



**We are
a Christian Community
seeking and caring,
serving and sharing,
where
all are welcome**

During the year September 2023 - August 2024, Banner Cross Methodist Church has continued to witness to the Christian faith in Ecclesall, Sheffield, through its gathered and dispersed life. Its Mission Statement has been refreshed and a Mission Action Plan adopted and acted upon.

The Church serves its local community in varied ways, largely through its members who disperse after each Sunday gathering and through work opportunities, volunteering activities in the community and by being alongside their neighbours, live out their faith in their everyday lives. Ways in which people served within the community were identified and shared during two Sunday services.

The Church has continued to run weekly Saturday coffee mornings, for the benefit of church members and the local community, raising money for charities. Its pre-school group ('Little Fishes') for young children and their carers is now combined with a Community Coffee morning. The Church is an eco-congregation which promotes good practice related to reducing carbon emissions. Plans to develop the garden into a community space have made progress. Eating together after worship on a Sunday once a month means that those who would have gone home to eat alone have the company of others.

The 120th Anniversary of the Sunday School/Church were celebrated with an exhibition detailing the history of the Church, the making of a banner, a service of worship (to which previous members were invited and the singing group contributed), and food and cake. Donations that were given were shared (after costs) between the Church and the 'Fund for Human Need.'

The Church has continued with its project to fund a student through university in Sierra Leone. It also supports Methodist and other charities through prayer, financial giving and providing information about their work. Additionally, some fund-raising events were organised to support Christian Aid.

The Church premises are well maintained and used by a wide variety of community groups, both for regular and one-off bookings. The life of worship, prayer and bible study has continued in a number of ways, with the main focus being Sunday worship, and the church has offered effective pastoral care both within and outside the church community.

Revd Philip Peacock.

July 2024.

Minister's Report to General Church Meeting - 2024

During the past year, we have revisited our Logo and Mission Statement and revised the latter so that together they now appear as:



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This relates to the Methodist 'Our Calling' statement and a Methodist Way of Life.

Following on from this, we have written a new Mission Action Plan (MAP), focused upon serving and building relationships with the wider community. This MAP has prioritised:

- completing the 'Holy Habits' programme (the last habit being 'serving');
- normally eating lunch together on a Sunday every month;
- providing a weekly Monday community coffee morning and toddler group;
- fund-raising for charities and providing information about their work;
- celebrating the 120th Anniversary of the church (June 2024); and
- creating a Community Garden as part of Banner Cross's Eco-church development.

This is a good opportunity for me to thank you all for the time and energy that has been given to sustain our church in Banner Cross over the past year; whether that be by being on a rota, contributing to worship, praying, visiting, ensuring that we are compliant with legislation, or in some other, of many, ways. Through all of us working together, we are able to be the Body of Christ in our community.

If you think that Christ might be challenging you to be more involved in serving him in this church, please let one of the Leadership Team know. In particular, we need to elect representatives and Leadership Team members (both who need to be church members) from the General Church Meeting to be on the Church Council. Or, if you are not a church member and would like more information about becoming one, do let me or one of the Leadership Team know.

May God help us to be the Christian community to which we aspire; which seeks, cares, serves and shares; and to which all are welcome.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip".

Revd Philip Peacock

Pastoral Report for the General Church meeting in April 2024

The pastoral group meets 1/2 times a year and the last meeting was in September 2023

As always, we are grateful for the work conducted by the pastoral groups, leads and visitors.

A special meeting was held in March 2024 to discuss the way forward as some of the groups were meeting on a social bases and other do not meet at all and not all our members and adherents were linked to a pastoral group.

We now have three larger pastoral groups lead by:

JD and AB, aided by CR who covers some of the pastoral needs. This group is made up of other smaller groups lead by JD and AB separately, so it seemed sensible to join these up into one group.

SR and EA cover the pastoral needs of their group. This group is made up from the Group of Hope and other smaller groups plus some other members not linked to any group.

Brian's Group – Group's pastoral representative is LW. The group members cover the pastoral needs themselves. This group is already a large group and has also incorporated a few new members.

Not all members want to or are able to meet up and their needs will be met by pastoral contact or visiting which all the groups currently do. It will be up to the individual groups on how often they meet up and what they discuss but the aim of a pastoral group is for fellowship, and to seek in many ways to renew and expand the opportunities for Christian conversation about things that matter.

It was with great sadness that we lost our Pastoral Secretary, Margaret Spooner in 2023. Margaret had been the secretary for many years and is dearly missed. Unfortunately, no one has come forward to take on this role and it is currently being overseen by the leadership team.

We remember our members who have passed away over the last 12 months including, Margaret Spooner, Norma Johnson, Bob Mellers, Marjorie Bradshaw and most recently Margaret Hill. We remember them in our thoughts and prayers.

We currently have 50 members, 13 adherents and a few others that regularly attend Banner Cross.

The next Pastoral meeting will be held in September 2024.

EA

Leadership Team Report

There is not a lot to report this time, but the Leadership Team continues to meet regularly to keep things ticking over.

We are committed to continuing with the church lunches although these sometimes need to be altered from the first Sunday of the month, to fit in with special occasions in our church calendar.

The Community Coffee Morning/Toddler Group continues to be a very worthwhile enterprise, although staffing it can be a problem.

It would be lovely if anyone else would come forward to help on both of these groups. It doesn't need to be on each occasion, but it would be so appreciated to have more people to call upon. So do please consider whether you could offer this.

We served tea, coffee and cakes again to the runners and supporters for the half marathon on 7th April. This raised £75 for The Methodist Church's 'Fund for Human Need'.

JS

Safeguarding Report

Safer recruitment document was sent out prior to the last CC meeting for members to read.

Since last CC safeguarding committee has met once.

First aid questions arising from annual Safeguarding: Health & Assessment Form have been passed on to property committee. (This is in regard who is responsible for checking contents and recording book)

Key holders updated and some keys no longer used have been returned or awaiting collection. (KW deals with this.)

Majority of DBS's up to date with 1 needing re doing. (At the meeting it was 2 but 1 person has stated no longer doing an activity that requires a DBS)

Leaflet from Methodist Church district regarding a Code for safer working practices with children and adults has been sent to all members (EA has sent this out)

Methodist safeguarding reference card has been updated, PP has obtained a supply to hand out.

An updated version of the safer recruitment form was adopted by the group.

Next meeting 10th June when the safeguarding policy will need to be updated before being approved by Church Council.

GDPR documents are due to be updated and will be given out at the annual general meeting.

SS

Community Coffee and Little Fish Report

The Little Fish Parent and Toddler Group which aims to provide a safe and secure environment for children to play and parents to meet with a gentle, affirming, and encouraging introduction to Jesus and his love' has been running for well over a decade.

It was closed down as many activities were due to the Covid pandemic in 2020. It was set up again later, but the uptake was low because of all sorts of factors.

In 2023 we decided to have a rethink on how we could run it and incorporate our building on a Monday morning as a warm space, community coffee and the little fish group.

From March 2023 we operate in room 1, a welcome space where anyone can come for a chat, hot drink, slice of toast and a safe place for children to play which is all free.

It was a bit slow to start off but now it is a roaring success. We average around 30 – 40 adults and children every Monday morning during school terms from 9.45 am – 11.45 am. You would not believe the amount of toast and chocolate spread we get through every week. We do have a plate for donation and all takings received go to the church fund.

Unfortunately, we are struggling to get enough people to go on our rota so we may have to rethink if we can continue to run from September 2024.

EA

ECO Garden Report

The garden plan will have possible new paths, seating, tables and garden areas, refurbished wall and railings and other stonework, which is all part of the scheme in our mission plan to create a garden that is environmentally friendly for the use of the local community. Additionally, at the new entrance, a better light is to replace the existing one (left-hand side) and a tap and plug socket (which can only be switched on from inside the building, right hand side) are planned. This will be funded from money raised from the sale of the Sunday School building and was approved by Church Council in February 2024.

The group meet with Tracey Campbell from NESST (Nether Edge and Sharrow Sustainable Transformation) regarding obtaining 100% meadow grass which they had sown in Chelsea Park last year. They have also done research into the meadow grass that is correct for the area we live in.

We have been assured that the grass is 100% native to our area by Owen Hayman from Pictorial Meadows who will be in touch in the next few weeks with an estimate for this work.

This is all subject to Circuit approval and agreement from the Connexional Listings/ Conservation Officer and then the District's consent.

HH

Worship Report

MORNING SERVICES. Since the Church Council meeting on 22 February, our services have been led by Presbyters and Local Preachers and on 17 March we were joined by the congregations of Millhouses and Carterknowle. Rev Philip Peacock led our Easter Service which included Holy Communion and Home Communion has been taken to DP and CP, JW, AH and KK. Many thanks to Worship Coordinators, Sound and Power Point operators, leaders of Intercessions, musicians and Readers whose contribution is invaluable. Thanks also to Welcomers and coffee makers as our time of worship turns to fellowship.

PRAYER. We continue in our prayers for others; thanks to BH and RT who run our Prayer Chain and to all who keep in touch by phone or visits.

HOLY HABITS. As part of our 'Serving' discipline, there was no service on 3 March. Instead we watched the film 'Romero' about the life and assassination of the Archbishop of San Salvador, a very moving experience. Members had been reading 'Beyond the Good Samaritan' by Ann Morisy and this book was discussed after service on 24 March.

OTHER WORSHIP ACTIVITIES. We continued our tradition of the Lent Liturgy with various members bringing forward the symbols and reading appropriate Bible passages and prayers; thanks to CR for organising this. Rev Philip led our evening Maundy Thursday service and the Walk of Witness on Good Friday, moving from Bents Green down to Endcliffe Park. On 7 April the Sheffield Half-Marathon passes our doors so as usual there will be no morning worship but we shall be serving our community by offering coffee and cake to bystanders. EA and her planning group continue their preparations for our 120th Anniversary celebrations on the weekend of June 29/30.

OPEN WORSHIP meetings are held each quarter to discuss past and present worship and plan for future services. Every member is welcome to attend.

JD

Banner Cross Methodist Church

General Church Meeting

April 21st 2024

Finance Summary

31 st March 2024		31 August 2023	
Current account	£18698	Current account	£25352
CFB	£39057	CFB	£30997
TMCP	£30140	TMCP	£30140
Total Funds	£87896	Total Funds	£86749
Income to date	£52555	Income Full Year	£77294
Expenditure to date	£58318	Expenditure Full Year	£84675
Deficit	£5763-	Deficit Full Year	£7381-

Notes

Utilities, Gas Electricity etc. this year paid to date £9255 compared with £23199 last year, heating will be shortly turned off.

Circuit Assessment for this year is £40,000 compared with £24000 paid last year.

Property repairs this year to date are £11053 compared to £11476 for the full year & we have expenditure of circa £7500 re damp & Fire Regs.

We are due a Gift Aid claim of approx. £7500.

All things been even for the remainder of the year we are looking at a deficit of circa £4000 which we have the Reserve funds to cover & maintain our Reserves policy of holding a minimum of 50% of annual expenditure.

TW

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Banner Cross Methodist

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

Circuit

Circuit no.

25/01

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1129686

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

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

Minister:

Rev. Philip Peacock

Church Stewards:

Janet Southgate

Christine Rowe

Edith Aisthorpe

Lorna Marshall

Treasurer:

Genevieve Ashton

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		43,853	43,853	31,899
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		3,028	3,028	1,911
a4	Lettings		39,115	39,115	32,641
a5	Other receipts		44,491	44,491	11,884
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		130,487	130,487 (a7)	78,335

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		40,008	40,008	24,000
b3	Donations				
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		14,268	14,268	11,477
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		19,403	19,403	28,558
b6	Caretaker,s wages		49,995	49,995	17,634
b7	Other payments		47,008	47,008	3,007
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		170,682	170,682 (b9)	84,676

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(40,195)	(40,195)	(6,341)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		84,029	84,029 (c6)	90,370
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	43,834	43,834	84,029
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	43,834	43,834 (c8)	84,029 (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	2,720	1,909
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	5,530	4,562
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	4,865	3,751
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)	3,385	2,720

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)	130,487 (a7)	170,682 (b9)	(40,195)	(c7)	84,029 (c6)	43,834 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	130,487	170,682	(40,195)		84,029 (x)	43,834 (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 2024**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	259	
f2 Bank Current Account	22,632	9,012
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	30,997	12,043
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	30,141	22,779
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	84,029 (c6)	43,834 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	84,029 (x)	43,834 (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)		
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 BANNER CROSS No. 1129686

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 G. Ashton Date 9/10/2024

Name and address of treasurer GENEVIEVE ASHTON

133 WALKLEY CRESCENT ROAD Post Code S6 5BA
SHEFFIELD

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 6/2/25

Signature of the Chair of the meeting P. Peacock

Name of the Chair of the meeting PHILIP PEACOCK Date 16/10/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

BANNER CROSS Church

Charity Number 1129686

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 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 BANNER CROSS No 1129686

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 REG GOODCHILD

Name of independent examiner REG GOODCHILD

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 18 OLIVER ROAD

..... SHEFFIELD S7 2GN Post Code

Date 9 October 2024

* delete or circle as appropriate

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Banner Cross Methodist

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

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Signature of independent examiner REG GOODCHILD

Name of independent examiner REG GOODCHILD

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 18 OLIVER ROAD

..... SHEFFIELD S7 2GN Post Code

Date 9 October 2024

* delete or circle as appropriate