Date of registration 4 January 2010

Main communication address: Methodist Church Office, King Street, Maidenhead SL6 1EF

Website: <http://www.methodistmaidenhead.org.uk>

Peter White acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the church during the year.

Independent examiner: Mr David Kinna, 18 Turpins Green, Maidenhead, SL6 4QE

Bankers: HSBC 35 High Street, Maidenhead SL6 1JQ. and Central Finance Board, 9 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4PE

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes: Central Buildings Oldham Street Manchester M1 1JQ

Local Trustees

The members of High Street Maidenhead Methodist Church Council Meeting are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of church office holders, ministers and representatives appointed by the church.

Minister in Pastoral Charge: Rev Vicci Davidson, Superintendent Minister and chair of Church Council, (Rev Carmel Ieraci to May 2021)

Stewards: Diana Phipps, Elijah Kommu, Ilse Statham, Margaret Maskell, Pat Crowle, Ruth Hill

Treasurer: Peter White

Other members of Church Council: Ann Pfeiffer, Charlotte Crichton, Claire Boycott, Felicity Kendon, Gill Harbut, Glenice White. Jean Barnett, John Statham, Judy Stimson, Karen Ackling, Matthew Edwards, Maureen Over, Pippa Jones, Roger Neal, Sue Le Page, Tim Rayers

Annual Church Report

Cont.

Annual Report February 2021



Presbyter's Report

The 2020 Annual Church Meeting was held on 15 March and followed the baptism of baby Theo. Since then, it seems that our world has been turned upside down due to Covid 19. The familiar rhythm of meeting together at High

Street for worship, fellowship, spiritual nurturing and being in community was ruptured suddenly. What would happen? How would we manage? Where was God in all of this?

The prophet Habakkuk writes in Chapter 3:2a

I have heard all about you, LORD.
I am filled with awe by your amazing works.
In this time of our deep need,
help us again as you did in years gone by . . .



And v17-19 in a song of lament Habakkuk sees present and impending catastrophe, yet in the midst of tragedy, he is full of praise for God.

In the face of severe loss and desolation, Habakkuk remembered God's goodness in times past and concluded that God was worthy of praise thus determining to trust God, even when what Habakkuk spoke of could have been interpreted as 'God doesn't care'.

He was still able to say, 'God, the Lord is my Salvation; my joy; my strength', and that was cause enough for him to put his trust in God.

This too, is what we have seen of God throughout these 12 months into a global pandemic. We are able to say: God is trustworthy; God saves; God provides; God cares and shares in our pain and sorrow, showing comfort and hope, as well as being our strength and yes even our joy. God who promises to never leave nor forsake us. God who faithfully provided for the needs of Christians who have gone before us and who have passed on the baton of faith that we who are here today might continue to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those around us and beyond.

During the last 12 months of various lockdowns, the dispersed Church of High Street has experienced painful isolation and separation. . . and yet many relationships developed and strengthened as people contact one another by telephone, email or letter to see how people are managing.

I feel so privileged to serve God's people in Maidenhead alongside people who willingly use their God-given gifts and talents to further the cause of God.

Baton-passing seems to be the theme! The Stewards' team is now headed by Di Phipps who during this year was handed the Senior baton from Peter White. With sincere thanks to Chris Maskell who faithfully and competently completed his term as Church Treasurer and handed on this responsibility with confidence to Peter White.

The Stewards work tirelessly to ensure that the Leadership, Worshiping, and practical running of Church life is effective in fulfilling the call to share the love of God. I am so appreciative of all their support and time praying and exploring ways with me to enhance all that takes place at High Street.

During the year Leadership decisions were taken. Some were complex and others straightforward, yet we faced this new landscape as pioneers together:

Here is a snapshot of some of the decisions and outcomes.

- To furlough, and then make the two Caretakers redundant.
- To experiment with online worship (completely out of all of our comfort zone), and yet . . . God gave many the ability to see or at least hear one another each week as we worshiped together in a new way of being. The dispersed Church became the Virtual Gathered Church.
- I'm so grateful to God for the brilliant people with gifts in technical support in this community who stepped forward to walk us through what appeared to be a mammoth undertaking. They were willing to spend many hours enabling those without experience in technology gain confidence, should they so choose to, to come online for Worship; Bible studies; prayer meetings; Church Council meetings; Coffee mornings; Social events and to engage across the Circuit;
These efforts have led to the Church having a greater Digital presence.
- Church Council approved the implementation of ChurchSuite, guided by John Statham and a large team of people from High Street who have been extremely busy offering training and support. ChurchSuite is a powerful tool enabling the Church to comply with Data Protection Laws; and in implementing this programme there are now many other administrative opportunities which allow the Church to streamline its processes as well as afford an effective means of communication to be offered to all.
- To provide Messy Church support to families on-line (this was promising to begin with but became too difficult to administer and has ceased for the time being).
- To offer a socially distanced on-line Carol Service live streamed from within the building.
- Upon consideration and with great sadness a decision was taken to cancel holding Christmas Eve and Morning worship in the Church building when we faced Tier 4 restrictions and the Virus was reported as proliferating.
- To provide Young Church on a Saturday afternoon. What a delight this has been for me personally to have opportunity to listen to the young voices of this community, and am in awe at their spiritual hunger and depth, as they are guided by Jill Pockett and team.
- Listening to the young people share of their encounter with God, through Bible teaching, creative expressions; games, singing, and topics that were uppermost on their minds on a Sunday morning's Zoom Services we are reminded that they are very much 'the present Church' as well as 'the future Church'.
- Musically, we are seeing a further strand of synergy emerging from the wonderful and faithful work that Gillian Yard co-ordinated. Pippa Jones supported by Pat Crowle, musicians, choir and singers, is developing an intergenerational collective of people using their God-given gifts to lead this community in worship as well as exploring future missional possibilities.

During these 12 months numerous meetings were conducted online: Church Council; Stewards' Meetings; Worship Consultation; Finance; Prayer; Mission & Outreach; Education; Conferences; Development/Redevelopment/ Connexional meetings; all the while continuing to offer pastoral telephone calls through the Minister, Pastoral Visitors – ably co-ordinated by Felicity Kendon, and Lay Pastor; visiting as and when it was permissible.

My time has also involved building relationships with other Christian community leaders; Chaplain to 155 Maidenhead RAF ATC; serving on Methodist Council; District Council and Candidates' Selection Committee.

Safeguarding matters were addressed following Methodist Policies in collaboration with Gill Harbut the Safeguarding Officer at High Street and as needed, advice at Circuit and District levels.

The Property Stewards are to be commended for the collaboration in making difficult decisions and evaluation of risk factors to ensure the building is as Covid-safe as possible. Sincere thanks to each of them, and to Rosemary Holland who has gathered a team to clean and sanitise the building in readiness for safe entry. A special thanks also goes to Ann Pfeiffer who spends a great amount of time helping the Church oversee, evaluate, comply with guidelines, and offer consultative advice in property matters.

Distribution of Christmas packs with Churches Together in Maidenhead – with thanks to Pam Proctor as she passes on the role of a representative on this ecumenical group.

After completing his two-year Circuit appointment as a Lay Worker based at High Street, Joshua Wilson was thanked for his service among us. He faithfully engaged in the pastoral work within the community and in developing relationships with many in the town centre.

We are thankful to note that Josh remains very much involved in the life of High Street. He is working as Chaplain to the Oxford United Football Team and is also continuing his call to Local Preaching where he continues on trial.

Thanks go to Kath England and all who have served for many years the community by conducting a Toddler group at High Street. The team feel that this ministry has reached its fulfilment and that this is the season to stop a work that has been rewarding to those who lead and to those who have benefitted over many years.

Seneca writes: Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end

The High Street Community is a prayerful, vibrant and active group of people who love Jesus and have a desire to see God's work grow. I want to thank each and everyone of you, especially those of you who work quietly behind the scenes unnoticed, as you serve and lead for the cause of Christ.

For many, many years, a great deal of prayer about the needs of the Town Centre and missional opportunities; consideration of good stewardship of financial resources; exploration of alternate locations; rising costs of maintenance issues;

and many deliberations now see High Street on the cusp of decision-making. A draft copy of a Mission statement exercise is also attached to this document for your prayerful feedback would be appreciated.

From 1 April – 30 June, I will be on Sabbatical exploring various models of mission and outreach in Sydney Australia with Wesley Mission. You will all remain in my prayers.

May we be a people of courage as we say with the prophet Habakkuk:

God, the Lord is our Salvation; our joy; our strength; and together we put our trust in God with confidence.

Rev. Carmel

Senior Steward's Report

Well, what a year to take over as Senior Church Steward. I would like to thank Peter White for his work previously as Senior Steward, and who I still consult with on some matters. He is doing a great job as our Treasurer, following on from another great Treasurer, Chris Maskell. Thanks Peter and Chris.

Although many of you have not been able to attend church in person, I hope you have managed to join in some of the Zoom services on Sunday morning, some of the Bible Studies, prayer meetings. We are very fortunate to have such a good Tech Team which allows us into our church, both physically or through our home IT equipment, and those who set up these events.

However, church life has continued, despite the Covid pandemic. Our Property Stewards are an awesome team. Our church building, although hardly being used over the last year, still needs looking after – water taps and pipes need to be run regularly to avoid things like Legionnaires Disease, a small amount of heating put on during the winter to stop pipes freezing up, thorough cleaning and wiping down with antibacterial wipes when people have used the premises, leaking roof. Considerable work is still ongoing with negotiations relating to our shops and the caretaker's old house in Crescent Drive which we rent out, and talks with the Nicholson's developer and the Council.

Although no longer Property Stewards, I would also like to thank Don Stimson, who has organised getting Crescent Drive ready for new tenants, and Dave Herbert, who is responsible for heating the church premises.

Other activities go on too, such as our flower ladies occasionally organising flowers for the church when we are open for a service; musicians, who are limited in what they may be permitted to do during the pandemic, making their own contribution to the services we have had; and our team of Church Stewards who have come into church on Sundays to not only support the preacher but to make sure all is safe for us to come into our church.



I know that some groups have not been able to continue their activities/meetings over the past year, and that must be disappointing. I know that they have managed to keep in touch with one another. Our pastoral visitors, under the leadership of Felicity Kendon, are doing a sterling job in keeping in contact with us.

I know it will be difficult for some to resume the activities/voluntary work done previously at our church. A return to some sort of normality will be slow. However, our church still has its role to play in the community – a hub in the middle of Maidenhead – and I hope and pray that we will be able to resume our work soon.

I am sure you will join with me in wishing Rev. Carmel all the best now she is in Australia, looking forward to her daughter's wedding at the end of April and her Sabbatical. We pray that when she comes back to us at the end of June, Carmel will be refreshed in body and spirit.

.... and as we look forward to better times this year, I give you a quote from Romans 15 v13:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Diana Phipps

The Art Group

The art group had hardly got started in 2020 before everything shut down and lives were put on hold. Just the week before lockdown in March we'd held our weekly meeting at Viv's house and had learnt about Zentangle - an art therapy which proved very opportune as it turned out.

Many of us have continued with painting, drawing, sculpture etc. and have shared pictures and news via email.



We fully intend to have an exhibition when we can finally get back to any sort of normality, but, for the time being, that remains just a dream.

Ruth Daniel

Communion

Due to the Covid situation, there has been little opportunity to offer Communion in church. We did have one service where Communion was offered where we used small disposable individual cups which contained grape juice, covered by a thin film on top of which is a small wafer covered by another film.

We are in need of two Church members to become Communion Stewards, one to replace our dear friend Ray Binner. If you feel this is something you would like to do, please contact Michael Minors, our Senior Communion Steward.

Diana Phipps

The Flower Committee

"Covid" closed our Church on March 22nd last year and we realised that no flowers were required for "as long as IT would take"

Kathleen McGuinness has nonetheless prepared the Rota for Sundays in 2021 and we hope to renew placing beautiful flowers in Church very soon.



We have 45 Flower Donors this year. Some give to remember a loved one and some give for the sheer joy of giving. We thank them all for their generosity. Although Donors are very welcome to arrange their own flowers, we have a rota of nine willing Arrangers. We work together as a group at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

We thank especially Gillian Yard who has retired from our group and also Priya Wikramasingh who has moved away.

Flowers are usually distributed after the Morning Service to cheer, thank or console.

**Elizabeth
Barker**

Friendship Hour Report



During this past difficult year, Friendship Hour has emphasised "friendship together", so we've kept in touch with members by way of telephone calls, emails and Birthday cards. In December, everyone had the surprise of a Christmas Gift Bag arriving, which seemed to be much enjoyed. Most of all, we hope and pray for the opportunity to recommence our fellowship meetings once the situation allows, and it is safe to do so.

**Kathleen
McGuinness**

Friday Lunch Club

The last Lunch Club was March 13.
All members were contacted after this.
Thank you to all the Cooks and Kitchen staff.
England

Kath

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Judy Stimson, who has been responsible for organising the lunches and the cooks' rota, and indeed cooking lunches on many occasions for quite a few years, who has now decided to retire. Thank you, Judy.



Diana Phipps

Intergenerational Music Directors Report February 2021

Well, the past 12 months did not turn out the way anyone anticipated, and my role has been quite different to how I envisioned!



I have continued to work hard all year to ensure the recorded music for the zoom services have been of good quality and easy for the whole congregation to sing along to. I have tried to tailor them to the sermon and service by using different versions and backings in line with the preacher and the tone of the service. When using live musicians, you would naturally adapt the hymns and songs as

needed for the service, so I have tried to do this as much as possible using the pre-recorded music.

To ensure the safety of musicians during services in the church building, I have needed to measure the available space and place musicians in line with the national guidelines. This has included researching plexi-glass screens, which Roger is now looking into further. Never did I expect my role to involve a tape measure and roll of tape for marking positions carefully!!

Keeping up with the ever-changing rules and regulations to do with Covid has stretched my brain (as I'm sure it has with many of us!) but I am delighted that groups of musicians are now able to attend the church for rehearsals on a Wednesday evening. I stick to small groups, as per regs, and have been working with them to develop a greater understanding of how to progress as a music group. We've been concentrating on working together as a team, as well as following and leading in worship. Obviously, this is only in the early stages as we've only been able to do this recently, but it has been great to be back and have this opportunity again. Moving forward, as we are aiming for weekly services from the end of March, I will keep these Wednesday rehearsals going weekly to practise for the service and to continue to build on good working relationships between all group members. I have a lot of meetings planned over the next few weeks with members of the technical team, choir, music pool and others and I hope these will result in some positive progression with the musicians and improvement in the live streamed services. At this time, there is a lot of improvement needed but also a lot of potential, so I need to marry these together.

I am continuing to work with the children (mostly over zoom) to encourage them to be involved with the music as much as possible and we have an exciting service coming up on 14 March.

Moving forward, I am looking into outreach and how we can run a kids club during the holidays. To do this I am researching recording and editing software that will enable me to put a virtual choir together as well as other music software needed for such an endeavour. I will start approaching schools to see if there's a possibility of advertising to students. I also must discuss this fully with the safeguarding team to ensure I meet all the safety regulations, as well as those volunteers (who may not know they've volunteered yet!!!) who I hope will be able to run these clubs with me.

As ever, I am on the lookout for people who are ready to sing or play in our services or any potential technical team members so I can have my guitarists back!!

Thank you all for your continued support. We are so blessed to have the musicians we do at High Street, who are so willing and able to give up their time to make our services varied and of good quality.

Pippa Jones

Junior Church

On 23 March 2020 a parent asked me by text if they could have some Junior Church provision via Zoom. Saturday 27 March at 3pm we started and have met EVERY week up to date with a two week



by
Unknown
Author is
licensed

break over Christmas. Carmel & Jean Barnett have ably assisted my work with the children. Our regular 8 children plus my great nephew in Bradford have had special visits from experts in horticulture, music & religion.

We have shared many special moments and it has been a privilege to work with the children and parents. We have watched the children grow spiritually, physically & in close fellowship during three lockdowns. Zoom is a very mobile medium and we have talked to children in the park, car & various shops. Our interest in God's wonderful world led to a special few weeks when we looked at current environmental issues & talked about the children's concerns/worries. Max Packer joined us from the Eden Project & Graham Pockett, a qualified landscape architect, shared a PowerPoint with ideas to help the children who are keen to re-wild the area around our church.

Special mention needs to be made of Kate Garwood. Kate wrote, narrated and would NOT give up on her vision of a virtual nativity despite the technical difficulties of Zoom. Also, thanks to Richard & Matthew Brown who did great technical wizardry with the final edit. Also, of course, ALL the young church members & their parents who valiantly acted, costume changed & made a memorable year's virtual nativity.

Another highlight of our year was the Carol Concert on 13 December when five of our Young Church children helped Carmel with readings, carols & her reflection. Many thanks to Pippa and Meg who sang ALL the songs. There were 25 people helping to get the carol concert online with live music in a safe, clean church.

In September 2020 I asked the children to choose their three favourite or little-known Bible passages/stories & we have been steadily working our way through them. The story of Esther was requested by all the girls and their mums. I think I have enjoyed that part of my work with the children most.

More recently the children have taken on more responsibility for their own learning. To date Noah has taught about the Tower of Babel, Michaela's text was Naaman & the Servant Girl and this week Meg has taken the Parable of the Lost Sheep as her text.

Jill Pockett

Mission and Outreach Committee

This committee has met twice since the beginning of the new church year.

A priority was to ensure that the Toilet twinning (launched on 9 August) had got off to a good start. At that time the total fund was already £700. Since then, the total has risen to £1,050 and with the addition of gift aid of £230, the total is currently £1,280! An excellent effort. The committee has decided to keep the fund open as the official end of the project is not until August. We had already decided to give any excess funds to the partner project, i.e. 'Tap Twinning'. Many thanks to all who are supporting this worthy project.

Missions: Carmel and Jean have attended a course, covering a variety of subjects and specifically for us, an evangelism component which is the main focus this year.

Questions were asked e.g. What can we do to encourage evangelism? Dates for a possible Missions service in October 2020 were mooted.



Mission Boxes and Finances: There was a small but noticeable increase in the amount collected (2x yearly); the total being £293.81 has been sent to Missions. Thank you to all involved. If you would like to support this collection please contact Don Stimson.

Sadly, it became increasingly obvious that there might be a change or even a closing of the plans for Christmas; in which case it would be unlikely that we would be able to send and receive cards to church friends and donate money to Action for Children at the same time - a tradition which had continued for a number of years. This turned out to be correct. However, the Circuit, as a body, have collected for Action4children (thanks mainly to the Magic Show).

There has been no CTiM card distribution this Christmas. However, there was a distribution of both plants and Christmas boxes organised by St Peter's Church (in which a few High Street members were involved) and these had been well received.

Sadly, we have had to say 'goodbye' to Carol Kemp. We thank her for her thoughts and prayers - and attendance when able. At the same time, we give thanks that Tim and Charlotte have joined our small group, and have presented sound suggestions and ideas. Thank you both.

Pat Crowle

Pastoral Committee

The Pastoral committee meets twice a year in October and February.

The membership stands at 116 and there are 44 non-members on the community role who are not allocated to a Pastoral Visitor. The committee are trying to address this issue. We have 14 Pastoral Visitors and recently we have been pleased to welcome Karen Ackling to the team. The committee would be pleased to discuss the role of Pastoral Visitor with anyone who felt it might be part of their calling. The role map for Pastoral Visitors is currently under discussion.



Josh Wilson who is a member but is not currently taking a Pastoral Visitor role.

Ilse Statham and Alex Lane have responsibility for our Cradle Role/ First Steps.

All Pastoral Visitors are aware of their responsibilities concerning Safeguarding and the training for this is kept up to date. In future all Pastoral Visitors will keep a private record of all contacts made with the members of their groups.

Serious concerns about the any of church family are discussed with the Minister in confidence.

Felicity

Kendon

Property Stewards' Report

Whilst most activities at church have ceased this year, or gone 'on-line', the church property has continued to keep us busy - even busier than usual!

This time last year we were planning for the District Synod meeting to be held at High Street. So there was a huge amount of tidying up done (church stewards did

most of this), and our toilets were given a thorough deep clean – all of them. What a difference that made. However, most of you have not seen the end result, as within a week or so the church was closed down, as we know. Soon afterwards the caretakers were put on furlough, and after several weeks, were sadly made redundant. Naturally, that has put more pressure on the Property Stewards team to keep the building ready for use whenever it is possible, and to make the premises as COVID safe as possible.

A few things that have happened / evolved

- All keyholders now have to record that they have been on the premises and congregations have to sign up for attendance at services when allowed
- Weekly tasks include: running taps, check for leaks, setting some basic heating, keeping paths clear, looking for damage, putting bins out when full, etc etc
- The Sanctuary was cleared of most of those heavy chairs so that Social Distancing could be implemented for services that have occurred over the last year. Signs and arrows were put in to remind people about one-way systems etc.
- Hand sanitisers were purchased and fixed to walls
- Thorough cleaning to ensure Covid safety
- A new large TV style screen was fitted to the rear balcony
- The upstairs tech area was adapted, and new equipment installed so that services can be streamed
- The church's broadband has been upgraded and is greatly improved The caretaker's cupboard has been cleared out and re-organised
- General annual servicing has continued as normal - .e.g. boiler, clock, organ etc
- Room 3 (upstairs) has sprung roof leaks. There are 2 large buckets collecting rainwater, so since Christmas there have been various people up on the roof trying to advise us what to do next. Patching will only be very temporary – the whole roof needs replacing very soon.
- The lease of the Computer Shop completed during this year, but the empty shop is still empty. There is a likely tenant at the moment, but it is still not quite certain.
- The Crescent Drive house tenant left in December, and we are still looking for a suitable new tenant. Some improvements to the house are being carried out in the meantime.



Next steps

- Working out how to do things when we are allowed to re-open for frequent use by multiple user groups – not just worship services. Cleaning; Locking / unlocking; General maintenance / decorating and running? Any volunteers welcomed – either to join the property stewards' team or carry out some of the tasks!
- Fixing the roof – short, and medium or long term
- Enabling groups to return safely, including room lettings

Long Term Future

The question of what to do about the long term plans for High Street church buildings have now been brought back into focus by the dripping roof and need for considerable expenditure. There are plans to send information and a

questionnaire out to the congregation in the coming weeks, based around - should we stay on site, or move elsewhere.

A very small group has recently re-opened discussions with the Maidenhead shopping centre developer, to explore whether or not there might be a scheme to consider, working with them.

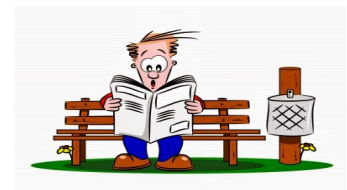
So, lots to be thankful for, but property related prayers still essential please!

Ann Pfeiffer

Publicity & Promotions

With not much to advertise in way of events, we have been focusing on keeping the information on the website as up-to-date as possible, especially with regards to services and church opening. Integrating ChurchSuite into the website has greatly helped with this effort.

We've also been looking into other ways to make the church look more attractive from the outside, which has led to us displaying new banners and posters outside the building.



***Tim &
Charlotte***

Safeguarding

Safeguarding during the last year in Lockdown has brought new priorities, with the increased use of social media and Online Services. To address these, I produced some Social Media Guidelines in May, which I compiled from several different Methodist guideline documents, including those for creating safe virtual meeting groups including Zoom. These will need to be updated regularly.

I have been involved in the introduction and administration of ChurchSuite and we have been conscious of Safeguarding in all its aspects, with each one of the administrators of the system completing a DBS check. Within ChurchSuite all roles needing a DBS Certificate are tagged as such and I have set up a system that will automatically send reminders to people - and also to myself - when their DBS certificates need renewal. There are now 34 people with a current DBS certificate. Many thanks to Carmel for completing those during lockdown using online identity checks.

The Creating Safer Spaces Foundation Module was updated in 2020 and I attended online training in this new Module. Obviously there has been no face to face training since lockdown, but the Connexion has agreed that, for all those who have reached the 4 year point since they last undertook the relevant training, temporary extension will be extended until June 2021. The Circuit has arranged training for 19 June 2021 as there are several people at High Street (and across the circuit) who are due to undertake this new module, but it will obviously depend on the situation then. A new online version of the 2020 module has been piloted and the roll out for this in our district is to be finalised. I will keep people informed of any of these developments.

I have also attended 3 very useful webinars since October on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, Domestic Abuse and Online Safety – all very relevant to the current situation - organised by the Southern and Islands Region.

The Methodist Church updated its model Safeguarding Policy in 2020 and I have incorporated these amendments in updating our own Church Policy, which was approved at Church Council in January.

Gill Harbut

The Tech Team

Great strides have been made this year by the technical team including the introduction of Church Suite to support Church Growth, and the application of both YouTube and Zoom to help the congregations stay connected during lockdown. The implementation of a new electronic document library is also underway to ensure that important documents do not get lost. The team have spent many hours working out how to use the new technologies at their disposal, that has been lots of fun. We are particularly grateful to Roger whose foresight, enthusiasm and energy have made the impossible possible. Also, to Matt who installed high grade broadband throughout the church (burning the midnight oil)



that provided the infrastructure along with thanks to Tim and Charlotte for running the sound desk and preparing the slides during lockdown. Future plans include buying some second-hand remote-control cameras, to make the production of services easier, and maybe some changes to the look and feel of the occasional service to make them more appealing to the unchurched. We are also looking for willing volunteers to learn the ropes and share the load, full training will be provided.

***John
Statham***



Toddlers Club

Toddlers club opened in September 1974 and closed 2020.
Many thanks to all the helpers over the years.



Kath England

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Maidenhead High Street Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2021

Thames Valley	Circuit	Circuit no	36/4
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1129473

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:

Rev C Ieraci / Rev V Davidson

Church Stewards:

Mrs D Phipps	Mrs M Maskell
Mrs P Crowle	Mrs R Hill
Mrs I Statham	Mr E Kommu

Treasurer:

Mr G P White

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	96,505		96,505	84,175
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	119		119	704
a4	Lettings	32,796		32,796	53,818
a5	Other receipts	1,293	16,222	17,514	27,556
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	130,713	16,222	146,935 (a7)	166,253
SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	68,997		68,997	69,852
b3	Donations		8,143	8,143	3,064
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	21,277		21,277	27,570
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	15,567		15,567	8,882
b6	Cleaning/Caretaking/Employment	594		594	33,343
b7	Other payments	19,615	5,400	25,015	37,659
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	126,049	13,543	139,592 (b9)	180,370
SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	4,663	2,679	7,342
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		112,427	18,697	131,124 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	117,090	21,376	138,466
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(1,502)	1,502	(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	115,588	22,878	138,466 (c8)
					131,124 (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				
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				
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 2021 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	Choir					244	244
e2	Friday Coffee	1		1		648	649
e3	Flowers	41	27	14		292	306
e4	Friday Lunch					98	98
e5	Toddlers		29	(29)		29	
e6	Friendship Hour		96	(96)		686	590
e7	Other		64	(64)		64	
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	42	216	(174)		2,061 (e11)	1,887 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	146,935 (a7)	139,592 (b9)	7,342	(c7)	131,124 (c6)	138,466 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	146,977	139,808	7,168		133,185 (x)	140,353 (y)
		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	25,438	22,959
f3 Bank Deposit Account	3,401	101
f4 Central Finance Board	102,285	115,407
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	131,124 (c6)	138,467 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	2,061 (e11)	1,887 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	133,185 (x)	140,354 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	4,342,226	6,850,646
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 MAIDENHEAD HIGH ST. No.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 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 G. Peter White Date 23/11/2021

Name and address of treasurer G Peter White, Chatsworth, St Leonards Hill, Windsor,
..... SL4 4AT

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 25/11/21

Signature of the Chair of the meeting V. Davidson

Name of the Chair of the meeting Revs Vicci DAVIDSON Date 25/11/21

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

High Street Methodist Church, Maidenhead

Charity Number .. 1129473

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Maidenhead High Street Church for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages ... to 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 MAIDENHEAD HIGH ST No

Independent Examiner's Statement

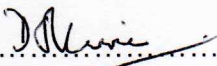
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe in any material respect:

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

~~the the~~

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 Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance date.

Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner DAVID KINNA

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner N/A

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A

Address 18, TURPINS GREEN, MAIDENHEAD

Post Code SL6 4QE

Date 23/11/2021

* delete or circle as appropriate

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Maidenhead High Street Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2021

Thames Valley	Circuit	Circuit no	36/4
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1129473

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:

Rev C Ieraci / Rev V Davidson

Church Stewards:

Mrs D Phipps	Mrs M Maskell
Mrs P Crowle	Mrs R Hill
Mrs I Statham	Mr E Kommu

Treasurer:

Mr G P White

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	96,505		96,505	84,175
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	119		119	704
a4	Lettings	32,796		32,796	53,818
a5	Other receipts	1,293	16,222	17,514	27,556
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	130,713	16,222	146,935 (a7)	166,253
SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	68,997		68,997	69,852
b3	Donations		8,143	8,143	3,064
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	21,277		21,277	27,570
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	15,567		15,567	8,882
b6	Cleaning/Caretaking/Employment	594		594	33,343
b7	Other payments	19,615	5,400	25,015	37,659
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	126,049	13,543	139,592 (b9)	180,370
SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	4,663	2,679	7,342
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		112,427	18,697	131,124 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	117,090	21,376	138,466
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(1,502)	1,502	(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	115,588	22,878	138,466 (c8)
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				
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				
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 2021 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	Choir					244	244
e2	Friday Coffee	1		1		648	649
e3	Flowers	41	27	14		292	306
e4	Friday Lunch					98	98
e5	Toddlers		29	(29)		29	
e6	Friendship Hour		96	(96)		686	590
e7	Other		64	(64)		64	
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	42	216	(174)		2,061 (e11)	1,887 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	146,935 (a7)	139,592 (b9)	7,342	(c7)	131,124 (c6)	138,466 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	146,977	139,808	7,168		133,185 (x)	140,353 (y)
		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021**

	CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand		
f2	Bank Current Account	25,438	22,959
f3	Bank Deposit Account	3,401	101
f4	Central Finance Board	102,285	115,407
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	131,124 (c6)	138,467 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	2,061 (e11)	1,887 (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	133,185 (x)	140,354 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES	At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	4,342,226	6,850,646
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 MAIDENHEAD HIGH ST. No.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 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 G. Peter White Date 23/11/2021

Name and address of treasurer G Peter White, Chatsworth, St Leonards Hill, Windsor,
..... SL4 4AT

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 25/11/21

Signature of the Chair of the meeting V. Davidson

Name of the Chair of the meeting Revs Vicci DAVIDSON Date 25/11/21

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

High Street Methodist Church, Maidenhead

Charity Number .. 1129473

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Maidenhead High Street Church for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages ... to 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 MAIDENHEAD HIGH ST No

Independent Examiner's Statement

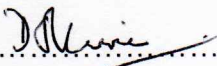
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe in any material respect:

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

~~the the~~

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 Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance date.

Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner DAVID KINNA

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner N/A

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A

Address 18, TURPINS GREEN, MAIDENHEAD

Post Code SL6 4QE

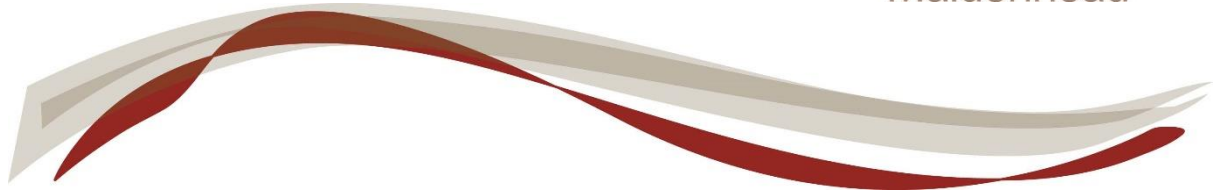
Date 23/11/2021

* delete or circle as appropriate

HIGH STREET METHODIST CHURCH MAIDENHEAD

England & Wales - Charity number 1129473

Accounts



Annual Report

February 2021



“seeking to know Christ and to make him known”
Registered Charity No. 1129473

Presbyter's Report

The 2020 Annual Church Meeting was held on 15 March and followed the baptism of baby Theo. Since then, it seems that our world has been turned upside down due to Covid 19. The familiar rhythm of meeting together at High Street for worship, fellowship, spiritual nurturing and being in community was ruptured suddenly. What would happen? How would we manage? Where was God in all of this?

The prophet Habakkuk writes in Chapter 3:2a

I have heard all about you, LORD.
I am filled with awe by your amazing works.
In this time of our deep need,
help us again as you did in years gone by



And v17-19 in a song of lament Habakkuk sees present and impending catastrophe, yet in the midst of tragedy, he is full of praise for God.

In the face of severe loss and desolation, Habakkuk remembered God's goodness in times past and concluded that God was worthy of praise thus determining to trust God, even when what Habakkuk spoke of could have been interpreted as 'God doesn't care'.

He was still able to say, 'God, the Lord is my Salvation; my joy; my strength', and that was cause enough for him to put his trust in God.

This too, is what we have seen of God throughout these 12 months into a global pandemic. We are able to say: God is trustworthy; God saves; God provides; God cares and shares in our pain and sorrow, showing comfort and hope, as well as being our strength and yes even our joy. God who promises to never leave nor forsake us. God who faithfully provided for the needs of Christians who have gone before us and who have passed on the baton of faith that we who are here today might continue to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those around us and beyond.

During the last 12 months of various lockdowns, the dispersed Church of High Street has experienced painful isolation and separation. . . and yet many relationships developed and strengthened as people contact one another by telephone, email or letter to see how people are managing.

I feel so privileged to serve God's people in Maidenhead alongside people who willingly use their God-given gifts and talents to further the cause of God.

Baton-passing seems to be the theme! The Stewards' team is now headed by Di Phipps who during this year was handed the Senior baton from Peter White. With sincere thanks to Chris Maskell who faithfully and competently completed his term as Church Treasurer and handed on this responsibility with confidence to Peter White.

The Stewards work tirelessly to ensure that the Leadership, Worshiping, and practical running of Church life is effective in fulfilling the call to share the love of God. I am so appreciative of all their support and time praying and exploring ways with me to enhance all that takes place at High Street.

During the year Leadership decisions were taken. Some were complex and others straightforward, yet we faced this new landscape as pioneers together:

Here is a snapshot of some of the decisions and outcomes.

- To furlough, and then make the two Caretakers redundant.
- To experiment with online worship (completely out of all of our comfort zone), and yet . . . God gave many the ability to see or at least hear one another each week as we worshiped together in a new way of being. The dispersed Church became the Virtual Gathered Church.
- I'm so grateful to God for the brilliant people with gifts in technical support in this community who stepped forward to walk us through what appeared to be a mammoth undertaking. They were willing to spend many hours enabling those without experience in technology gain confidence, should they so choose to, to come online for Worship; Bible studies; prayer meetings; Church Council meetings; Coffee mornings; Social events and to engage across the Circuit; These efforts have led to the Church having a greater Digital presence.
- Church Council approved the implementation of ChurchSuite, guided by John Statham and a large team of people from High Street who have been extremely busy offering training and support. ChurchSuite is a powerful tool enabling the Church to comply with Data Protection Laws; and in implementing this programme there are now many other administrative opportunities which allow the Church to streamline its processes as well as afford an effective means of communication to be offered to all.
- To provide Messy Church support to families on-line (this was promising to begin with but became too difficult to administer and has ceased for the time being).
- To offer a socially distanced on-line Carol Service live streamed from within the building.
- Upon consideration and with great sadness a decision was taken to cancel holding Christmas Eve and Morning worship in the Church building when we faced Tier 4 restrictions and the Virus was reported as proliferating.
- To provide Young Church on a Saturday afternoon. What a delight this has been for me personally to have opportunity to listen to the young voices of this community, and am in awe at their spiritual hunger and depth, as they are guided by Jill Pockett and team.
- Listening to the young people share of their encounter with God, through Bible teaching, creative expressions; games, singing, and topics that were uppermost on their minds on a Sunday morning's Zoom Services we are reminded that they are very much 'the present Church' as well as 'the future Church'.
- Musically, we are seeing a further strand of synergy emerging from the wonderful and faithful work that Gillian Yard co-ordinated. Pippa Jones supported by Pat Crowle, musicians, choir and singers, is developing an intergenerational collective of people using their God-given gifts to lead this community in worship as well as exploring future missional possibilities.

During these 12 months numerous meetings were conducted online: Church Council; Stewards' Meetings; Worship Consultation; Finance; Prayer; Mission & Outreach; Education; Conferences; Development/Redevelopment/ Connexional meetings; all the while continuing to offer pastoral telephone calls through the Minister, Pastoral Visitors – ably co-ordinated by Felicity Kendon, and Lay Pastor; visiting as and when it was permissible;

My time has also involved building relationships with other Christian community leaders; Chaplain to 155 Maidenhead RAF ATC; serving on Methodist Council; District Council and Candidates' Selection Committee.

Safeguarding matters were addressed following Methodist Policies in collaboration with Gill Harbut the Safeguarding Officer at High Street and as needed, advice at Circuit and District levels;

The Property Stewards are to be commended for the collaboration in making difficult decisions and evaluation of risk factors to ensure the building is as Covid-safe as possible. Sincere thanks to each of them, and to Rosemary Holland who has gathered a team to clean and sanitise the building in readiness for safe entry. A special thanks also goes to Ann Pfeiffer who spends a great amount of time helping the Church oversee, evaluate, comply with guidelines, and offer consultative advice in property matters.

Distribution of Christmas packs with Churches Together in Maidenhead – with thanks to Pam Proctor as she passes on the role of a representative on this ecumenical group.

After completing his two-year Circuit appointment as a Lay Worker based at High Street, Joshua Wilson was thanked for his service among us. He faithfully engaged in the pastoral work within the community and in developing relationships with many in the town centre.

We are thankful to note that Josh remains very much involved in the life of High Street. He is working as Chaplain to the Oxford United Football Team and is also continuing his call to Local Preaching where he continues on trial.

Thanks go to Kath England and all who have served for many years the community by conducting a Toddler group at High Street. The team feel that this ministry has reached its fulfilment and that this is the season to stop a work that has been rewarding to those who lead and to those who have benefitted over many years.

Seneca writes: Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end

The High Street Community is a prayerful, vibrant and active group of people who love Jesus and have a desire to see God's work grow. I want to thank each and everyone of you, especially those of you who work quietly behind the scenes unnoticed, as you serve and lead for the cause of Christ.

For many, many years, a great deal of prayer about the needs of the Town Centre and missional opportunities; consideration of good stewardship of financial resources; exploration of alternate locations; rising costs of maintenance issues; and many deliberations now see High Street on the cusp of decision-making. A draft copy of a Mission statement exercise is also attached to this document for your prayerful feedback would be appreciated.

From 1 April – 30 June, I will be on Sabbatical exploring various models of mission and outreach in Sydney Australia with Wesley Mission. You will all remain in my prayers.

May we be a people of courage as we say with the prophet Habakkuk:

God, the Lord is our Salvation; our joy; our strength; and together we put our trust in God with confidence.

Rev. Carmel

Senior Steward's Report

Well, what a year to take over as Senior Church Steward. I would like to thank Peter White for his work previously as Senior Steward, and who I still consult with on some matters. He is doing a great job as our Treasurer, following on from another great Treasurer, Chris Maskell. Thanks Peter and Chris.

Although many of you have not been able to attend church in person, I hope you have managed to join in some of the Zoom services on Sunday morning, some of the Bible Studies, prayer meetings. We are very

fortunate to have such a good Tech Team which allows us into our church, both physically or through our home IT equipment, and those who set up these events.

However, church life has continued, despite the Covid pandemic. Our Property Stewards are an awesome team. Our church building, although hardly being used over the last year, still needs looking after – water taps and pipes need to be run regularly to avoid things like Legionnaires Disease, a small amount of heating put on during the winter to stop pipes freezing up, thorough cleaning and wiping down with antibacterial wipes when people have used the premises, leaking roof. Considerable work is still ongoing with negotiations relating to our shops and the caretaker's old house in Crescent Drive which we rent out, and talks with the Nicholson's developer and the Council.

Although no longer Property Stewards, I would also like to thank Don Stimson, who has organised getting Crescent Drive ready for new tenants, and Dave Herbert, who is responsible for heating the church premises.

Other activities go on too, such as our flower ladies occasionally organising flowers for the church when we are open for a service; musicians, who are limited in what they may be permitted to do during the pandemic, making their own contribution to the services we have had; and our team of Church Stewards who have come into church on Sundays to not only support the preacher but to make sure all is safe for us to come into our church.



I know that some groups have not been able to continue their activities/meetings over the past year, and that must be disappointing. I know that they have managed to keep in touch with one another. Our pastoral visitors, under the leadership of Felicity Kendon, are doing a sterling job in keeping in contact with us.

I know it will be difficult for some to resume the activities/voluntary work done previously at our church. A return to some sort of normality will be slow. However, our church still has its role to play in the community – a hub in the middle of Maidenhead – and I hope and pray that we will be able to resume our work soon.

I am sure you will join with me in wishing Rev. Carmel all the best now she is in Australia, looking forward to her daughter's wedding at the end of April and her Sabbatical. We pray that when she comes back to us at the end of June, Carmel will be refreshed in body and spirit.

.... and as we look forward to better times this year, I give you a quote from Romans 15 v13:

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Diana Phipps

The Art Group

The art group had hardly got started in 2020 before everything shut down and lives were put on hold. Just the week before lockdown in March we'd held our weekly meeting at Viv's house and had learnt about Zentangle - an art therapy which proved very opportune as it turned out.

Many of us have continued with painting, drawing, sculpture etc. and have shared pictures and news via email.



We fully intend to have an exhibition when we can finally get back to any sort of normality, but, for the time being, that remains just a dream.

Ruth Daniel

Communion

Due to the Covid situation, there has been little opportunity to offer Communion in church. We did have one service where Communion was offered where we used small disposable individual cups which contained grape juice, covered by a thin film on top of which is a small wafer covered by another film. We are in need of two Church members to become Communion Stewards, one to replace our dear friend Ray Binner. If you feel this is something you would like to do, please contact Michael Minors, our Senior Communion Steward.

Diana Phipps

The Flower Committee

"Covid" closed our Church on March 22nd last year and we realised that no flowers were required for "as long as IT would take"



Kathleen McGuinness has nonetheless prepared the Rota for Sundays in 2021 and we hope to renew placing beautiful flowers in Church very soon.

We have 45 Flower Donors this year. Some give to remember a loved one and some give for the sheer joy of giving. We thank them all for their generosity. Although Donors are very welcome to arrange their own flowers, we have a rota of nine willing Arrangers. We work together as a group at Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

We thank especially Gillian Yard who has retired from our group and also Priya Wikramasingh who has moved away.

Flowers are usually distributed after the Morning Service to cheer, thank or console.

Elizabeth Barker

Friendship Hour Report



During this past difficult year, Friendship Hour has emphasised "friendship together", so we've kept in touch with members by way of telephone calls, emails and Birthday cards. In December, everyone had the surprise of a Christmas Gift Bag arriving, which seemed to be much enjoyed. Most of all, we hope and pray for the opportunity to recommence our fellowship meetings once the situation allows, and it is safe to do so.

Kathleen McGuinness

Friday Lunch Club

The last Lunch Club was March 13.

All members were contacted after this.

Thank you to all the Cooks and Kitchen staff.

Kath England

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Judy Stimson, who has been responsible for organising the lunches and the cooks' rota, and indeed cooking lunches on many occasions for quite a few years, who has now decided to retire. Thank you, Judy.



Diana Phipps

Intergenerational Music Directors Report February 2021

Well, the past 12 months did not turn out the way anyone anticipated, and my role has been quite different to how I envisioned!



I have continued to work hard all year to ensure the recorded music for the zoom services have been of good quality and easy for the whole congregation to sing along to. I have tried to tailor them to the sermon and service by using different versions and backings in line with the preacher and the tone of the service. When using live musicians, you would naturally adapt the hymns and songs as needed for the service, so I have tried to do this as much as possible using the pre-recorded music.

To ensure the safety of musicians during services in the church building, I have needed to measure the available space and place musicians in line with the national guidelines. This has included researching plexi-glass screens, which Roger is now looking into further. Never did I expect my role to involve a tape measure and roll of tape for marking positions carefully!!

Keeping up with the ever-changing rules and regulations to do with Covid has stretched my brain (as I'm sure it has with many of us!) but I am delighted that groups of musicians are now able to attend the church for rehearsals on a Wednesday evening. I stick to small groups, as per regs, and have been working with them to develop a greater understanding of how to progress as a music group. We've been concentrating on working together as a team, as well as following and leading in worship. Obviously, this is only in the early stages as we've only been able to do this recently, but it has been great to be back and have this opportunity again. Moving forward, as we are aiming for weekly services from the end of March, I will keep these Wednesday rehearsals going weekly to practise for the service and to continue to build on good working relationships between all group members. I have a lot of meetings planned over the next few weeks with members of the technical team, choir, music pool and others and I hope these will result in some positive progression with the musicians and improvement in the live streamed services. At this time, there is a lot of improvement needed but also a lot of potential, so I need to marry these together.

I am continuing to work with the children (mostly over zoom) to encourage them to be involved with the music as much as possible and we have an exciting service coming up on 14 March.

Moving forward, I am looking into outreach and how we can run a kids club during the holidays. To do this I am researching recording and editing software that will enable me to put a virtual choir together as well as other music software needed for such an endeavour. I will start approaching schools to see if there's a possibility of advertising to students. I also must discuss this fully with the safeguarding team to ensure I meet all the safety regulations, as well as those volunteers (who may not know they've volunteered yet!!!) who I hope will be able to run these clubs with me.

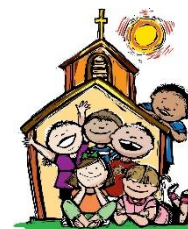
As ever, I am on the lookout for people who are ready to sing or play in our services or any potential technical team members so I can have my guitarists back!!

Thank you all for your continued support. We are so blessed to have the musicians we do at High Street, who are so willing and able to give up their time to make our services varied and of good quality.

Pippa Jones

Junior Church

On 23 March 2020 a parent asked me by text if they could have some Junior Church provision via Zoom. Saturday 27 March at 3pm we started and have met EVERY week up to date with a two week break over Christmas. Carmel & Jean Barnett have ably assisted my work with the children. Our regular 8 children plus my great nephew in Bradford have had special visits from experts in horticulture, music & religion.



We have shared many special moments and it has been a privilege to work with the children and parents. We have watched the children grow spiritually, physically & in close fellowship during three lockdowns. Zoom is a very mobile medium and we have talked to children in the park, car & various shops. Our interest in God's wonderful world led to a special few weeks when we looked at current environmental issues & talked about the children's concerns/worries. Max Packer joined us from the Eden Project & Graham Pockett, a qualified landscape architect, shared a PowerPoint with ideas to help the children who are keen to re-wild the area around our church.

Special mention needs to be made of Kate Garwood. Kate wrote, narrated and would NOT give up on her vision of a virtual nativity despite the technical difficulties of Zoom. Also, thanks to Richard & Matthew Brown who did great technical wizardry with the final edit. Also, of course, ALL the young church members & their parents who valiantly acted, costume changed & made a memorable year's virtual nativity.

Another highlight of our year was the Carol Concert on 13 December when five of our Young Church children helped Carmel with readings, carols & her reflection. Many thanks to Pippa and Meg who sang ALL the songs. There were 25 people helping to get the carol concert on line with live music in a safe, clean church.

In September 2020 I asked the children to choose their three favourite or little known Bible passages/stories & we have been steadily working our way through them. The story of Esther was requested by all the girls and their mums. I think I have enjoyed that part of my work with the children most.

More recently the children have taken on more responsibility for their own learning. To date Noah has taught about the Tower of Babel, Michaela's text was Naaman & the Servant Girl and this week Meg has taken the Parable of the Lost Sheep as her text.

Jill Pockett

Mission and Outreach Committee

This committee has met twice since the beginning of the new church year.

A priority was to ensure that the Toilet twinning (launched on 9 August¹) had got off to a good start. At that time the total fund was already £700. Since then, the total has risen to £1,050 and with the addition of gift aid of £230, the total is currently £1,280! An excellent effort. The committee has decided to keep the fund open as the official end of the project is not until August. We had already decided to give any excess funds to the partner project, i.e. 'Tap Twinning'. Many thanks to all who are supporting this worthy project.



Missions: Carmel and Jean have attended a course, covering a variety of subjects and specifically for us, an evangelism component which is the main focus this year.

Questions were asked e.g. What can we do to encourage evangelism?
Dates for a possible Missions service in October 2020 were mooted.

Mission Boxes and Finances: There was a small but noticeable increase in the amount collected (2x yearly); the total being £293.81 has been sent to Missions. Thank you to all involved. If you would like to support this collection please contact Don Stimson.

Sadly, it became increasingly obvious that there might be a change or even a closing of the plans for Christmas; in which case it would be unlikely that we would be able to send and receive cards to church friends and donate money to Action for Children at the same time - a tradition which had continued for a number of years. This turned out to be correct. However, the Circuit, as a body, have collected for Action4children (thanks mainly to the Magic Show).

There has been no CTiM card distribution this Christmas. However, there was a distribution of both plants and Christmas boxes organised by St Peter's Church (in which a few High Street members were involved) and these had been well received.

Sadly, we have had to say 'goodbye' to Carol Kemp. We thank her for her thoughts and prayers - and attendance when able. At the same time, we give thanks that Tim and Charlotte have joined our small group, and have presented sound suggestions and ideas. Thank you both.

Pat Crowle

Pastoral Committee

The Pastoral committee meets twice a year in October and February.

The membership stands at 116 and there are 44 non-members on the community role who are not allocated to a Pastoral Visitor. The committee are trying to address this issue. We have 14 Pastoral Visitors and recently we have been pleased to welcome Karen Ackling to the team. The committee would be pleased to discuss the role of Pastoral Visitor with anyone who felt it might be part of their calling. The role map for Pastoral Visitors is currently under discussion.

Josh Wilson who is a member but is not currently taking a Pastoral Visitor role.
Ilse Statham and Alex Lane have responsibility for our Cradle Role/ First Steps.



All Pastoral Visitors are aware of their responsibilities concerning Safeguarding and the training for this is kept up to date. In future all Pastoral Visitors will keep a private record of all contacts made with the members of their groups.

Serious concerns about the any of church family are discussed with the Minister in confidence.

Felicity Kendon

Property Stewards' Report

Whilst most activities at church have ceased this year, or gone 'on-line', the church property has continued to keep us busy – even busier than usual!

This time last year we were planning for the District Synod meeting to be held at High Street. So there was a huge amount of tidying up done (church stewards did most of this), and our toilets were given a thorough deep clean – all of them. What a difference that made. However, most of you have not seen the end result, as within a week or so the church was closed down, as we know.

Soon afterwards the caretakers were put on furlough, and after several weeks, were sadly made redundant. Naturally, that has put more pressure on the Property Stewards team to keep the building ready for use whenever it is possible, and to make the premises as COVID safe as possible.

A few things that have happened / evolved

- All keyholders now have to record that they have been on the premises and congregations have to sign up for attendance at services when allowed

- Weekly tasks include: running taps, check for leaks, setting some basic heating, keeping paths clear, looking for damage, putting bins out when full, etc etc
- The Sanctuary was cleared of most of those heavy chairs so that Social Distancing could be implemented for services that have occurred over the last year. Signs and arrows were put in to remind people about one way systems etc.
- Hand sanitisers were purchased and fixed to walls
- Thorough cleaning to ensure Covid safety
- A new large TV style screen was fitted to the rear balcony
- The upstairs tech area was adapted and new equipment installed so that services can be streamed
- The church's broadband has been up-graded and is greatly improved The caretaker's cupboard has been cleared out and re-organised
- General annual servicing has continued as normal - .e.g. boiler, clock, organ etc
- Room 3 (upstairs) has sprung roof leaks. There are 2 large buckets collecting rain water, so since Christmas there have been various people up on the roof trying to advise us what to do next. Patching will only be very temporary – the whole roof needs replacing very soon.
- The lease of the Computer Shop completed during this year, but the empty shop is still empty. There is a likely tenant at the moment, but it is still not quite certain.
- The Crescent Drive house tenant left in December, and we are still looking for a suitable new tenant. Some improvements to the house are being carried out in the meantime.



Next steps

- Working out how to do things when we are allowed to re-open for frequent use by multiple user groups – not just worship services. Cleaning; Locking / unlocking; General maintenance / decorating and running? Any volunteers welcomed – either to join the property stewards' team, or carry out some of the tasks!
- Fixing the roof – short, and medium or long term
- Enabling groups to return safely, including room lettings

Long Term Future

The question of what to do about the long term plans for High Street church buildings have now been brought back into focus by the dripping roof and need for considerable expenditure. There are plans to send information and a questionnaire out to the congregation in the coming weeks, based around – should we stay on site, or move elsewhere.

A very small group has recently re-opened discussions with the Maidenhead shopping centre developer, to explore whether or not there might be a scheme to consider, working with them.

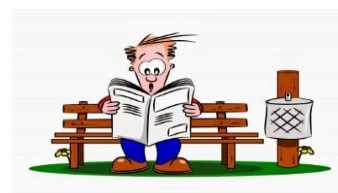
So, lots to be thankful for, but property related prayers still essential please!

Ann Pfeiffer

Publicity & Promotions

With not much to advertise in way of events, we have been focusing on keeping the information on the website as up-to-date as possible, especially with regards to services and church opening. Integrating ChurchSuite into the website has greatly helped with this effort.

We've also been looking into other ways to make the church look more attractive from the outside, which has led to us displaying new banners and posters outside the building.



Tim & Charlotte

Safeguarding

Safeguarding during the last year in Lockdown has brought new priorities, with the increased use of Social Media and Online Services. To address these I produced some Social Media Guidelines in May, which I compiled from several different Methodist guideline documents, including those for creating safe virtual meeting groups including Zoom. These will need to be updated regularly.

I have been involved in the introduction and administration of ChurchSuite and we have been conscious of Safeguarding in all its aspects, with each one of the administrators of the system completing a DBS check. Within ChurchSuite all roles needing a DBS Certificate are tagged as such and I have set up a system that will automatically send reminders to people - and also to myself - when their DBS certificates need renewal. There are now 34 people with a current DBS certificate. Many thanks to Carmel for completing those during lockdown using online identity checks.

The Creating Safer Spaces Foundation Module was updated in 2020 and I attended online training in this new Module. Obviously there has been no face to face training since lockdown, but the Connexion has agreed that, for all those who have reached the 4 year point since they last undertook the relevant training, temporary extension will be extended until June 2021. The Circuit has arranged training for 19 June 2021 as there are several people at High Street (and across the circuit) who are due to undertake this new module, but it will obviously depend on the situation then. A new online version of the 2020 module has been piloted and the roll out for this in our district is to be finalised. I will keep people informed of any of these developments.

I have also attended 3 very useful webinars since October on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults, Domestic Abuse and Online Safety – all very relevant to the current situation - organised by the Southern and Islands Region.

The Methodist Church updated its model Safeguarding Policy in 2020 and I have incorporated these amendments in updating our own Church Policy, which was approved at Church Council in January.



Gill Harbut

The Tech Team

Great strides have been made this year by the technical team including the introduction of Church Suite to support Church Growth, and the application of both YouTube and Zoom to help the congregations stay connected during lockdown. The implementation of a new electronic document library is also underway to ensure that important documents do not get lost. The team have spent many hours working out how to use the new technologies at their disposal, that has been lots of fun. We are particularly grateful to Roger whose foresight, enthusiasm and energy have made the impossible possible. Also, to Matt who installed high grade broadband throughout the church (burning the midnight oil) that provided the infrastructure along with thanks to Tim and Charlotte for running the sound desk and preparing the slides during lockdown. Future plans include buying some second hand remote control cameras, to make the production of services easier, and maybe some changes to the look and feel of the occasional service to make them more appealing to the unchurched. We are also looking for willing volunteers to learn the ropes and share the load, full training will be provided.



John Statham

Toddlers Club

Toddlers club opened in September 1974 and closed 2020.

Many thanks to all the helpers over the years.



Kath England

Standard Form of Accounts for Year ended 32 August 2020

**CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

Maidenhead High Street Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2020

Thames Valley Circuit	Circuit no	36/4
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1129473

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 exempted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

REV CARMEL IERACI

Church Stewards:

MARY STOCK	PETER WHITE
ILSE STATHAM	PATRICIA CROWLE
MARGARET MASKELL	RUTH HILL

Treasurer:

CHRISTOPHER MASKELL

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

**Maidenhead High
Street**

Church

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	83,664	511	84,175	69,633
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	704	0	704	914
a4	Lettings	53,818	0	53,818	64,613
a5	Other receipts	14,813	12,743	27,556	10,804
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	152,999	13,254	166,253 (a7)	145,964

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	69,852	0	69,852	69,452
b3	Donations	2,628	436	3,064	10,676
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	27,570	0	27,570	29,547
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	8,882	0	8,882	9,121
b6		33,343	0	33,343	35,464
b7	Other payments	34,043	3,616	37,659	26,353
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	176,318	4,052	180,370 (b9)	180,613

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(23,319)	9,202	(14,117)	(34,649)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		135,815	9,426	145,241 (c6)	179,890
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	112,496	18,628	131,124	145,241
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(69)	69	0 (c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	112,427	18,697	131,124 (c8)	145,241 (c6)

SECTION D					
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS				
	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)			£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			0	
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations				
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)			0	0

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 2020 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			0			0
e2			0			0
e3			0			0
e4			0			0
e5			0			0
e6			0			0
e7 See accompanying schedule	1,831	5,877	(4,046)		6,107	2,061
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	1,831	5,877	(4,046)	0	6,107 (e11)	2,061 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	166,253 (a7)	180,370 (b9)	(14,117)	(c7)	145,241 (c6)	131,124 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	168,084	186,247	(18,163)	0	151,348 (x)	133,185 (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 2018	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	17,665	25,438
f3 Bank Deposit Account	6,135	3,401
f4 Central Finance Board	121,441	102,285
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	145,241 (c6)	131,124 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	6,107 (e11)	2,061 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	151,348 (x)	133,185 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2015	At 31 August 2016
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	4,342,226	4,342,226
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)

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church Council

Signature of Treasurer

Date

Name

Address

Presentation to the *Church Council for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Church Council on

and were approved.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Church

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

2020

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required 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 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*):

(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;
- 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.

** 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 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	STUART COX
Signature	
Relevant Professional qualification or body	ACA
Address	SACCOUNTS LIMITED 190 CATHEDRAL ROAD CARDIFF CF11 9JE
Date	07-Dec-20

Chris Maskell

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