

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1129749

Details

Other names	AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH AND CENTRE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-05-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	77 Aylesbury Road Bierton Aylesbury HP22 5BT
Phone	01296415312
Email	office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk
Website	www.aylesburymethodists.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: a)The provision of public acts of worship.b)The provision of space for prayer.c)The teaching of Christianity through sermons, bible readings, courses etc.d)Pastoral work for those with problems.e)Provision of youth clubs and fellowship groups with a Christian ethos.f)Provision of rooms at affordable charges for charities and community use.g)Supporting Methodist and other charities.

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.
- Buckinghamshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£190,840	£195,505	-	-
2024-08-31	£169,215	£149,838	-	-
2023-08-31	£144,473	£141,285	-	-
2022-08-31	£135,030	£136,874	-	-
2021-08-31	£129,012	£136,944	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Richard James Atkinson	Chair	2019-09-01
ARTHUR SARA		
Albert Odro		2017-10-01
Andrew Gilbert		2025-09-01
Barbara Jean Trend		2024-10-03
Charles Fiadzeawu		2025-09-01
Derek William Adams		2022-03-02
Eric Rae Garden		2020-08-01
Frances Aylen		2013-09-04
GILLIAN ROSAMUND MARKS		2013-05-01
Gillian Mary Nord		2020-09-01
JENNIFER FLORENCE TORPEY		
Jackie Simpson-Tyda		2018-05-01
KEVIN BRUCE HARDERN		
Karen Lesley Crussell		2024-03-20
Keith Edward William Wallace		2014-09-01
MARGARET MISKIN		
Nicholas Richard Aylen		2022-03-06
PAULINE NOBLE		2016-03-01
PETER BRAMELD GREEN		
ROGER ALAN KIRK		
Timothy Olufosoye		2014-05-01
VIVIENNE MUNRO KEMP		2011-04-27
Victoria Fiadzeawu		2025-09-01

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT



2024-2025

Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre



Contact

Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre

Buckingham Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP20 2NQ

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Registered Charity Number: 1129749.

Accounts Contact

Treasurer: Roger Kirk,

77 Aylesbury Road, Bierton, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 5BT

Telephone: 01296 415312 | Email: kirk.roger@yahoo.co.uk

Annual Report

Accounts: Roger Kirk

Auditor: Michael Foote

Production: Jennie Torpey

Editor: Peter Green

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Welcome



Our annual report gives an indication of something about the life of our community. It invites all of us to consider how we live out the call of Christ. Within its pages, it gives pictures of what it is to serve. This allows me the option to thank those who give of their gifts and graces to enhance our communal life and to commend Peter Green for his continuing custodianship of this insight into our life together.

From Rev. Richard Atkinson

Blessings.

Richard

This Church is God's house. God loves and welcomes you whoever you are, whatever your age, gender, mental health, physical ability, race, sexuality or financial situation. You are welcome here, whatever your circumstances; however much or little you wish to engage; whatever you feel about faith.

Organisation

CHURCH STEWARDS – Gill Marks

The stewards at AMC have all worked well together this year, ensuring the smooth running of Sunday morning services. They have worked with all the visiting preachers making sure everything is in place for them.

We have been very lucky in the past months to welcome three new stewards into our group, all of whom are learning the ropes of what is involved in being a steward and hopefully realising what joy and pleasure it is to serve our church in this way.

GOVERNANCE – Peter Green

The Methodist Church in the UK is governed through a connexional structure that balances national oversight with local responsibility. Each year, the Church elects a President of the Methodist Conference; last year this role was held by our former District Chair, Revd Helen D. Cameron. The Conference sets the overall direction of the Church and approves key policies.

All official policies and procedures are publicly available and can be downloaded from the Methodist Church's website.

At the local level, the primary decision-making body is the Church Council. Members of the Church Council also serve as the managing trustees for the local church, taking responsibility for governance, mission, property, and compliance matters. Our Church Council members were:

Rev. Richard Atkinson, Jackie Simpson-Tyda, Roger Kirk, Gill Marks, Gill Nord, Frances Aylen, Elaine Hope, Derek Adams, Keith Wallace, Peter Green, Vivienne Kemp, Margaret Miskin, Albert Odro, Jennie Torpey, Arthur Sara, Pauline Noble, Kevin Hardern, John Miskin, Sandie Steeden, Rae Garden, Paul Ingram, Lynn Bernstone, Nick Aylen, Babs Trend, Karen Crussell and Tim Olufosoye.



The Methodist Conference 2024, when our previous District Chair, Revd. Helen D. Cameron, was elected President of the Methodist Conference for 2024-25

LEADERSHIP TEAM - Jennie Torpey

Fire Evacuation Plans: John Miskin has produced an excellent information leaflet, with diagrams, to display in each room.

Practice Evacuation on a Sunday morning: This hadn't been done for some time. It was decided that for three Sundays in the autumn, including the day of the evacuation, the procedure and the relevant exits and assembly points would be explained to the congregation at the start of the service by John Miskin, so that everyone knew how to leave the building safely.

Fire Evacuation Chair: This is now stored in the first-floor lobby near to the lift, so that it can be used on the internal stairs in an emergency. The necessary training will be given for staff to use the Evacuation chair.

Circuit have now appointed a **Children's Work Enabler**: Emma Foulger-Clarke. Emma's main focus will be on establishing Sunday Schools in those Circuit churches who have a need.

Volunteer recruitment/retention: As our current voluntary helpers become older, we need to introduce and involve members of our congregation to the many and varied tasks which are available, and are necessary for our Church to survive, and indeed flourish in the future. It was decided to introduce one particular 'role' in a Sunday service, on a regular basis, with the current 'jobholder' giving a brief outline of the task, while emphasising the benefits to individuals taking on the task, as well as to the Church as a whole, e.g. by becoming part of a church group. This could be especially beneficial to those relatively new to the church, as a way to become more involved and to meet others. 'Job' descriptions have now been compiled. The first presentation, on behalf of Banner Group, took place on Sunday 6th April, by Rosemarie Bucknell. This was followed up by a short paragraph in the following Sunday's notice sheet. Further presentations in Sunday services will resume when they can be arranged

Spring-Cleaning Day: We had not had a spring-cleaning day for some years, so it was agreed to plan this for Saturday 22nd March and it was very well attended. It was also a perfect informal introduction for people to come along and become involved in helping our church and meeting others.

Membership of the Leadership Team this year has been Rev Richard Atkinson, Kevin Hardern, Vivienne Kemp, Gill Marks, Margaret Miskin, Albert Odro, Tim Olufosoye and Jennie Torpey.

PROPERTY – Kevin Hardern

This year has been a year for significant improvement in long standing issues relating to water ingress. Room 4, which has had a few attempts at clearing over the years, seems to have been finally sorted by putting cladding over the parapet brickwork, which was deteriorating and leaking from who knows where! Having had success with that we engaged the same roofer to correct the long-standing defects in the church itself by

replacing the lead flashing, which had been installed initially with too long strips, so was expanding in the heat too much and cracking. We are leaving it for a few months to make sure it is fixed before redecoration and replastering Room 4. The other item of major significance was the heating controls to the boiler which needed replacing, manufactured in 2004, an expensive item.

We continue to support Stoke Mandeville and have had the floor revarnished and new blinds installed to replace the poor curtains that were present.



The refurbished Stoke Mandeville Church

Tim Olufosoye has volunteered to help with Stoke as he lives close to the premises and we thank him for that. However, we do need more volunteers. Our age profile is late 70s and we need some younger people to help out. Please do not feel that we are a closed shop; we are only too willing to respond positively to offers of help, so please approach us. We do not bite!

COMMUNICATIONS – Peter Green

Following some technical glitches with our old **streaming equipment**, new replacement kit has been sourced by Steve Kemp, helped by a grant. He awaits a suitable time to make the switch and train the stream team. Sunday services attract 40 – 50 views per week with special events like funerals and a wedding attracting into the hundreds.

Then Media, our **website** providers, have upgraded the security and reliability of the system and their social media posts of our news items make good use of Artificial Intelligence, whilst retaining human editorial oversight.

Youth

BOYS' BRIGADE – Steve Kemp

Boys' Brigade numbers are generally steady, but we always need more, especially younger boys - a difficult thing when there are so many demands on boys' time throughout the week. New members are always welcome and can stem from siblings, friends or school.

We once again shared a joint Awards/Promotion Evening with the Girls' Brigade which gave parents and carers the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of boys and girls in the Brigades.

At the end of the year Eddie Chanell retired as an officer. Many thanks for your lengthy service with us Eddie. Vivienne Kemp has joined us and has put her teaching and pastoral skills to good use.

Our parent helpers are also a great benefit, as is the support from the church here. As always, I am very grateful to all the officers and helpers and the continued engagement from all parents and carers which enables BB to run. I truly believe we make a difference to the boys' confidence, outlook and sense of community."



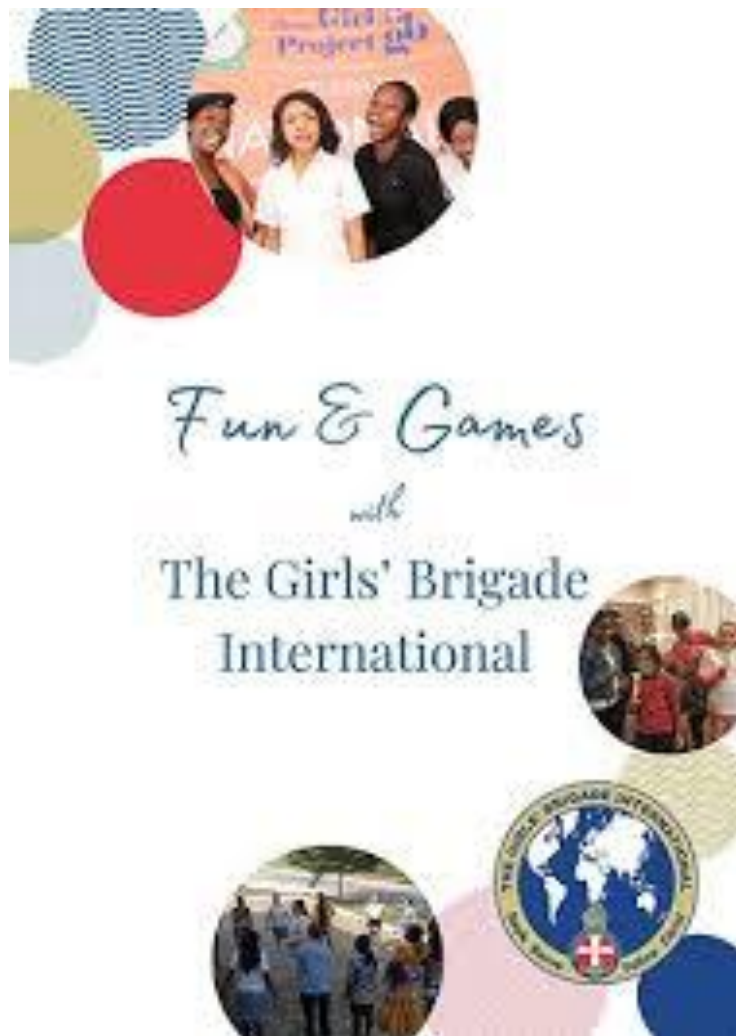
Cooking is always a popular activity; the photo here shows Company and Senior boys with their hugely successful Christmas sausage rolls

GIRLS' BRIGADE – Dawn Wright and Sarah Davidge

1st Aylesbury Girls' Brigade continues to meet from 18.15 - 19.30 at AMC on a Monday evening. Unfortunately, our current numbers are lower than in recent years with an average of 10 - 12 girls between the ages of 5 - 16 years old. We advertise regularly on local websites and facilities and have recently had one new member. We continue to have five leaders, which means we now help on a rota basis. All leaders are DBS checked and attend safeguarding training.

We had our annual Presentation evening jointly with the Boys' Brigade back in July. We were very proud to see two of our older girls receive their Brigader Brooch. This is

awarded to girls who have completed all their badges through several years at Girls' Brigade. Both girls receiving the award have been in the Girls' Brigade for over 10 years and had recently celebrated their 18th birthdays. Sadly, they now leave the Girls' Brigade but are welcome at any time if they want to come back as young leaders. We wish them both well as they head out into the world.



We now have two age groups of girls - those in primary school and those in secondary school. The Girls' Brigade has this year brought out new resources which we are enjoying sharing with the girls. They have lots of new ideas, and so far, have been giving us lots of fun activities causing lots of smiles and laughter. We start the evening by all sharing devotions together which is generally based around a bible story, and we then separate into our groups where we do activities such as crafts, cooking and games.

We again paraded with the Boys' Brigade to Market Square for the Remembrance Day service where the girls always make us proud - looking very smart and standing still for a long time in what can be very cold weather. Our next big event will be our Christmas party which always involves lots of noise and food.

We look forward to another year in the Girls' Brigade sharing God's message with the girls. Always with a smile and lots of laughter.

J TEAM - Vivienne Kemp

The number of children who attend J Team varies weekly, but we can have as few as six children or as many as 20 across both our groups.

Our younger group (4–10-year-olds) listen to Bible stories and get involved in related crafts and games. In our older group (10-16+) we look at how God has worked in the lives of a variety of Bible characters and consider how we can see his presence in our lives today. We do this through a mixture of reading, games, sketches and discussion.

We are a small team of four helpers who work on a rota basis but I thank them for their unwavering commitment and flexibility, particularly in responding to the widely differing class sizes from week to week.

MESSY CHURCH – Margaret Miskin

We've had some fun at messy church this year as our themes have included, Love Your World, Christmas, Lent and Abraham and Sarah. There are always at least four creative activities for the children and adults to take part in. Our numbers vary each month from 5 to 14 children plus their parents. A 'thank you' to Arthur and Steve for your brilliant storytelling and of course to all those who do the craft activities and making a sumptuous sharing tea.

SUNBEAMS – Margaret Miskin

Thursday mornings are so special. The doorbell rings and in troop the children and parents/carers. There is lots on offer for the children to play with and special activities for marking special occasions. Snack time is always popular with a choice of crumpets, pancakes, muffins and a selection of fruit. If you know anyone one who would benefit from this group, then please put them in touch with either myself or Elaine Hope.

Activities

AYLESBURY WELCOME REPAIR CAFÉ – Peter Green



A chat with a family friend who had set up a few repair cafes and was keen to open one in our church, led to sounding out support. After finding enthusiasm both within the church and the wider community, it was agreed to start a monthly Aylesbury Welcome Repair Café as a partnership between this church and the Repair Café movement.

The Repair Café movement promotes sustainability by encouraging people to fix broken items instead of discarding them. Volunteers with repair skills help community members mend household goods, electronics, and clothing for free, with donations welcomed. These events reduce waste, share practical knowledge, build community connections, and inspire a culture of reuse and environmental responsibility.

This sits well with the Environmental Policy that our Northampton District is urging churches to sign up to. It includes a commitment to:

- Use church land to benefit the environment and the community.
- Engage with local and global organisations for a fairer, environmentally friendly world.

Work began to open our first session on 25th October 2025, in our Methodist New Year.

BANNER GROUP – Brenda Horne

Banner Group are working hard as always. We are just finishing two banners which will be put up after Christmas. We have received the picture from the World Day of Prayer which we will be replicating. It looks as challenging as it always is! We are hoping to make a more up to date children's banner next year.

New members are always welcomed. Brenda Horne Tel. 01296 428580

BEDGROVE HOUSE GROUP – Rosemarie Bucknell.

Bedgrove House Group of fifteen began this Methodist Year with a Quiz and afternoon tea at the home of one of our members. In October we attempted something new – a play reading – comedy snippets from Victoria Wood which was very successful.

November meeting saw us planning out next year's programme at our AGM. Because of the nearness of Christmas, we planned to meet next January for a post-Christmas lunch at the Bugle Horn. They did us proud, all fifteen of us plus two guests.



Little Missenden Church

Interspersed with coffee mornings we had a “devotional” afternoon with Rev. Richard Atkinson and April saw us visiting Ascott House and Gardens. The highlight of June was a visit to Little Missenden Village Church for a talk, tour and views of the murals on the walls discovered during refurbishments to the Church.

We try to arrange daylight meetings to suit the whole group and this year's beautiful weather helped immensely. Anyone wishing to join us on the third Wednesday of each month will be more than welcome.

COMMUNITY CENTRE – Shirley Francis

We can report that our vibrant Community Centre facilities were in great demand during the past year. However, we still have spare capacity, which we hope to fill soon.

The Centre is open to members of the community to drop by in person for information. This is not always information about the Church and the Community Centre, but anything in general. They are also able to contact us by telephone and email, which we ensure are dealt with promptly.

We are pleased to report that we retained all the groups and organisations from last year and have attracted the new users below.

Parent Contact: A meeting place for mothers whose babies are in care or adopted

Space Handcrafts: A craft making/sewing group (all are welcome to attend)

Bucks Organists' Association

Deepika Yoga

Repair Café

We were the venue for Alexandra Ridout, a local trumpeter, bandleader and composer based in Harlem, New York City, who won the Young Jazz Musician of the Year 2016 and several other prestigious music awards.

If you know of any groups seeking rooms to hire, please direct them to us.



Alexandra Ridout

FLOWER ARRANGERS – Melanie Dean

The flower team have had a busy year creating arrangements for our contributors, Christian festivals and a fabulous wedding which filled AMC with flowers. We are now using less floral foam in the arrangements, utilising wire and pin holders in its place. This in turn helps keep our expenses down but the increase in the price of flowers has absorbed that saving. We are very pleased to have welcomed two 'apprentices' on the flower team, Nick Aylen and Ceita Johnson.

FRIDAY FEATHERS BADMINTON CLUB – John Miskin



Some of the Friday Feathers members

We have now grown to eleven members, five being non-church members. Standards of play of the new members has grown as they go on. Some members have been playing for a number of years; others have only played in the back garden or haven't played for a few years so needed to clear the rust away. We do not expect players to hit the shuttlecocks every time, even I, who has been playing for nearly 60 years, miss the shuttlecock quite often.

This year, with an increase of members, we raised £1,081.34 for our three charities, Karibuni, Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade. Our times are 2:30pm – 4:30pm on Fridays and the cost is just £4.00 per session. We even take card payments! There are free tea/coffee and biscuits halfway through the session. Everyone is welcome no matter the age or badminton skills. If you fancy a try and are free on a Friday afternoon, then come along and have a go.

MUSIC – Derrick Matthews

'Methodism was born in song'. So commenced the preface of the traditional Methodist Hymn Book, and heartfelt joyous hymn singing has always remained a significant characteristic of our worship.

The Choir and Organists continue to support our hymn singing at most Sunday services. They are also pleased to combine resources with the Worship Band for special events such as Easter, Harvest and Carol Service. There are vacancies for additional choir members. To enable personal preparation, details of the hymns are provided a few days beforehand. Please contact me or a member of the choir if you would like to join. You will be most welcome.

May I take this opportunity to express my thanks to all our singers and musicians for the contribution they continually provide.

PRAYER GROUP – Ruby Darku

The prayer group continues to receive a fair amount of prayer requests mainly from the congregation. We also receive requests on behalf of relatives, friends and work colleagues. Requests come to our attention through email and face to face information.

We would warmly welcome more church members to join the group even if it is for a short period of time or a one-off attendance. We have had a summer recess in September and October. The Prayer Group meets on alternate Tuesdays, 10.45am to 12noon.

THE FOOD HUB – Karen Crussell

The Food Hub has been running for four years now, and our routines and ethos are well established. About 25 people show up every week, plus three or four volunteers.



We open the Welcome Space at 6.30pm and serve hot drinks and donations from Wenzels (if you ever go in there it might be nice to mention that you are part of the church and thank them for their generosity) - sandwiches, pastries and cakes. Shortly before 7pm one of us goes up to Greggs to collect their donations (same suggestion as above applies) and all uneaten food - of which there is usually plenty - gets divided between whoever is there just before we close. We also provide food boxes from Trussell Trust with whom we partner, for which a bit of time and conversation is needed one-on-one (we do this in the small toy room adjoining the Welcome Space).



Those are the practicalities. The main reason we exist, and our heartfelt motivation, is to develop community in a safe place and build individual self-esteem and confidence. Both of the latter tend to get significantly eroded after years out of work. We have one guest who has now become a permanent volunteer, and we couldn't do without him some evenings. The teething troubles of a few years ago have dissipated and the group is largely self-policing. Our number one rule is that no-one can do anything that would make anyone else in the room feel unsafe.



The majority of our visitors are living a life that would be unfamiliar to most of us at AMC, and we recognise that we are blessed and so not in a position to judge, but rather to listen and support and share some of the blessings by our acceptance and kindness. It is a great little community, and we look forward to meeting up week by week.

The highlight of our year was, for us, a phone call from the Manager of the Trussell Trust to tell us that they had, on more than one occasion, sent in "secret shoppers" (genuine

users of the food bank service but who had been asked beforehand to notice and feedback on their experience at the Food Hub). The "secret shoppers" had on both occasions reported that we were "very welcoming and friendly", that there was a nice atmosphere and that the process of getting a food box was efficient, thorough and sensitively handled. We are highly valued by the Trussell Trust.

THE WELCOME SPACE COFFEE BAR – Margaret Miskin

The number of visitors to the Welcome Space Coffee Bar has been on the downward slope. A lot of our regular customers are staying in the town centre now, as some feel that it's a long walk up to the church, but we're keeping going and I'm forever grateful to my merry band of volunteers. Where else can you buy a pot of tea for £1.30, coffee at £1.50 and delicious home-made cake at a very reasonable price? It would be lovely to see more people from the church popping in.

WORSHIP BAND – Nick Aylen

We continue to play at services at A.M.C. whenever needed and at the moment we have a rotating list of piano players. We are always on the lookout for new singers and musicians so if anybody is interested in joining us then please get in touch. We rehearse the Friday before the Sunday service and for an hour before the service on the day.

At Christmas we have extra services to play for - both the Christingle service and the Carol service, so any volunteers are most welcome.



Nick on guitar

ZOOM FELLOWSHIP – Richard Atkinson

There are two groups comprised of folk from across the circuit who meet weekly to reflect on something of our journey of faith. This can be exploring a particular book of the Bible, or seeking out the wisdom and insight of those who write the words of the hymns and songs that we use in worship, or just a conversation about something to do with faith.



Our conversations are based on an important premise, that any questions are welcome however foolish they may seem, as often these are the ones that permit an interesting conversation as we look for that which helps or challenges our journey of faith. To give you a couple of examples in the past year we have read through the Acts of the Apostles noting how the earlier Christians followed something of the Jesus way and how through the gifts distributed at Pentecost they were able to continue the Christian mission. We also thought about Paul, one of the most important figures in early Church history, trying to gauge something of the man and his theology. So, we noted the number of

times he seemed to land himself in trouble in the story of Acts as well as how he used different tactics to share something of the gospel. More recently we talked about some of the hymns and songs that have found their way into Singing the Faith and ruminated about how well they explore what it is to worship, what it is to believe.

Our latest challenge has been the first letter of John looking at the way in which it challenges some of the heresies that afflicted the early Church as well as John's attempts to show the early Christians the import of plumbing the significance of love.

In the New Year our aim is to begin to look at Paul's letter to the Romans in which he explores something of his theological understanding, and in which there are insights as to what it means to walk the Jesus way.

The two groups follow the same pattern although they are rarely in sync with each other. One group meets on a Tuesday at 7:30pm the other on a Thursday at 2:00pm and each session lasts for just over an hour. We aim to meet weekly but for a variety of reasons this is not always possible. New members are always welcome as are those who might try a week or two to see whether it works for them.

More Details from Richard Atkinson revrja@outlook.com or 07300105277

Charities

ACTION FOR CHILDREN - Pauline Noble



As many will know, Action for Children (formerly National Children's Home) is the Children's Charity supported by the Methodist Church. Founded 156 years ago when Thomas Stephenson, a Methodist Minister, found children sleeping rough in London and so started the first training school for homeless children. Since then, it has always been supported by the Methodist

Church and is now a huge Methodist Charity helping parents, children, teenagers and their families in crises. In Aylesbury we have a home for severely disabled children with very little, if any, support, and another home for short term respite care. Also, there is Bucks Activity Project held in Wendover Woods, providing holiday activities for young people aged 5 - 19 years.



Here at Aylesbury Methodist Church one of our main ways of raising money is through the little collecting boxes held by our members in which to collect small amounts of change. Each box is collected annually in March for counting and this year (ending March 25) £359.28 was collected plus extra Church collections making a total of £799.28. We were also delighted to receive a donation of just over £200 from the Church Coffee Bar.

In the summer we have previously held a garden party, but unfortunately this year it had to be cancelled through lack of support. However, an extra £20 was raised through the sale of plants.

Thank you to all who have supported us over the year, and please let Pauline know if you would like to have a small collecting box for any loose change you may have over the year.

CHRISTIAN AID - Jennie Torpey & Maureen Tucker



Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

"Everyone is equal in the sight of God. Yet we live in a world where poverty still persists. Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. But together we have the power to transform lives."

For 80 years, we've been standing with the poorest of our neighbours. We work in 29 countries, with people of all faiths and none, to stand up for dignity, equality and justice. Together we can create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. Our voices and actions are stronger together. And with your help, we can make an even bigger difference."

For Christian Aid Week 2025, we were told the story of Aurelia and her family who belong to the Indigenous Q'eqchi' community of the Alta Verapaz region of Guatemala. The climate crisis and industrial plantations have changed Q'eqchi' land dramatically. Gruelling heatwaves, savage storms and unpredictable seasons are ravaging farms. Industrial agriculture is taking over the last of the region's natural resources to feed the world's richest countries. Many of the vital crops that Aurelia depends on are withering and dying before her eyes.

When Aurelia discovered the work of Christian Aid's partner, Congcoop, she put herself forward to attend the specialist agricultural training on offer, along with 22 members of nearby communities. With funding from Christian Aid, Congcoop supports communities to return to farming in a sustainable way that works with, not against, nature. Aurelia has gained the skills and knowledge to cultivate native seeds that are better suited to the changing climate. She's producing her own organic fertiliser, creating nurseries, constructing rainwater collection systems, and making nutritious food and medicine for her chickens.

Thanks to Aurelia's ever-growing knowledge base, she's now cultivating cacao, sugarcane, cinnamon, corn and pineapples. It's steady progress that holds promise. Aurelia's resolute hope has also inspired her to develop and lead other activities in her community, including producing chocolate, establishing a farmers' market, and fighting for women's rights.

"Aurelia's community is unbelievably impressive. There's no electricity, water or phone signal, but this hasn't been a barrier for the women. They are very proactive, and I think that's because Aurelia has become a role model for them."

At Aylesbury Methodist Church, our collections for Christian Aid at the 2024 Carol Service and Midnight Communion totalled £284.71. The retiring collection after the Christian Aid Sunday service amounted to £339.00 (with Gift Aid - £380.75). We were also given £202 for Christian Aid from donations for tea and coffee after Sunday services.

KARIBUNI CHILDREN – Joy Murphy and friends



*Joy Murphy, a founder trustee of
Karibuni Children*



Image: Karibuni.org.uk

From Peter Honeyball: “Joy and her fellow workers at this charity are offering a lifeline to so many children who would otherwise be destined to live lives of poverty. It is amazing to see the results of this work as the youngsters are enabled to better achieve their potentials and plough back the fruits of their education into the local communities.”

From the Methodist Church website: “Karibuni Children is a small UK charity which is making huge differences to the lives of about 800 children and young people. We support six projects directly in both urban and rural areas enabling 'the poorest of the poor' access to education from nursery through to tertiary levels, through the provision of love and care, food, school fees and school uniforms. Karibuni (which means 'welcome to all') is celebrating 30 years of working alongside Kenyans since our very small beginnings in 2005. There are now many who have finished their education and are now teachers, nurses, accountants, social workers, tailors, dressmakers, cooks,

lecturers, doctors - no butchers or candlestick makers that I know of!

Most of these young people are now helping their families to go to school or have some training and some are volunteering in the projects they themselves were fed and taught in. Miracles, all of them. Transformed from hungry pathetic children into achieving and giving adults.”

From Joy Murphy, following the weekend Karibuni celebration events at our church: “First, my thanks to so many coming along in the evening on Saturday 21st June for David's presentation, followed by the delicious African meal. Thank you, especially, to the Ghanaian cooks who provided it, and those who served it.

It was truly amazing to see the full church on the Sunday morning, and the response of everyone to the worship of celebration and thanksgiving. Thank you for your support, not just now, but for 30 years – that's true commitment from so many people, and Karibuni Children would not have survived without you, your encouragement, interest and love. The total raised over the weekend, including two standing orders, was £1,790.12. Amazing, incredible, fantastic!

Asante sana Bwana Mungu – Thank you so much, Father God.”

LINK TO HOPE – Margaret Miskin



the shoeboxes coming as they are vital to very poor people.

Another successful year for shoeboxes. I collected 122 from our local area of which 38 were donated from AMC. The total of shoeboxes sent out to Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria & Romania was nearly 26,000. None of this would be possible without your help, it brings hope and light to those who receive them. They go to families or elderly people who now live in challenging time due to poverty and war. Please keep

MHA – Jennie Torpey



community we serve.

Our mission is to deliver trusted, high-quality care and support services that enrich the lives of older people. With decades of experience, MHA is committed to providing compassionate and highly rated care and support, tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual, ensuring dignity, respect, and a positive impact in every

To nurture, to inspire and to respect are the values that have been held at the heart of MHA for more than 80 years. This is what they mean to us, and to every individual and family that we support:

- We nurture mind, body and spirit*
- We inspire the best in each other*
- We respect every person, treating them with dignity.*



MHA Hillside Care Home

Aylesbury Methodist Church has strong ties, traditionally, with the MHA Hillside Care Home, partly as a result of our close proximity, since AMC is more accessible for residents to attend our Sunday services, if they are able. Our Minister and others regularly hold a short communion service for the residents at the home.

This year, MHA Sunday shone a spotlight on dementia, an issue close to many of our hearts. MHA, are proud to support people living with dementia, helping them stay connected and engaged in their communities.

Irene's story: *We heard about Irene who has been diagnosed with dementia. When Irene moved into an MHA care home community, she might have been seen as someone in need of care – but the reality is richer. Through the warmth of chaplaincy and support teams, she gives and receives in equal measure – bringing joy to others, checking in on staff, and helping to build a true community of care.*

May our small acts of care grow by God's spirit
to encompass all who need fellowship, friendship or love;
may our small gifts of time be used fruitfully,
blossoming into more than we expect or hope,
and may our small acts of faith be rewarded

in ways that surprise and delight us;
and may the blessing of the God of love,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us,
and all those for whom we care, now and forever.
Amen.

A retiring collection at our MHA Sunday service this year raised £199.00, and, with Gift Aid added, the total will be boosted to £224.75.

WHITECHAPEL MISSION – Ruth Watkins



Support for the Whitechapel Mission has followed in the usual way. At Easter, the Easter morning breakfast raised £500, which was splendid and thanks to all those who made it possible.

September saw the Harvest collection of nonperishable food, clothing and money, a good amount was collected, and Tony Miller was pleased to collect for the Mission, AMC being one of the best contributors at this time of year.

With retirement on the horizon for Tony we wait to see what changes come about.

Finance

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Roger Kirk



Treasurer Roger Kirk

Basis of accounts: The accounts for 2024/25, set out on the following pages are compiled on the Accruals basis. This allocates income and expenditure to the year to which they relate rather than in which they were received or paid, thus providing a more meaningful picture of our financial position. However, to enable our accounts to be audited by a non-practising accountant, the accounts to be submitted through Methodist channels will be on the Receipts and Payments basis.

The year 2024/25 – General Fund: This year's finances have been affected by high property maintenance costs (£29,800), mainly on the heating system but also on the Church roof, the lift and spare parts for the organ. A grant of £2,000 covered the cost of streaming equipment. As forecast last year, the contribution to the Circuit increased by £14,000 to £99,348. Last year's share was discounted to help Churches cope with high fuel costs. Wages have increased due to the increase in the minimum wage.

Giving by members has remained buoyant with an increase of £2,200 on the previous year accompanied by an increase of £1,000 in Gift Aid receipts.

Income from lettings has increased by £7,000 to £55,400 compared to the previous year. This is mainly due to the regular Sunday and weekday use of the Church by the Potters House Church. However, another user has had to temporarily reduce its rental payments due to financial difficulties caused by reduced Council financial support.

The General Fund made a net loss of £4,818 reducing our fund balance to £57,698. This is just above our reserves policy of 33% of expenditure which gives a target of £56,790.

The Benevolent Fund increased its balance by £337 to £1,566 at the end of the year.

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH
Informal Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025
Restricted Funds, Endowments and Church Organisations

Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

2023/24		Welcome Area Fund	Benevolent Fund		Total 2024/25
£		£	£		£
	Income				
512	Offerings		337		337
-	Grants, donations, etc & tax recovered	-			-
512	Total income	-	337		337
	Payments				
-	Other expenses	-	-		-
-	Total expenditure	-	-		-
512	Net income / (expenditure)		337		337
(3,393)	Earlier years' expenditure capitalised	-			-
-	Transfers between funds	-			-
(2,881)	Net income / (expend.) after transfers	-	337		337
4,109	Balances brought forward 1/9/2024	-	1,228		1,228
(2,881)	Net income / (expenditure)	-	337		337
1,228	Balances carried forward 31/8/2025	-	1,566		1,566

ENDOWMENT FUNDS HELD BY THE TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES

Totals 2023/24		Mead Bequest	Stranks & Staley's Bequests		Totals 2024/25
£		£	£		£
		Restricted	Unrestricted		
3,434	Balances brought forward 1/9/2024	210	3,278		3,488
161	Income	10	126		136
(161)	Paid to General Fund	(10)	(126)		(136)
-	Paid to J Team and Choir	-	-		-
54	Change in Value of investments	-	(26)		(26)
3,488	Balances carried forward 31/8/2025	210	3,252		3,462

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

£	Income		£
	Offerings & tax recovered		
	Investment income, etc		
5,386	Other income		3,784
5,386	Total income		3,784
	Payments		
5,248	Other expenses (incl. external donations £250)		3,217
5,248	Total expenditure		3,217
137	Net income / (expenditure)		566
322	Transfers between funds		(167)
459	Net income / (expend.) after transfers		398
11,195	Balances brought forward 1/9/2024		11,655
459	Net income / (expenditure)		398
11,654	Balances carried forward 31/8/2025 *		12,054
	* Excludes Endowment Mead Bequest Fund, which is shown above.		

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH
Informal Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025
Restricted Funds, Endowments and Church Organisations

Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

2023/24		Welcome Area Fund	Benevolent Fund		Total 2024/25
£		£	£		£
	Income				
512	Offerings		337		337
-	Grants, donations, etc & tax recovered	-			-
512	Total income	-	337		337
	Payments				
-	Other expenses	-	-		-
-	Total expenditure	-	-		-
512	Net income / (expenditure)		337		337
(3,393)	Earlier years' expenditure capitalised	-			-
-	Transfers between funds	-			-
(2,881)	Net income / (expend.) after transfers	-	337		337
4,109	Balances brought forward 1/9/2024	-	1,228		1,228
(2,881)	Net income / (expenditure)	-	337		337
1,228	Balances carried forward 31/8/2025	-	1,566		1,566

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Totals 2023/24		Mead Bequest	Stranks & Staley's Bequests		Totals 2024/25
£		£	£		£
		Restricted	Unrestricted		
3,434	Balances brought forward 1/9/2024	210	3,278		3,488
161	Income	10	126		136
(161)	Paid to General Fund	(10)	(126)		(136)
-	Paid to J Team and Choir	-	-		-
54	Change in Value of investments	-	(26)		(26)
3,488	Balances carried forward 31/8/2025	210	3,252		3,462

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

£	Income		£
	Offerings & tax recovered		
	Investment income, etc		
5,386	Other income		3,784
5,386	Total income		3,784
	Payments		
5,248	Other expenses (incl. external donations £250)		3,217
5,248	Total expenditure		3,217
137	Net income / (expenditure)		566
322	Transfers between funds		(167)
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11,195	Balances brought forward 1/9/2024		11,655
459	Net income / (expenditure)		398
11,654	Balances carried forward 31/8/2025 *		12,054
	* Excludes Endowment Mead Bequest Fund, which is shown above.		

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

**Informal Summary of Income and expenditure accounts for the year ended 31st August 2025
(on Accruals Basis)**

All Funds

Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.

Actual 2023/24 accruals basis £		General Fund £	Restrict- ed Funds	Endow- ment Funds £	Church Organ- isations £	Totals 2024/25 £
157,062	Income	176,029	337	136	3,784	180,286
141,808	Expenditure, excl. any capitalised improvements	180,847	-		3,217	184,064
	Net income/(Expenditure)					
15,254		(4,818)	337	136	567	(3,778)
	Welcome Area improvements:					
	Earlier years' expenditure capitalised	-	-	-	-	-
	Expenditure capitalised this year	-	-	-	-	-
54	Change in value of investments	-	-	(26)	-	(26)
	Subtotal					
15,308	Net transfers between funds:	(4,818)	337	110	567	(3,804)
-	Welcome Area Fund					
	Other funds			-	-	-
	Subtotal	303	-	(136)	(167)	-
	Liquid Funds Balances b/fwd 1/9/2024					
15,308		(4,514)	337	(26)	399	(3,804)
63,276	Liquid Funds Balances c/fwd 31/8/2025	62,213	1,228	3,488	11,655	78,584
78,584		57,698	1,566	3,462	12,055	74,780

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Informal Statement of Assets and Liabilities on an accruals basis as at 31st August 2025

Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.

Actual 2023/24 £	Funds balances at 31st August 2025	General fund £	Restricted funds			Church orgs. £	Total 2024/25 £
			Welcome area £	Benevol- ent £	Endow- ments		
78,584	Liquid Funds per Income & Expend. accounts	57,698	-	1,566	3,462	12,055	74,780
1,015,720	Capitalised expenditure	1,015,720					1,015,720
1,094,304	Total funds	1,073,418	-	1,566	3,462	12,055	1,090,500
	Represented by:						
	Assets:						
	Capitalised expenditure on fixed tangible assets:						
1,015,720	Community centre improvements at cost b/f	1,015,720					1,015,720
-	Welcome area improvements at cost this year	-					-
1,015,720		1,015,720					1,015,720
	Current assets						
	Bank balances						
18,425	HSBC current	15,734					15,734
15,898	HSBC deposit	15,572					15,572
20	Metro current	20					20
11,508	Central Finance Board	6,997	-	1,566		1,167	9,730
130	Imprest account	30					30
10,657	Held by church organisations					10,888	10,888
3,278	Stranks & Staley's bequests				3,252		3,252
210	Mead bequest (J Team and choir)				210		210
20,154	Debtors and prepayments	23,162				-	23,162
80,280	Total current assets	61,515	-	1,566	3,462	12,055	78,597
	Current liabilities						
1,050	Lettings deposits	1,150					1,150
646	Creditors and amounts received in advance	2,667					2,667
1,696	Total liabilities	3,817					3,817
78,584	Net current assets (current assets less liabilities)	57,698	-	1,566	3,462	12,055	74,780

*Held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

There are differences of up to £1, which are due to rounding up to the nearest £1

These informal accounts show the position as at 31st August 2025 on an accruals basis, which takes into account debtors, prepayments and creditors at the beginning and end of the financial year. The full Independent Examination has yet to be completed.

It is proposed that the formal accounts will be prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis. The church is entitled to adopt this method as its total gross income for the year is less than £250,000.



THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Aylesbury Methodist

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2025

Vale of Aylesbury Methodist

Circuit

Circuit no.

23/29

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1129749

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. Richard Atkinson

Church Stewards:

Gill Marks

Frances Aylen

Jackie Simpson-Tyda

Elaine Hope

Gillian Nord

Derek Adams

Treasurer:

Roger Kirk

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	96,750	337	97,087	93,156
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	900		900	866
a4	Lettings	52,733		52,733	56,110
a5	Other receipts	36,337		36,337	19,083
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	186,720	337	187,057 (a7)	169,215
SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	99,380		99,380	86,549
b3	Donations	2,000		2,000	2,500
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	40,765		40,765	22,859
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	15,939		15,939	14,844
b6					
b7	Other payments	34,203		34,203	23,086
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	192,287		192,287 (b9)	149,838
SECTION C					
Re	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(5,567)	337	(5,230)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	43,754	1,228	44,982 (c6)	25,927
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	38,187	1,565	39,752
c4	Transfers and adjustments	167		167 (c7)	(322)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	38,354	1,565	39,919 (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				211
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			2,688	2,311
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			2,688	2,522
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 2025 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	Per schedule Page 4	3,783	3,218	565	(167)	11,656	12,054
e2							
e3							
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	3,783	3,218	565	(167)	11,656 (e11)	12,054 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	187,057 (a7)	192,287 (b9)	(5,230)	167 (c7)	44,982 (c6)	39,919 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	190,840	195,505	(4,665)		56,638 (x)	51,973 (y)
	Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Rev SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

	CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2025	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand	130	30
f2	Bank Current Account	18,445	15,754
f3	Bank Deposit Account	15,897	15,572
f4	Central Finance Board	10,510	8,563
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	44,982 (c6)	39,919 (c8)
f8	Total funds belonging to Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	11,656 (e11)	12,054 (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	56,638 (x)	51,973 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	3,488
g2	Land & Buildings (former capitalised cost value)	1,015,720
g3	Other Assets	20,154
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	
g5	Other Liabilities	1,696

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)

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 2025 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
J Team			0		405	405
German Exchange	44		44		6,956	7,000
Girls Brigade	490	96	394	250	419	1,063
Boys Brigade	1,093	1,359	(266)	250	2,387	2,371
Youth Club			0		674	674
Tuesday Fellowship (now closed)			0	(236)	236	0
Banner Group	50	61	(11)		74	63
Flower Fund	922	1,257	(335)	400	231	296
Sunbeams Toddler Group	196	179	17		152	169
Badminton Club	988	266	722	(831)	122	13
Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	3,783	3,218	565	(167)	11,656	(e11) 12,054

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 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.....

Name and address of treasurer

Roger Kirk

77 Aylesbury Road, Bierton, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 5BT

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Aylesbury Methodist Church

Charity Number 1129749

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Aylesbury Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 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

Aylesbury Methodist Church no:1129749

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 Michael Foote

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner
Retired Accountant

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address

8 Bates Lane, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Bucks

..... Post Code HP22 5SL.....

Date

* delete or circle as appropriate

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Aylesbury Methodist Church

Charity Number.1129749

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Aylesbury Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 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').

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Signature of independent examiner



Name of independent examiner Michael Foote

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 8 Bates Lane, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Bucks

..... Post Code HP22 5SL

Date: 23rd January 2026

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



Aylesbury **Methodist** Church & Centre

Buckingham Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2NQ

Minister: Rev. Richard Atkinson T. 01296 339899 E: revrja@outlook.com

Office: T: 01296 426526 E: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook or X W: www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1129749

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WELCOME



From Rev. Richard Atkinson

Dear Friends,

The annual report provides a snapshot of what happens in the life of the church and allows an opportunity to thank those who play important roles and allowing us to function and thrive as a community.

Hopefully, it also encourages all of us to think about how we engage with church activity, where we can play our part, what we can benefit from, how we can enable growth both personally and communally. I commend these pages to you

With grateful thanks for all you do in the life of our community

Blessings

Richard

ORGANISATION

LEADERSHIP – Jennie Torpey



Albert Odro

All the topics discussed at Leadership Team meetings this year are covered elsewhere in this report. They include property, our youth work, community centre lettings, finance and our church services.

Albert Odro chaired our meetings during our minister's three-month sabbatical.

PROPERTY – Kevin Hardern

We continue with the same team that has been engaged in helping with property over many years, but as we enter our ninth decade and are also looking after Stoke Mandeville Church, we do need to see some new blood coming through.



In our own church, this year has been an expensive one, focused on the lift. A circuit board had failed in the lift, and this was compounded by some confusion over the communication to fix it. In the end we agreed to pay, the supplier gave us some recompense in the form of an extended warranty, which gave some benefit, but we do remain significantly out of pocket.

As well as this we have had the usual issues to do with rain ingress in roofs, which we now think we have fixed, but we will wait for a few months to be sure, then we will redecorate and, in the case of Room 4, plaster up the ceiling. Toilets have been a problem towards the end of the year, with the ladies' loo downstairs and the disabled loo upstairs causing some problems with leaks. Again, these have been fixed.

GOVERNANCE – Peter Green

Methodist Church policy is determined by the annual Methodist Conference. This is chaired by its annually elected President, who this year is our former District Chair, Revd Helen D. Cameron. Policies and procedures are then set out in the latest edition of CPD, The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church. This can be downloaded from the Methodist Church website: [CPD - The Methodist Church](#).



Revd Helen D. Cameron
President, Methodist Conference



Rev. Dr Sonia Hicks
Chair, Northants District

Working within these organisational policies are districts, made up of several circuits, and circuits made up of individual churches. We are in the Vale of Aylesbury circuit and Northants district.

The local church decision-making body is the church council, whose members are also the church trustees. During 2023-24, our church council members were: Rev. Richard Atkinson, Jackie Simpson-Tyda. Roger Kirk,

Gill Marks, Gill Nord, Frances Aylen, Elaine Hope, Derek Adams, Keith Wallace, Peter Green, Vivienne Kemp, Margaret Miskin, Albert Odro, Jennie Torpey, Arthur Sara, Pauline Noble, Kevin Hardern, John Miskin, Sandie Steeden, Rae Garden, Paul Ingram, Lynn Bernstone, Nick Aylen, Babs Trend, Karen Crussell and Tim Olufosoye.

Appointed by and reporting to the church council are church stewards and our leadership team, on which the church stewards are represented. The leadership team are tasked with guiding and co-ordinating church and community centre activities in line with our mission and values. The church stewards ensure the smooth running of the weekly Sunday services and provide a communications link between the minister and congregation.



Church stewards also oversee arrangements for dressing the Easter cross

CHURCH STEWARDS – Gill Marks

We have six regular committed stewards who work in pairs with the minister or local preacher every week to ensure the smooth running of the Sunday Services. They make sure all the relevant people have the information they need on the days running up to a service.

The stewards are also available to assist at Weddings, funerals and Christenings if needed.

We are very grateful to some past stewards who have made themselves available for any dates that the regular stewards are

unable to cover, and we thank them for this. We are always looking out for more volunteers so if you can help, please speak to one of us.

COMMUNICATIONS – Peter Green

Our streamed 10.30am Sunday services have attracted an additional online congregation averaging about 45 views per service. This is excluding some special services which have got into three figures, such as the ordinands' testimony service (200), carol service (131), toy service (111) and remembrance service (102). In addition, the ability to live stream weddings, baptisms and funerals has been appreciated with some of those services also exceeding the three-figure mark.



The services can be seen on any device with internet connection, apart from smart TVs, by simply clicking on the streaming button at the top of our home website page. As seen above, the services can be streamed on smart TVs by mirroring from another device by means of a suitable adaptor or by blue tooth. (If this sounds gobbledegook, ask a school pupil to translate and explain, or if all else fails, ask me.)

Those of us who are often or completely unable to attend church in person are especially grateful to our stream team of Harry Darku, Albert Odro, Solomon Awadzi, Tim Rolls and Steve Kemp.

Thanks too to Margaret Smith for once again ensuring that the calendar section of the website is kept up to date. As the church website editor, I am greatly handicapped by not being clairvoyant. Therefore, unless you let me know of any errors or omissions on any page, I am unlikely to notice. So please do tell me if you spot something. My contact details are in the Contact section of the website.

YOUTH

BOYS' BRIGADE – Steve Kemp

Boys' Brigade numbers are generally steady, but we always need more, especially younger boys - a difficult thing when there are so many demands on boys' time throughout the week. New members are always welcome and can stem from siblings, friends or school.



Company and Senior boys stand proudly with their hot cross buns.

We once again shared a joint Awards/Promotion Evening with the Girls' Brigade which gave parents and carers the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of boys and girls in the Brigades.

We regularly try the ideas put forward in Boys' Brigade programme resources, the

photo here shows the results of the older ones making hot cross buns at Easter.

At the end of the year Margaret Miskin retired from BB, her husband John having stepped down last year (although he is still our treasurer at the moment). They will be sorely missed as they have put so much care, energy and commitment into BB over many years. Our parent helpers are also a great benefit as is the support from the church here. As always, I am very grateful to all the officers and helpers and the continued engagement from all parents and carers which enables BB to run. I truly believe we make a difference to the boys' confidence, outlook and sense of community.

GIRLS' BRIGADE – Dawn Wright & Sarah Davidge

1st Aylesbury Girls' Brigade continues to meet at AMC on a Monday evening. Although the number of girls attending has dropped recently, those who do attend have fun and come back week after week whatever the weather! These girls are very loyal, and they tell us how much they get out of coming to GB. It's great to see them growing in confidence and faith.



We continue to split into three age groups, so that activities can be specifically tailored. Each Monday we follow a training programme set out by headquarters using games, craft,

acting, bible stories and discussion, to cover everything from learning about our emotions, to world need and First Aid. As leaders we often learn as much as the girls and are always keen to join in the games and craft!

We would always welcome new girls of any age, as we would like to see numbers grow again.

J TEAM - Vivienne Kemp

The number of children who attend J Team continues to fluctuate but we sometimes have as many as 16 children across both our groups.



In both groups we are currently making our way chronologically through the Bible, to give the children a greater understanding of where the different stories or characters sit within the Bible as a whole. Our younger group (4–10-year-olds) listen to Bible stories and get involved in related craft activities and games. In our older group (10–16+) we look at

how God has worked through different characters (even imperfect characters like Joseph and Jonah) in the Old and New Testaments and discuss how this can relate to our lives today and how God can work through us even when we don't achieve perfection ourselves.

Our team of helpers is small, but I am always grateful for their commitment and flexibility in responding to the differing class sizes from week to week.

MESSY CHURCH – Margaret Miskin



Numbers go up and down like yoyos. We have had to cancel a couple of sessions due to lack of numbers, but my merry band of helpers are always there. Many craft & game activities are on offer, so there's plenty to do for the whole

family. Do come along and give us a try. We don't bite!

SUNBEAMS – Margaret Miskin



What a great time we have on Thursday mornings. Lots for the children to do and explore, and of course, snack time with healthy options on offer. We are a very diverse group with

parents coming from the four corners of the world. A warm welcome is extended to all.

ACTIVITIES

BANNER GROUP – Brenda Horne



hanging there.

- The two banners which were nearing completion in last year's report have now been finished and are hanging in the Church.
- A new lectern banner has also been made, (see photo,)
- We have been asked to make a banner for World Day of Prayer 2025. We have been doing them for a number of years, but this is the first one since Covid.
- Two banners to cheer up Waddesdon Chapel Hall are now

We have not met for some time owing to illness, but we will soon be back on track. If anyone would like to join us, we meet in Room 4/5 on alternate Tuesday afternoons 2-4pm. Please contact Brenda Horne: brendaj.horne@gmail.com or 01296 428580.

BEDGROVE HOUSE GROUP – Rosemarie Bucknell

We began our new year with fifteen of us and beautiful September weather. We continue to meet on the third Wednesday of each month. Several of us took late holidays before Autumn came but our AGM brought lots of ideas for visits out or just coffee at home for the future.

Our first meeting in January was our Christmas/New Year lunch at the Bugle Horn. The whole group gathered plus two guests. The Bugle Horn did us proud. In February we gathered to listen to Rev. Heegon Moon with a spiritual theme, and the next month a small group of us had coffee at Quainton Railway Centre followed in May by the organ recital at AMC.



St. Albans Abbey

In June we had a ramble planned but because of poor health with several of our members the ramble did not take place. Instead, we had coffee and then a salad lunch at a member's home with thanks to AMC for letting us borrow table and chairs. The highlight of the Summer was a visit to St. Albans Abbey complete with a tour guide and a soup lunch in the cafeteria.

Several ideas have already been noted for our next programme including outside activities, weather permitting.

COMMUNITY CENTRE – Shirley Francis



Once again, we can report that our Community Centre facilities are in great demand. We welcome hirers from a very diverse community who are happy to return time and time again. Many of our hirers and their clients see this as their base and feel comfortable and welcome.

One role of our Centre is to ensure that members of the community feel they're able to drop in to make the simplest enquiry and we strive to point them in the right direction. Some drop by to buy second-hand books or hand-made greetings cards. Some people drop in to seek information about our food bank hub, some come and read the notice board, pick up leaflets, or enquire about the church itself, etc.

We have the following groups that use the Centre either daily, weekly, monthly, and various frequencies in each month. They are:

(The) Macular Society - a group for those with sight impairments. Meet last Wednesday in each month, except for December.

Deaf Coffee Morning Club – Every other Tuesday in each month

Virtus Care (was Sees the Day) – a group for adults with learning difficulties

Casualties Union – a charity that provides training for volunteers in rescue, first aid and medication techniques to enable them to deal with real life emergency situations.

Child Contact Centre – for parents to meet with their children in a safe environment

Sun group – a support group run by Oxford NHS Trust (by referral only)

Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust – Talks and tours of historic gardens around the county

Yoga – Chair yoga each Tuesday

Choose2Lose – a weight watching support group. Meets every Tuesday.

Diabetes Prevention run by the NHS (by referral only)

Women's Institute

Herts NHS Foundation Trust – to help adults with varying physical disabilities find suitable employment (by referral only)

U3A Local History Group

Neil Douglas Estate Management – residents' AGMs

Blood Unit (NHS) (by referral only)

Fairhive Housing – residents' group meetings, staff group activities, etc.

Buckinghamshire Council – meetings and conferences

Private Hirers - one-off hirers for parties, etc.

Independent Churches – private hire for worship

Regular Church activities within the Community Centre are:

Sunbeams Babies & Toddlers

Girls' and Boys' Brigades

Monthly Church Members' Luncheon Club – social gathering to keep in touch

Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship meetings

Tuesday Morning Prayer Meetings

Banner Group – Make new, and repair the beautiful banners displayed

Messy Church – crafts and other activities for children

Badminton Club (Friday Feathers)

FLOWER ARRANGERS – Melanie Dean



Each Friday morning, the Church Flower Arranging team of Edith Awadzi, Janice Matthews, Ruby Darku, Sue Kirk and I have been kept busy, providing floral displays for the church, the Welcome Space and for special events such as Harvest and Christmas. Anyone who would like to come along to help us, will be very welcome. Even if you have little or no experience, but would like to learn, the team have a wealth of experience to share.

FOOD HUB – Karen Crussell

The Food Hub takes place every Monday evening in the Welcome Space and has become well-established over the course of the year with around 20 guests most weeks, with 27 being our record in September. People come to the Hub for a number of reasons: to receive a food parcel, to take a share of the unsold food kindly donated by our wonderful partners - Wenzels Bakers in Market Square and Greggs on the High Street - to ask for help, or to simply enjoy a cup of tea and some food in our friendly Hub.



We have guests who are sent to us by agencies such as social services for a food parcel: they come for the parcel and leave after having a cup of tea or coffee and a sandwich and/or cake.

We have guests who come for a month or two during a particularly difficult time in their life. Life gets better and we don't see them again.

We have guests who have made Monday evening at AMC a weekly event. They enjoy the company, and we get to know them quite well.

We now call ourselves the AMC Food Hub since we offer a range of things all food related - we are not just a Cafe, and not just a food bank etc. Our aim is to be a welcoming, safe and accepting place where anyone can come and feel at home. Many, but by no means all, of our guests experience a range of needs, usually around alcohol and drug

abuse, poor money management, insecure or substandard housing and poverty.

At the Food Hub we make time to chat with our guests and share stories. We may also signpost to other helping organisations and/or offer a different perspective on a situation. Sometimes guests ask to go into the church to pray or light a candle, or to speak privately with one of the team. Paulette came in from time to time to lead a short reflection time in the church, and usually 4 or 5 joined in. Not all knew the conventions of such an occasion which added to the challenge for Paulette. We appreciated her perseverance and commitment to our group.

We have a few challenges with verbal aggression and unacceptable conduct from time to time, but these have been overcome quickly and have been dwarfed by the pleasant sense of community and friendliness that prevails most of the time. Over the last six months we have been focussing on building community and ownership of the group amongst our guests. Some now claim that particular jobs that need doing (sweeping the floor, clearing the tables etc) are “my job”. This, we hope, enables self-esteem and confidence to develop amongst those who may have lost it through life’s knocks, as well as being very useful to the volunteers. team!



Laura Kyrke-Smith (centre) Aylesbury's new Labour MP visiting the Food Hub

A particular highlight for us this year was the visit of Laura Kyrke-Smith, our current MP. At the time of the visit a general election had not been called, but having been chosen as the prospective labour contender she wanted to get to know what various local groups were doing. She had made contact with me and a date had been arranged for her visit. If I'm honest I thought she might pop by for half an hour. The reality was different. She was waiting outside and chatting with our guests until we opened at 6.30pm and was the last to leave. We all enjoyed chatting with her - and our regular guests were not short of things they wanted to tell her!

You can help us through your continued prayers and giving food to the food bank donation basket in the Welcome Space. Julianne keeps us up to date with what items are in short supply at the Trussell Trust via the news sheet if you are not sure what to bring.

Finally, visits from church members are welcome if you would like to see for yourself what we do. You can just turn up, but if you want to let us know, have a word with Katherine, Kevin, David, Julianne or myself beforehand.

FRIDAY FEATHERS BADMINTON CLUB – John Miskin



We have a steady group of eight players of varying standards, two of which are non-church players. I have not been able to play this year due to needing a new hip. We managed to raise £640, which is divided between 3 church groups, Boys' Brigade,

Girls Brigade & Karibuni charity. This is not as much as last year because of the cost of painting the lines of the court, as the tape kept getting ripped up.

This has proved to be a success. Our times are 2:30pm – 4:30pm on Friday, and costs just £4 per session.

If you have never played badminton or only played it in the garden, you are more than welcome to come and join us. You even get a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit!

GREETING CARDS – Janice Matthews and Rosemarie Bucknell

In 2008, together with Ann Mahoney and subsequently with Rosemarie, we commenced making greeting cards to raise funds for AMC, contributing a few thousand pounds over the years. Formerly these were on display and available in the coffee bar area at the front of the church throughout the whole week.



least another year.

We now feel that due to excessive postage costs the number of cards being purchased has reduced considerably and therefore the offer has perhaps run its course. This is disappointing as we enjoy making the cards and will continue to do so for at

The cards are now on display in the reception area, next to the book stall. Prices are far less than you would pay in local shops, so we encourage everyone to give their support, purchasing AMC greeting cards whenever possible.

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Derrick Matthews

Our Organists and Choir continue to lead the congregational hymn singing on at least three Sundays each month. A few days beforehand members receive details of the selected hymns and their chosen tunes, to enable them to do self-preparation. New choir members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining, please contact me or one of the members. You will be most welcome.

At Christmas, the Choir and Worship Band combined resources providing additional music for the annual Carol Service.



Daniel Moulton at the AMC organ console

The 36th Annual Organ Concert took place in May with a return visit of the outstanding concert organist, Daniel Moulton. He performed an enjoyable virtuosic programme which judging on audience applause was greatly enjoyed by everyone.

PRAYER GROUP – Ruby Darku



The prayer group continues to receive a fair amount of prayer requests from the congregation. We also receive requests from church members on

behalf of relatives and work colleagues. Other prayer requests come through Rev. Richard Atkinson.

However, we would welcome more church members to join the group even if it is for a short period or a one-off attendance. Prayer group meets on alternate Tuesdays 10.45am - 12noon. We had a short summer recess in August during the school holidays.

SOS GROUP – Gill Marks

SOS is a group of likeminded couples and individuals all who have the same love of food.



The SOS Group serve the Easter breakfast each year to raise funds for Whitechapel Mission

We meet on average once a month in one of our homes bringing food and drink to share. Sometimes with a theme and sometimes not. It's amazing how many different flavours you can have all on one plate, something you don't get in many "restaurants". It's a great opportunity to catch up with friends who you don't always have time to talk to on a Sunday morning and share what is going on in their lives and families.

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP – Coral Soulsby

This year we began in March, and after last year's meeting once a month, the members requested meeting twice a month again. Despite

a strong programme of speakers, it was not possible to draw in new members, so we are down to 4-6 faithful members.



We enjoyed speakers from our Ministers, Rev Richard Atkinson and Noreen Daley Lee. Pauline Noble with Arthur Sara spoke on the work of Action for Children, and finally in July, Claudette James brought in wedding dresses to show how she had studied in London to boost her

career in dressmaking.

With the problems with Winter, transport, and dark afternoons, it was decided to commence next year the first Tuesday in March, when we hope new members will join us.

Thank you to the speakers for giving their time, thanks to the members for their continuous support, and to Margaret Smith for making the refreshments.

WELCOME SPACE COFFEE BAR – Margaret Miskin



Numbers of visitors to the Welcome Space are a bit up & down, but we still see our core clients. I'm grateful to my regular band of helpers who come along week in and week out bringing delicious homemade cakes. We are open Monday, Wednesday,

Friday & Saturday from 10.00 to 12.00, so if you're in town on any of these mornings then please pop along & support the coffee bar.

WORSHIP BAND – Nick Ayles



Robin Barrett on the Worship Band drums

At our AGM this year we decided to rebrand from ‘The Music Group’ to the “Worship Band”, a little bit more 21st century. We also decided to have a maximum of four singers at the front to ease space burden and help the sound man.

The piano is now behind all musicians and singers to “open up” the band. We do not have a permanent leader anymore, but members take it in turns to lead rehearsals.

We now have a series of guest pianists but are on the lookout for a resident keyboard player: any volunteers?

ZOOM FELLOWSHIP GROUPS – Rev. Richard Atkinson

There are two groups that meet on zoom to reflect on the Bible and matters of faith. These are open to people from around the circuit. One meets on a Tuesday evening at 7:30 PM the other on a Thursday at 2:00 PM.



During the past year they have ruminated on some of the minor prophets and reflected on one of the gospels. They are now taking a look at the Old Testament and its relevance to faith, based upon the materials that I produced during my sabbatical.

The principle on which these groups function is that there is space for questions to be asked, no knowledge is assumed and there is always a willingness to go off topic to reflect on issues of significance. In advance there may be a little bit of reading set up so that the group can launch into the material for a particular day. Hopefully, the group provides a place for gentle, reflective conversation.

If you would be interested in joining or perhaps coming along for a taste of what it's like before making a decision, then please contact me.

CHARITIES

ACTION FOR CHILDREN – Pauline Noble

This Charity was founded in 1869 by a Methodist Minister who was inspired to start a home for children he found sleeping rough in London. Since then, it has become a major Methodist charity helping children, teenagers and their families and is one that has been supported for many years by our church.



One of our major ways of raising money is through these little Action for Children lantern boxes. At present about 35 folk within the church have one. Collected and counted once a year, people will put in small amounts of change and the

box is handed in, opened and counted usually in the Spring. Other folk prefer to give an annual donation. The amount collected over the last year was a fantastic £334.20. Please ask if you would like to have one of these little boxes and collect small amounts of change to help the Charity.

Unfortunately, we were not able to organise any major outside activities this year, but we have plans for a couple of events in 2025. Our cakes, homemade jams and plant stall on Action for Children Sunday last year raised £69.53. Church collections over the Christmas period amounted to £417.30 of which £206.50 was gift aided – a very valuable asset if you are able.

We also have our Toy and Gift Service which is held at the beginning of December. Toys were always taken to the nearest Action for Children Family Centre, but as the nearest is now some distance from Aylesbury, we support children in Aylesbury who would otherwise have very little at Christmas.

Over the year donations have been gratefully received from the Coffee Bar and other friends making an excellent total of £430.00.

Thank you to all who have supported us over the year.

CHRISTIAN AID – Jennie Torpey & Maureen Tucker



Christian Aid are a partnership of people, churches and local organisations committed to ending poverty worldwide. ***Everyone is equal in the sight of God.*** For over 75 years, this truth has inspired us at Christian Aid to stand together in solidarity with our most marginalised global neighbours, of all faiths and none.

Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. We seek to eradicate extreme poverty by tackling its root causes. Together with people living in poverty, we amplify our voices to speak truth to power and create lasting change.

At Aylesbury Methodist Church, our collections for Christian Aid at the 2023 Carol Service and Midnight Communion totalled **£392.20**.

On Christian Aid Sunday, in May 2024, we watched a video - Aline's Story of how Christian Aid helped change hers and her children's lives.

'In Burundi, malnourishment and poverty affect more than 70% of the population, making survival a daily struggle. Jobs and food are hard to come by, and those who have homes often have no electricity or running water.'

For Aline, life was a constant struggle. She was married young and gave birth to her eldest son, Fisto, when she was just 14 years old. Aline experienced constant abuse at the hands of her violent husband. A few years later, he married another woman, forcing Aline to flee, and

prevented her from taking their children with her. Hungry, scorned and alone, Aline took her first step towards her new life. She started by participating in a transformative three-day community workshop, funded by Christian Aid.

She was taught how to form a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and establish a steady income. VSLAs mean people can save for their future and borrow money to kickstart small rural businesses. With a small start-up loan, Aline started trading avocados and peanuts locally. With her profits, she bought a bicycle so she could transport greater quantities of goods to markets further afield. Once Aline secured a home for herself, her three eldest sons were able to escape their father and join her. Aline still hopes that she'll be reunited with her youngest children in time.'

The retiring collection after this service amounted to **£388.86 (with Gift Aid - £437.96)** We were also given **£180** for Christian Aid from donations for tea and coffee after Sunday services.

KARIBUNI CHILDREN – Angela Lagat

Karibuni Children exists to facilitate, promote, and stimulate thriving, self-sustaining communities in Kenya, and unleash the transforming power of skills development and education. Our long-term vision is to create a sustainable environment that strengthens the resilience of local communities, providing children and their families with opportunities to be self-sufficient and flourish.

At inception, Karibuni Children's work focused on increasing access to quality education for children from underserved communities. Over the years, the focus has expanded into initiatives that equip the parents/caregivers of the children we support with the tools needed to thrive. Recognising that while educational support is a critical factor contributing towards building a thriving and resilient community, it is, however, not a silver bullet and must be part of an integrated solution that works to address the root causes impeding households in the

underserved communities from accessing education for their children.



Karibuni Children: Transforming young Kenyan lives

Our objectives are the inclusion of all in quality education; economic empowerment; sustainable livelihood for caregivers/parents and water and sanitation facilities for sustaining healthy livelihoods

Therefore, our interventions are implemented in collaboration with Kenyan-led grassroots organisations (CBOs - *Community-Based Organisations*), which implement holistic programmes that provide nutrition and food production training, offer support for small businesses and financial education, and facilitate village savings and loans (table banking) initiatives.

Updates on our projects at Embakasi, Kibra, Limuru, Meru, Njoro and Tharaka, can be found on our website:

<https://www.karibuni.org.uk/projects>

Link to Hope – Margaret Miskin



As if by magic, the number of boxes brought to me in November continue to grow. The charity is so grateful for all that are collected and brought to me, ready for the van to pick up en masse. I am so grateful to our members at AMC for filling boxes and for donations of money which enables me to fill some more.

MHA – Jennie Torpey

MHA's mission is to deliver trusted, high-quality care and support services that enrich the lives of older people. With decades of experience, MHA is committed to providing compassionate and highly rated care and support, tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual, ensuring dignity, respect, and a positive impact in every community they serve.

To nurture, to inspire and to respect are the values that have been held at the heart of MHA for more than 80 years. This is what they mean to the organisation, and to every individual and family that they support:

- We nurture mind, body and spirit
- We inspire the best in each other
- We respect every person, treating them with dignity.

Aylesbury Methodist Church has strong ties, traditionally, with the MHA Hillside Care Home, partly as a result of our close proximity, since AMC is more accessible for residents to attend our Sunday services if they are able. Our Minister and others regularly hold a short communion service for the residents at the home.



Pam Rhodes in an MHA video

The theme for MHA Sunday 2024 was 'Dot & Grace's story' with a short video in which MHA patron Pam Rhodes introduced us to Dot, in her 70s, a widow, and very lonely, and Grace, in her 20s, who became a volunteer befriender after losing both her own grandparents. Their friendship began with a simple telephone conversation and has given much happiness to both of them.

'Together and as one, we will pray for those in later life, and those who support them, as we think about the impact a small action like conversation can have in making later life something to be both lived well and celebrated.'

A retiring collection at our MHA Sunday service this year raised **£363.70**, and, with Gift Aid added, the total will be boosted to **£424.45**.

WHITECHAPEL MISSION - Ruth Watkins

We have again had another year of supporting the Mission at Easter and at Harvest time.

The Easter Breakfast this year raised £358.00. My thanks to all who were involved in this event and those who supported it.



Harvest giving was down on previous years but a generous amount of food, and new and used clothing, was donated. Whitechapel's Director Tony Miller was very pleased to see all the goods waiting for him in the entrance on Monday morning saying he knows he can rely on AMC.

Tony reports that there will be big changes in the future as he is going to retire in the next 18 months and the Trustees see this as a time to change things. We watch and hope for the future.

FINANCE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Roger Kirk



Church Treasurer Roger Kirk

The basis of our accounts is that they will be submitted, through the formal Methodist Channels, on the Accruals basis. This allocates income and expenditure to the year to which they relate rather than in which they were received or paid, thus providing a more meaningful picture of the accounts.

The year 2022/23 – General Fund

Our finances are being affected by the recent high rates of inflation resulting mainly from the war in the Ukraine. The full effect of these will occur in 2024/25 when there will be a large increase in the Circuit assessment and our current 3-year fuel contracts expire.

Income from members has remained fairly constant in recent years and an appeal is being made to encourage members to increase their contributions to match our rising costs now and in future years. Income from lettings has increased by £12,000 to £41,000 compared to the previous year.

The General fund made a net surplus of £2,346, increasing our fund balance to £44,536 which is in line with our reserves policy of 33% of expenditure.

The Benevolent Fund increased its balance by £284 to £717 during the year.

The Welcome Area project fund had a balance of £3,393 at 31st August 2023, and as it is unlikely that any further payments will be necessary, that sum will be transferred to the General fund during 2023/24.

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Informal income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st August 2024

GENERAL (Unrestricted) FUNDS on accruals basis

Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found
in an appendix to the Trustees Report.

2022/23 £	GENERAL FUND	2023/24 £
	INCOME	
82,671	Offerings & tax recovered, detail in shaded area below:	93,524
67,399	Collection (services, standing orders and annual)	77,052
15,272	Income Tax refund	16,471
385	Bank & CFB interest and investment income	705
40,996	Lettings	48,679
10,564	Other income, detail in shaded area below:	8,095
3,391	Fund raising	4,535
3,986	Donations and legacies	1,049
1,675	Weddings and funerals	935
1,512	Coffee Bar profits	1,575
	- Miscellaneous	2
134,616	Income Grand Total	151,003
	EXPENDITURE	
84,372	Circuit contribution	85,386
2,003	Donations and subscriptions	2,000
19,007	Repairs & maintenance, detail in shaded area below:	22,859
3,856	Building maintenance	3,060
9,976	Cleaner's wages and supplies	10,687
5,175	Equipment maintenance (including where appropriate organ & piano)	9,111
15,367	Utilities & insurance, detail in shaded area below:	15,061
11,135	Heat, light, water and refuse	10,485
4,232	Insurance	4,575
10,603	Other expenditure, detail in shaded area below:	11,253
3,257	Administration	2,895
4,878	Administrators - wages, less Circuit share	5,404
	- Layworker (last year only) and Young Leaders Scheme	-
289	Telephones	450
1,159	Church Activities	1,069
1,020	Publicity & miscellaneous expenses	1,436
131,352	Total Expenditure, excl. Welcome Area Improvements	136,559
3,264	NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR accruals basis	14,444
42,191	Balance brought forward 1/9/2023	44,536
45,455	Subtotal	58,980
(916)	Net transfers between funds, incl. Welcome Area Fund now redundant	3,233
44,539	GENERAL LIQUID FUNDS AT 31/8/24 C/ FWD.	62,213

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Informal Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024

Restricted Funds, Endowments and Church Organisations

Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

2022/23		Welcome Area Fund	Benevolent Fund	Total 2023/24
£		£	£	£
	Income			
334	Offerings		512	512
-	Grants, donations, etc & tax recovered	-		-
334	Total income	-	512	512
	Payments			
50	Other expenses	-	-	-
50	Total expenditure	-	-	-
284	Net income / (expenditure)		512	512
-	Earlier years' expenditure capitalised	-		-
-	Transfers between funds	(3,393)		(3,393)
284	Net income / (expend.) after transfers	(3,393)	512	(2,882)
3,826	Balances brought forward 1/9/2023	3,393	717	4,110
284	Net income / (expenditure)	(3,393)	512	(2,882)
4,110	Balances carried forward 31/8/2024	-	1,228	1,228

ENDOWMENT FUNDS HELD BY THE TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES

Totals 2022/23		Mead Bequest	Stranks & Staley's Bequests	Totals 2023/24
£		£	£	£
		Restricted	Unrestricted	
3,524	Balances brought forward 1/9/2023	210	3,224	3,434
88	Income	11	150	161
(92)	Paid to General Fund	(11)	(150)	(161)
-	Paid to J Team and Choir	-	-	-
(86)	Change in Value of investments	-	54	54
3,434	Balances carried forward 31/8/2024	210	3,278	3,488

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

£	Income		£
	Offerings & tax recovered		
	Investment income, etc		
9,437	Other income		5,386
9,437	Total income		5,386
	Payments		
9,882	Other expenses (incl. external donations £230)		5,248
9,882	Total expenditure		5,248
(445)	Net income / (expenditure)		137
1,008	Transfers between funds		322
563	Net income / (expend.) after transfers		459
10,633	Balances brought forward 1/9/2023		11,196
563	Net income / (expenditure)		459
11,196	Balances carried forward 31/8/2024 *		11,654

* Excludes Endowment Mead Bequest Fund, which is shown above.

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Informal Summary of Income and expenditure accounts for the year ended 31st
August 2024 (on Accruals Basis)

ALL FUNDS

*Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an
appendix to the Trustees Report.*

Actual 2022/23 accruals basis £		General Fund £	Re- strict- ed Funds £	Endow- ment Funds	Church Organisa- tions £	Totals 2023/24 £
144,473	Income	151,003	512	161	5,386	157,062
141,285	Expenditure, excl. Welcome Area im- prove- ments	136,559	-		5,248	141,808
3,188	Net income/(Ex- penditure)	14,444	512	161	138	15,254
-	Welcome Area improvements: Earlier years' ex- penditure capital- ised	-	-	-	-	-
-	Expenditure capi- talised this year	-	-	-	-	-
(86)	Change in value of investments	-	-	54	-	54
3,102	Subtotal	14,444	512	215	138	15,308
-	Net transfers be- tween funds:					
	Welcome Area Fund	3,393	(3,393)			-
	Other funds	(161)	-	(161)	322	-
3,102	Subtotal	17,676	(2,882)	54	460	15,308
60,174	Liquid Funds Bal- ances b/fwd 1/9/2023	44,536	4,110	3,434	11,196	63,276
63,276	Liquid Funds Bal- ances c/fwd 31/8/2024	62,213	1,228	3,488	11,655	78,584

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Informal Statement of **ASSETS AND LIABILITIES** on an accruals basis as at 31st August 2024

Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.

Actual 2022/23	Funds balances at 31st August 2024	General fund	Restricted funds			Church org S.	Total 2023/24
			Welcome area	Benevol- ent	Endow- ments		
£		£	£	£		£	£
63,276	Liquid Funds per Income & Expend. accounts	62,213	-	1,228	3,488	11,655	78,584
1,015,720	Capitalised expenditure	1,015,720					1,015,720
1,078,996	Total funds	1,077,932	-	1,228	3,488	11,655	1,094,304
	Represented by:						
	Assets:						
	Capitalised expenditure on fixed tangible assets:						
1,015,720	Community centre improvements at cost b/f	1,015,720					1,015,720
-	Welcome area improvements at cost this year	-					-
1,015,720		1,015,720					1,015,720
	Current assets						
	Bank balances						
5,132	HSBC current	18,425					18,425
6,945	HSBC deposit	15,898					15,898
2,636	Metro current	20					20
11,262	Central Finance Board	9,282	-	1,228		998	11,508
100	Imprest account	130					130
11,048	Held by church organisations					10,657	10,657
	Endowment funds accounts*						
3,224	Stranks & Staley's bequests				3,278		3,278
210	Mead bequest (J Team and choir)				210		210
24,494	Debtors and prepayments	20,154				-	20,154
65,051	Total current assets	63,909	-	1,228	3,488	11,655	80,280
	Current liabilities						
100	Lettings deposits	1,050					1,050
1,675	Creditors and amounts received in advance	646					646
1,775	Total liabilities	1,696					1,696
63,276	Net current assets (current assets less liabilities)	62,213	-	1,228	3,488	11,655	78,584
1,078,996	Net assets (all assets less liabilities)	1,077,932	-	1,228	3,488	11,655	1,094,304

***Held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes**

There are differences of up to £1, which are due to rounding up to the nearest £1

These informal accounts show the position as at 31st August 2024 on an accruals basis, which takes into account debtors, prepayments and creditors at the beginning and end of the financial year. The full Independent Examination has yet to be completed.

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Accounts: Roger Kirk

Auditor: Michael Foot

Production: Jennie Torpey

Editor: Peter Green

Contact: Roger Kirk

77 Aylesbury Road, Bierton, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP22 5BT

Tel. 01296 415312

Email: kirk.roger@yahoo.co.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1129749

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Aylesbury Methodist

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

Vale of Aylesbury Methodist

Circuit

Circuit no.

23/29

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1129749

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. Richard Atkinson

Church Stewards:

Gill Marks

Frances Aylen

Jackie Simpson - Tyda

Elaine Hope

Gill Nord

Derek Adams

Treasurer:

Roger Kirk

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year - see Page 5 note 2
		Note	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		92,645	511	93,156	83,125
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		866		866	477
a4	Lettings		56,110		56,110	31,674
a5	Other receipts		19,083		19,083	20,418
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		168,704	511	169,215 (a7)	135,694

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		86,549		86,549	84,457
b3	Donations		2,500		2,500	1,553
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		22,859		22,859	19,006
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		14,844		14,844	15,056
b6						
b7	Other payments		23,086		23,086	19,399
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		149,838		149,838 (b9)	139,471

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	18,866	511	19,377	(3,777)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		21,817	4,110	25,927 (c6)	30,712
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	40,683	4,621	45,304	26,935
c4	Transfers and adjustments		3,071	(3,393)	(322) (c7)	(1,008)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	43,754	1,228	44,982 (c8)	25,927 (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				£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					211
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations				1,070	2,311
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				1,070	2,522
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID					
	(d1+d2-d3)					

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

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

	INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1	Per schedule Page 7	5,386	5,248	138	322	11,196	11,656
e2							
e3							
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	5,386	5,248	138	322	11,196 (e11)	11,656 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	169,215 (a7)	149,838 (b9)	19,377	(322) (c7)	25,927 (c6)	44,982 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	174,601	155,086	19,515		37,123 (x)	56,638 (y)
	Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

	CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand	100	130
f2	Bank Current Accounts	7,768	18,445
f3	Bank Deposit Account	6,945	15,897
f4	Central Finance Board	11,114	10,510
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	25,927 (c6)	44,982 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	11,196 (e11)	11,656 (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	37,123 (x)	56,638 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	3,434
g2	Land & Buildings (former capitalised expenditure)	1,015,720
g3	Other Assets	24,494
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	
g5	Other Liabilities	1,775

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 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.....

Name and address of treasurer

Roger Kirk

77 Aylesbury Road, Bierton, Aylesbury, Bucks. Post Code:HP22 5BT

Presentation to the Church trustees

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting Date

Notes to the accounts

- 1 The Church's accounts for the year ended 31st August 2024 have been prepared on a **Receipts and Payments basis**, as its total gross income for each of the last five years has fallen well below the threshold of £250,000 which requires the accounts to be presented on an accruals basis. The formal accounts for the previous five years were prepared on an accruals basis, which is now considered a non-essential complication.
- 2 For a clearer understanding of the accounts, the comparative amounts ("Totals last year") shown in Sections A to D on page 2 have been stated on a Receipts and Payments basis, rather than the Accruals basis originally used in the previous year. The table below sets out the changes for the year ended 31st August 2023 between the two bases, in other words, how the respective amounts would have appeared if the previous year's accounts had been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.

SECTION A		General Fund Accruals	debtors and other conversion adjustments	General Fund R & P basis	Restricted Funds	Totals for the year
Accounts year ended 31st August 2023		£	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	82,670	122	82,792	334	83,126
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	385	92	477	0	477
a4	Lettings	40,996	(9,322)	31,674	0	31,674
a5	Other receipts	10,563	9,854	20,417	0	20,417
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	134,614	746	135,360 (a7)	334	135,694
SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	84,372	84	84,456	0	84,456
b3	Donations	2,003	(500)	1,503	50	1,553
b4	Repairs, maintenance & upkeep	19,007		19,007	0	19,007
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	15,368	(312)	15,056	0	15,056
b6				0	0	0
b7	Other payments.	10,602	8,797	19,399	0	19,399
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	131,352	8,069	139,421.00 (b9)	50	139,471
SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	3,262	(7,323)	(4,061)	284	(3,777)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	42,190	(15,304)	26,886 (c6)	3,826	30,712
c3	Sub total	45,452	(22,627)	22,825	4,110	26,935
c4	Transfers and adjustments	(916)	(92)	(1,008) (c7)	0.00	(1,008)
c5	TOTAL CASH FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	44,536 *	(22,719)	21,817 (c8)	4,110	25,927
*Per note 2 of Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023 subject to rounding difference.						
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			211		
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			2,312		
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			2,522		
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)			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 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 & internal transfers	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1	J Team					405	405
e2	German Exchange	20		20		6,936	6,956
e3	Girls Brigade	622	813	(191)	200	410	419
e4	Boys Brigade	2,532	2,399	133	200	2,054	2,387
e5	Youth Club					674	674
e6	Tuesday Fellowship	75	53	22	(43)	257	236
e7	Church Choir		19	(19)		19	
e8	Banner Group		61	(61)		135	74
e9	Flower Fund	791	1,159	(368)	400	199	231
e10	Sunbeams Toddler Group	442	378	64		88	152
e11	Badminton Club	904	366	538	(435)	19	122
	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	5,386	5,248	138	322	11,196	11,656

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Aylesbury Methodist Church

Charity Number.1129749

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Aylesbury Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 1 to 7. 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.

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 Michael Foote

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 8 Bates Lane, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Bucks

..... Post Code HP22 5SL

Date: 24th November 2024

Accounts



Aylesbury **Methodist** Church and Centre

ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



This Church is God's House

God loves and welcomes you, whoever you are, whatever your age, gender, mental health, physical ability, race, sexuality or financial situation. Whatever your circumstances, however much or little you wish to engage or whatever you feel about faith, **you are welcome here.**

Buckingham Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2NQ

Minister: Rev. Richard Atkinson T. 01296 339899 E: revrja@outlook.com

Office: T: 01296 426526 E: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook or X (Twitter) W: www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk



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WELCOME



From Rev. Richard Atkinson
 (Re-invited to be our
 Superintendent Minister for
 another five years to 2029)

I write this at the end one of those weeks when all has been hectic, and everything seems to have taken more time than it should. Frustration has abounded and the battle to find time has been waged as I sit here on Sunday afternoon composing these thoughts having led worship in the morning. I am glad that this is Sunday because if it had been during the week my frustrations might have made it on to paper rather than being in response to the highlight of the week, where we have gathered, both in person and on the stream, to share in worship.



Our coming together on a Sunday is for me the highlight of the church week, when our disparate community come together as one to offer of our hearts to our God. It is a reminder that all we do, all that is part of this report, is about the outworking of our faith. Everything, from the Monday night drop-in to Sunbeams, is part of the expression of our faith and the report, as always, offers insight into what is happening as part of response to the exceptional love of God seen in Jesus.

Our gratitude goes to Peter Green and others for pulling this together to allow us all to see something of love in action.

Blessings.

Richard

ORGANISATION

Leadership - Jennie Torpey

More new people are coming to church on Sundays and are encouraged to come round to the Hall for coffee and socialising after services. A successful afternoon Welcome Tea was held for newcomers. A Maundy Thursday evening service and meal were also very successful, with some new people attending; and a monthly Wednesday Lunch Club, open to all, is due to start on 4th October.

It now needs more of us to engage with our new congregation members, to ensure that they feel welcome and that they return to our church, and this is the responsibility of the whole congregation.

Leadership Team have discussed ways to share our Christian faith and our coming to faith, for example, by members of the congregation sharing their faith journey in services. An initial sharing by two members at Harvest Festival, was very well received. Recently, also, written accounts from members of other churches in our circuit have appeared in the weekly notice sheet.

Suggestions had been made of how to proclaim our faith throughout the church and community centre premises, and banners with a Christian message have been introduced by our Banner Group. However, it was felt that this needed to be extended, so a Statement of our Message has now been displayed in all areas of the building, including in the Welcome Space



and on the external notice board. Also, appropriate Bible verses with brief details of our services are now displayed throughout the building, being changed periodically.



Richard is planning to run a new course, 'Christianity Explained', developed by Rico Tice and Barry Cooper and based on Mark's Gospel. This will be suitable for new Christians and those wishing to learn more, as well as those who would like a refresher. It has already

been successfully introduced at Chinnor church.

After many years, Pauline Noble has resigned from responsibility for the overall 'In Touch/Pastoral' system, and Leadership Team have been asked to think about the future of the system: its aims; the changes needed because of the limited and reducing numbers of volunteers; and how the system might evolve.

Our Youth groups: Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group, Boys' and Girls' Brigades, and Messy Church are all doing well. J Team (Junior church) numbers continue to have a small number of regulars, and other children attending occasionally.

The Coffee Bar in the Welcome Space is becoming more popular, and is now open on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday mornings. The Welcome Space continues to host the AMC Foodbank, in association with the Trussell Trust, on Monday evenings, between 7.30 and 9.00pm, offering a listening ear, issuing food parcels, and serving hot drinks and left-over food donated by Wenzels and Greggs. A box for donations towards the foodbank is available in the Welcome Space during the week.

Safeguarding GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) posters are now in all rooms in the building, along with notices describing where the Church Safeguarding Policies can be found. The need to invest in improved building security over the next few years is still being considered, possibly with CCTV.



POLICIES



Church Policies were reviewed and updated in May 2023. It was agreed that in future they will all be reviewed annually in September/October, and any changes ratified at the October Church Council meeting. A folder of the Church Policies is available in the Church office and on the website.

The recruitment of additional Leadership Team members would be beneficial, to allow and encourage greater strategic thinking and planning. It was also suggested that Leadership Team and Church Stewards meet regularly to work together. The first meeting was in June.

Membership of the Leadership Team this year has been Rev Richard Atkinson, Kevin Hardern, Vivienne Kemp, Gill Marks, Margaret Miskin, Albert Odro, Tim Olofusoye and Jennie Torpey.

PROPERTY – Kevin Hardern

Rainwater ingress has dominated the property team in the last 12 months. The leak in Room 4 continues to be an issue and the leak in the hall from the gutter has meant that we have not been able to redecorate that until it is fully dried out in the spring next year.

Having said that, we have now had clearance that we can incorporate the outstanding monies from the Welcome Space refurbishment into general funds, so are looking to hang some curtaining, in keeping with the new décor, which will hopefully stop any draughts.

The Property team continue to support Stoke Mandeville, which is taking more time as we are moving towards a refurbishment of the site. Circuit is aware of the issue – that we need to appoint a project manager before we can move forwards as we cannot cope with this as well as AMC.

Finally, some good news. We have received clearance from our insurers that our lightning conductor is in order. As usual, many thanks to the team for all their support, and a plea: we could do with more help, so if you are out there and willing, please get in touch.



CHURCH STEWARDS — Gill Marks

At the moment the steward rota is working OK. Many thanks for help from members like former church stewards David Wilderspin, Sue Kirk, Steve Marks and Paula Gordon, all who have stood in to cover an odd shift. I wonder if the way forward is to have a list of members who are willing to stand in for the odd service, as opposed to committing themselves to a bigger stint.

The Readers' List is also working well; it saves a lot of phone calls trying to find someone.

So, overall all is good with stewards at the moment, although we would always welcome any new volunteers willing to boost our numbers.

COMMUNICATIONS — Peter Green



Streaming of our Sunday services is also a way of sharing our faith beyond the walls of the church. In August 2023, we had to change streaming provider. Rewind to 2018. We were then invited by The Sunday Service, part



of the multi-BAFTA award-winning CTVC, to be one of eight churches nationally to be in a pilot scheme to stream services. It was funded by The Joseph Rank Trust who saw an ageing population with decreased mobility and increased difficulty in getting to services in person. They believed that reliable internet and streaming platforms could provide a solution. So, the equipment was installed in our church and after some teething problems, we have been able to share our worship on various devices such as tablets, laptops, phones, and smart televisions.

COVID alerted other churches of the need to stream their services. So many are now doing this that Rank feels the need has been proved and are no longer funding The Sunday Service. Our website providers, Then Media, are now hosting us. It is already an improvement in that we will now be able to stream any additional service at any time. It also opens the potential to upgrade our equipment and improve the viewing experience in the future. The one downside is that the service can no longer be seen on smart televisions. As before, services are easily accessed via the Streaming button at the top of each page and kept on the website for about six weeks.

We have expressed our thanks to The Sunday Service and Joseph Rank Trust. Our thanks also go to Then Media for helping us through this transition and to Steve Kemp for reconfiguring our equipment so that the streaming can happen. Steve will also be giving any additional training needed by our much-appreciated Stream Team of Harry Darku, Albert Odro, Solmon Awadzi, Tim Rolls and Steve himself.

Also much appreciated is Margaret Smith, who continues to keep our well used website Calendar section updated.

The Leadership Team Report has already mentioned the use of interchangeable posters being used in all the rooms of our church and centre, as well as the external notice board, to help proclaim our faith to all who come here or pass by. The main message is shown on the front cover of this report.

"It now needs more of us to engage with our new congregation members, to ensure that they feel welcome and that they return to our church, and this is the responsibility of the whole congregation."

Leadership Team Report



GOVERNANCE — Peter Green

The Methodist Church was founded in 1784 by John Wesley. The issues he cared and wrote about then are the same issues that the Methodist Church cares about today.

These have been summarised as '**John Wesley's Manifesto**', which is:

1. Reduce the gap between rich people and poor people
2. Help everyone to have a job
3. Help the poorest, including introducing a living wage
4. Offer the best possible education
5. Help everyone to feel they can make a difference
6. Promote tolerance
7. Promote equal treatment for women
8. Create a society based on values and not on profits and consumerism
9. End all forms of slavery
10. Avoid getting into wars
11. Share the love of God with everyone
12. Care for the environment

For Wesley's actual words on these topics, see the Methodist Church website: john-wesleys-manifesto-newdocx.pdf (methodist.org.uk)



The annual Methodist conference agrees policy that is set out in *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD)*, which can be downloaded from the Methodist Church website: [CPD](http://CPD.methodist.org.uk) (methodist.org.uk).

This year's conference also appointed our District Chair, Revd. Helen Cameron, as President Designate for next year.



Our President and Vice-President Designate for 2024/25



Revd Helen D Cameron
President Designate



Mrs Carolyn Godfrey
Vice-President Designate



The local decision-making body in each Methodist church is the Church Council. The members, who are also the church trustees, were this year: Rev. Richard Atkinson, Roger Kirk, Gill Marks, Gill Nord, Frances Aylen, Elaine Hope, Sue Adams, Keith Wallace, Peter Green, Vivienne Kemp, Margaret Miskin, Albert Odro, Jennie Torpey, Arthur Sara, Pauline Noble, David Neville, Kevin Hardern, Joy Murphy, Sandie Steeden, Paul Ingram, Lynn Bernstone, Nick Aylen and Tim Olufosoye.

Our church Leadership Team is appointed by and reports to the Church Council and acts as their executive arm. Chaired by the minister, it seeks to co-ordinate and guide the activities of the church and community centre.

Church Stewards, who are represented on the Leadership Team, are also appointed by the Church Council. Their prime responsibility is to ensure the smooth running of the Sunday services and of being a two-way communications link between the congregation and minister.



YOUTH

BOYS' BRIGADE — Steve Kemp

Boys' Brigade numbers are generally steady and are even growing slightly - a difficult thing when there are so many demands on boys' time throughout the week. New members are always welcome and stem from siblings, friends or school.

We once again shared a joint Awards/Promotion Evening with the Girls' Brigade which gave parents and carers the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of boys and girls in the Brigades.



The BB's town centre litter pick

We have been trying to do more things out in the community and amongst those activities we had a very successful litter pick in Aylesbury town centre with the older boys. They were shocked how much they collected in an hour or so, even when retrieving rubbish that was already in a bin was outlawed by the judges!

This year we have two parents who join us on a regular helpers' rota which has been a great benefit. We also enjoy great support from the church here. My special thanks go to Arthur Sara, our chaplain, who is with us most weeks. As always, I am very grateful to all the officers and helpers and the continued engagement from all



parents and carers which enables BB to run. I truly believe we make a difference to the boys' confidence, outlook, and sense of community.

GIRLS' BRIGADE — Dawn Wright & Sarah Davidge



Table talk at the GB's 50th anniversary.

At Girls' Brigade we have had an exciting time over the last year. Back in October last year we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of 1st Aylesbury Girls' Brigade. We were joined at AMC by around 100 guests from past and present at 1st Aylesbury. Captains and Officers from the past 50 years and people who had helped at GB or been

involved in various capacities. We had an afternoon tea in the hall where lots of stories were shared of Girls' Brigade over the years and then followed this with a service led by our Chaplain, Arthur Sara. We were very proud that all the girls from our present company took part in the service either by singing, acting, or reading prayers they had written. It was a truly joyous occasion involving fun, chatter, and fellowship.

We also sent handmade congratulations cards to the King and Queen on their coronation. We were very excited to receive both a letter and a card from Buckingham Palace thanking us for our cards. If you are in the hall at AMC, then please look on the Girls' Brigade board where we have displayed both the letter and card.

We continue to have about 20 girls of all ages on a Monday evening. We play games, make crafts, share bible stories, cook, and generally make lots of noise!

J TEAM — Vivienne Kemp

We have recently seen an increase in children in our younger age group (4-10), with sometimes as many as 8 children. This group gets involved in craft activities, games and bible stories. Our older children (10-16+) take a more contemporary look at the Bible, discussing how it is still relevant today and looking at the challenges we currently face as Christians.



As the number of young people can fluctuate from week to week, I am very grateful for the support of the other J Team leaders who are getting used to adapting accordingly.

MESSY CHURCH — Margaret Miskin



Messy Church re-started in September 2022 after a long absence, due to not having anyone to co-ordinate staffing and activities. We meet on the 1st Saturday of the month from 3:45pm – 6:00pm. There's always lots of crafts, cooking, games, air hockey & various board games. Around 5:00pm everyone goes into the church for a bible story that was

linked to that day's activities. Tea is served afterwards in the hall. Our numbers have been steady, ranging from 10 – 16 children per session plus their parents.

I have a fantastic band of helpers who come along to Messy Church, either by doing craft work or making the tea. Thank you one and all; Messy Church couldn't run if it wasn't for all your help & support.

SUNBEAMS — Margaret Miskin

Our numbers continue to be steady with new people arriving and some leaving to go to school. We have managed to buy new toys, craft items and small gifts at Christmas. It's a truly wonderful group with lots of smiling faces and laughter. Everyone is welcome, so if you'd like to see us in action then please pop in on a Thursday morning and have a cuppa with us.

YOUTH EXCHANGE — Vivienne Kemp

60th Anniversary Celebrations – 3rd- 6th August 2023

Although we have not exchanged with our TuS Daun sports club partner in Germany since COVID, we were invited to Germany in early August to celebrate the Exchange. Who would have thought that our Exchange, started



in 1963 only 18 years after our two countries had been at war with one another, would still be going strong well into the following century!



Celebrating the 60 years of our German youth exchange in the TuS 05 Daun clubhouse



As there were only 15 of us going for 4 days (6 former leaders and 9 former participants) we opted to go by train. We set off early Thursday morning by Eurostar to Brussels and then continued by train to Cologne. This proved to be very smooth and problem-free (more about the journey home later!) and we were met at the station by Matthias Kröffges, son of our long-standing driver Richie. It was wonderful to arrive in Daun, which seemed relatively unchanged since our last visit in 2018 and meet up again with old friends. That evening gave us a chance to eat with host families and to catch up on our news.



Former Exchange leaders and participants on the Moselle

On the Friday we were taken to Cochem on the river Moselle where we explored and shopped. Then we took a trip down the Moselle Valley by boat to the beautiful historic village of Beilstein. The threatened rain never appeared, and we were able to enjoy the scenery and the prolific vineyards along the banks of the river. When we arrived in Beilstein, known as the Sleeping Beauty (Dornröschen) of the Moselle, some of our more adventurous members climbed up to the ruins of the Metternich castle. Others enjoyed a leisurely lunch in the restaurant next to the former Carmelite monastery.

That evening a reception was given by the TuS Daun trustees in our honour at the TuS clubhouse. We were very warmly welcomed, and Goddie Willems (leader in the 1990s) entertained us with anecdotes from former exchanges. We ate pizza and spent a delightful evening with former leaders, participants, and members of TuS Daun. They presented us with a booklet containing photos taken during the various exchanges. Some of these photos had been recently unearthed when Walter Haser (leader in the 1990s) had tidied out his attic. This booklet is currently being circulated, so please let me know if you'd like to see a copy.



ACTIVITIES

BANNER GROUP — Brenda Horne



Our latest banner, celebrating the music of the Church, is now up. It can be seen above the choir seats. Two more are nearing completion and two more are at the design stage.

We are now meeting more frequently again after lockdown. Sadly, one of our members is moving but a new member hopes to start in the New Year. Our meetings are held in Room 4 on the first and third Tuesdays from 2pm until 4pm.

BEDGROVE HOUSE GROUP — Rosemarie Bucknell

The September weather was delightful as we began our year with a coffee morning in the garden of one of our members, plus cake and biscuits of course! Our number remains at fifteen. November saw us gathering for



our AGM where we expressed wishes and ideas and put a programme together for 2023.

We celebrated the New Year together in January with a lunch out at the Crows' Nest and in February we gathered together for a musical afternoon, organised by Derrick Matthews which was enjoyed by all. Arthur Sarah led our 'devotional' meeting one afternoon in March at a member's house followed by tea and biscuits.



Milton's Cottage

A coffee morning in April was followed by a trip out in May to Milton's Cottage in Chalfont St. Giles. The weather was good as was the cottage and gardens. We welcomed previous members who joined us for the outing.

The beautiful weather in June saw a group of us who could ramble, explore College Lake near Marsworth, with all

members meeting afterwards for a pub lunch.

Our garden party in July was enjoyed by all although we were indoors because of inclement weather. We all accept that we are not as agile as we used to be but gathering together, even just for coffee as we did in August, is a good thing to do.

COMMUNITY CENTRE – Shirley Francis

We are pleased to report that the Community Centre is thriving and has welcomed several new groups. The users are extremely happy with the facilities. Comments received are that the kitchen is well kitted out, the toilets are clean, and it's a welcoming place that offers privacy.

We have the following groups that use the Centre either daily, weekly, monthly, or at other frequencies. They are:

- Macular Society



- Deaf Coffee Morning Club
- Virtus Care (*was Sees the Day*)
- Casualties Union (*a charity that provides training for volunteers in rescue, first aid and medication techniques to enable them to deal with real life emergency situations*)
- Child Contact Centre
- Sun group (*a community support group run by Oxford NHS Trust*)
- Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust
- Indian Dance Class
- Yoga
- Choose2Lose (*a weight watching support group*)
- Diabetes Prevention (*run by the NHS*)
- Women's Institute
- Herts NHS Foundation Trust (*to help adults with varying physical disabilities find suitable employment*)
- U3A Local History Group
- Neil Douglas Estate Management
- Blood Unit (*NHS*)
- Fairhive Housing
- Buckinghamshire Council
- Private one-off hire for parties
- Independent church groups
- Musical performances (*Organ Concerts, Choral Society, Concert Band*)

The above users bring in a steady income that helps to support the activities of the Centre and pays for its upkeep (heating, lighting, wear and tear, etc). There has been a slight increase in income on a year-by-year basis since the downturn due to Covid.

Regular Church group users of the Community Centre are:

- Sunbeams Babies & Toddlers
- Girls' and Boys' Brigades
- Monthly Luncheon Club
- Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship meetings
- Tuesday Morning Prayer meetings
- Banner Group



- Messy Church
- Badminton Club

There are still slots available to let, so hopefully this upward trend will continue.

FOOD CAFÉ — Karen Crussell

Our Food Cafe continues to thrive and become a happy place where, (they tell us), our guests like to be. We seek to create a welcome and accepting atmosphere in keeping with the name of our venue: the Welcome Space.



Attendance averages around 18-20 guests, (going up to 25 on one or two occasions). The "pull" is the free Wenzels and Greggs food that is shared amongst those present towards the end of the session. Our guests gather and chat as they share toast, pasties, or cakes from our donors. They can collect a food parcel if they are in food crisis. On average we give out four food parcels a week. We place a four-page information sheet on each table



containing information about where individuals can go to get support for a range of issues around housing, benefits and helping services in Aylesbury.

We have a few homeless guests. Most are vulnerably housed living in HMOs. HMOs are houses of multiple occupation where the individual 'rents' a room and shares a kitchen, bathroom and living space with others. They tend not to be nice places to live. Standards are low, occupancy insecure and the behaviour of other occupants can be unpleasant.

Most importantly of all on a Monday evening, we make time to chat with our guests, listen to their stories, occasionally giving pointers to where they can get help or a different perspective. Sometimes guests ask to go into the church to pray or light a candle or simply to speak privately with one of the team. Sometimes we react in a difficult situation contacting other agencies to help our guests.

We have learnt a lot as we have grown. We have now devised a written code of acceptable conduct which we enforce firmly in a kind and God-like way. Our guests respect and appreciate this as one or two troubled souls can make life difficult. We have changed our opening times to reflect the new closing hours of Greggs (we open from 6.30 to 8.00 pm.) We are deeply grateful for Greggs and Wenzels for giving us their unsold food, after store closure, as are our guests. Trussell Trust do a great job providing us with the means to give out food parcels.

We have six members of the church community who regularly help out and about ten from outside the church. You can help by your prayers, giving to the food bank donation station in the Welcome Space, and volunteering. The more people we have from church the more the project becomes our own - though, of course, we are extremely grateful for the valiant body of non-members who help out on a Monday.

FLOWER ARRANGERS — Melanie Dean

Our team of Janice Matthews, Edith Awadzi, Ruby Darku, Sue Kirk and I continue to make floral arrangements for the Welcome Space and church each week. We are reducing our use of floral foam in the arrangements to 'do our bit' for the environment. One block is equivalent to 6 plastic bags!



FRIDAY FEATHERS BADMINTON CLUB — John Miskin



To attract non-church members, we decided to change our name from AMC Social Badminton Club to Friday Feathers. Although we attracted 3 new players to start with, they only stayed a few weeks. We have a steady group of 8 players of varying standards, but I'm pleased to say that the beginners that started two years

ago have all improved their games.

We managed to raise £963, which is divided between 3 church groups, Boys' Brigade, Girls Brigade & Karibuni charity. We have also changed our times to 2:30pm – 4:30pm.

The cost remains the same at £4 per session. If you have never played badminton or only played it in the garden, you are more than welcome to come and join us. You even get a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit.

Greeting Cards — Janice Matthews and Rosemarie Bucknell



Attractive Hand Made Greetings Cards are available for purchase from the display stand in the Community Centre reception area. These are all at affordable prices, much lower than cards in local shops. In buying these, you not only receive good value, but you are also making a direct contribution to AMC funds.

Personalised cards can be made to order, please speak to one of us advising your requirements. You

will not be disappointed!



MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Derrick Matthews

Most Sunday mornings, the Church Choir continue to effectively lead the congregation in the singing of our hymns. Choir Members receive advance notice of the chosen hymns together with selected tunes to enable preparation. New Choir members are always welcome; if you feel that you can provide an effective contribution, please speak to me or to a member of the choir.

Organ Accompaniment together with supporting voluntaries is provided by myself or one of my able assistants, David Brooker and William Parker, for whose service I am most grateful.



Professor Ian Tracey at the 2023 annual organ concert

Following an enforced three-year absence due to the epidemic, the Annual Organ Concert resumed featuring the outstanding Concert Organist, Ian Tracey, Organist Titulaire of Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. Ian introduced and performed a pleasing programme planned to suit all tastes. The audience enjoyment was evident by the appreciable applause.



MUSIC GROUP — Nick Aylen

Once a month, our morning service is accompanied by our Music Group. New musicians and singers of all ages are always welcome. Please contact Nick Aylen, Richard Atkinson , or a church steward if you are interested.

PRAYER GROUP — Ruby Darku

This year our prayer group has received requests quite regularly from the congregation, also requests made through Rev. Atkinson. Our numbers have increased by two and we would also like to encourage others to join, even if only for a few sessions. We meet on alternate Tuesdays, 10.45am - 12noon.

SOS GROUP - Lynn Bernstone



Rev. Fred Ireland who started it all!

This year was a special one for the SOS Group. We celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of our first meeting that was held at the manse on King Edward Avenue. Fred Ireland brought the idea with him from two previous circuits, so he knew it was a winner! The SOS initials translate to 'Sometimes On Sundays'. There were a number of people who had connections with the Church through their wives/husbands who for a variety of reasons did not or could not attend, and this was a way to reach out to them.

We have matured into a group of friends. We carry out fellowship through food with gatherings, roughly monthly, in one another's homes. The only constants are a faith supper, wide ranging conversations in groups or individually and laughter. Also, we are always thankful for a variety of fruits, and the spirit in which they are given!

So, the SOS group is alive and well. It has been, and always will be, open to all, so please joins us as we set off for the next thirty years.



TUESDAY AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP – Coral Soulsby

Although the Fellowship is down in numbers, our members are enjoying sharing the fellowship and friendship now on the first and third Tuesdays in the months.



Derek Adams was one of our speakers.

During the past year we have welcomed some very inspiring and interesting speakers, such as Derek Adams, who is fund raising by walking the coast of Britain, or three ladies from Age UK, who advised us on the help available in all areas of our age group.

Thank you for those volunteers who gave Rev Richard Atkinson their names to speak at future meetings. It is very supportive to us and encourages us to continue.

We are looking forward to next year to book fresh speakers, so please see if you can spare an hour or so to join us. You will find us a friendly group, open to the prompting of our Lord Jesus, to love one another as we love ourselves. God bless you all and please look out for the programme available in the Welcome Area.

WELCOME SPACE COFFEE BAR – Margaret Miskin

We are now open four days a week: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Virtus Care group do alternate Mondays and every Friday and for that, I'm extremely grateful. Other days are covered by the wonderful ladies of our church and a couple of gentlemen. Our footfall has increased this year and it's wonderful to get to know other people while having a slice of amazing cake and a cup of tea.

Do come and join us whenever you're in town.



CHARITIES

ACTION FOR CHILDREN — Pauline Noble

Action for Children is the children's charity supported by the Methodist Church. Many of our members have a Home Collecting Box, and although small change in our purses is now less than it used to be, this year we have collected over £300, which is a superb amount. This is an excellent way of raising small amounts of money, and new collectors will always be welcome.

We have three special church collections over the year: two at Christmas and one on Action for Children Sunday. This year, the three collections amounted to over £700, some of which was Gift Aided which allows the charity to claim a further 25% back from the government.

Our small committee has also managed to arrange other fundraising events. We



Afternoon tea fundraiser at the Hardens

held a cake and plant stall after the service on Action for Children Sunday, raising a further £300, which included locally-produced jars of Wendover honey. Another event, enjoyed by many, was Afternoon Tea on a beautiful afternoon in August, held at the kind invitation of Elaine and Kevin Hardern. Besides the tea, we included a few games, and raised £316.64. Hopefully we will be able to arrange another in 2024.

We also hold our Toy and Gift Service at the beginning of December. There is no Action for Children facility suitable in Aylesbury, but instead we work with Della Holmes at Bucks Council. All the toys, and gift vouchers for teenagers, go to the Elmhurst Family Centre to be distributed by the Family Workers to those children and teenagers in Aylesbury who otherwise would have very little to open on Christmas Morning.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us over the year.



CHRISTIAN AID - Jennie Torpey and Maureen Tucker

Christian Aid are a partnership of people, churches and local organisations committed to ending poverty worldwide.

"We have more than 70 years' experience of working in partnership to support communities to thrive. We tackle the root causes of poverty so that women, men and children the world over are strengthened against future knocks. And if disasters happen, we get people the help they want straight away." Christian Aid website.

At Aylesbury Methodist Church, our collections for Christian Aid at the 2022 Carol Service and Midnight Communion totalled £363.17.

On Christian Aid Sunday, in May 2023, we watched a video - Esther's Story.



Esther and others in her community in Malawi, working with Christian Aid, are growing pigeon peas (more suited to the climate than other crops) and using them to bake bread to sell. For Esther and her community, pigeon peas are like *"the tiny mustard*

seed, growing the hopes and dreams of their children and grandchildren:

- *to go to school*
- *to start their own businesses*
- *to help their friends and their neighbours."*

The retiring collection after the service amounted to £474.05 (with Gift Aid - £560.80). We were also given £200 for Christian Aid from donations for tea and coffee after Sunday services.

KARIBUNI CHILDREN — Joy Murphy

Kenya had a new President, William Ruto, in September 2022. Like all candidates he came in with huge promises to stop the rampant corruption, high prices, inequality, and so on. As elsewhere, those experiencing these things, the poorest, are still waiting – and many are even worse off!

Children at Tusaidie Watoto (Let us help the children), Kibra, Nairobi.

Sugar, maize flour, beans, cooking oil and margarine, all basic ingredients of the Kenyan diet, have all doubled in price, and are beyond the means of



the families Karibuni is involved with. This is having a serious knock-on effect on Karibuni's budget, as all the projects we are working with request extra funding to continue providing the children with nutritious food. The last thing we want to do is reduce the nutritional value to these children, who get little or no food at home. Despite the challenges the social workers and other staff continue to explore ways of raising funds in their own areas.



Some of the children at Njoro

At Njoro, the project continues to sell the clean fresh water from the borehole for use in the project and are supplying fresh water to the nearby primary and secondary schools and some businesses, providing a regular income. They are exploring the feasibility of installing solar power – sun is never in short supply. The trustees are looking for external funds for this purpose. James, the caretaker, grew vegetables and fruit for the project, and has created tyre planters for this purpose. This enables vertical gardening when tyres are piled on each other, making watering, and weeding much easier.



Fruitful times at Tharaka

At Tharaka, they continue to plant and provide fruit trees that were granted to the project by another organisation. The workshops built around the edges of the project are all rented out to local artisans and some of the project's own young people who have qualified as dress-makers, beauticians, or carpenters. This brings income and independence to their families.

At Meru, among other initiatives, they have started a school uniform factory and in addition to their own young people being employed, local women are being trained. Mercy, the social worker is also employing several young people when they are on holiday from their studies, giving them work and business experience.

In the UK, Karibuni is struggling to raise the necessary funds needed. Churches, like AMC, are finding it hard to raise the funds necessary for their own costs, so fewer are inviting us to speak and raise money for the charity. We are having to reduce our support gradually each year, causing problems for the projects. We are continuing to support those children we have started with until they finish their education but taking fewer (or no) children into the pre-school. This is heart-breaking for the trustees, especially those who have been working with Karibuni since it started in 1995.

We do now have two Kenyan trustees with their deep personal knowledge of Kenya and the lives of many people there. Their insight and contributions are invaluable. It was Helen who suggested vertical tyre gardening to James at Njoro and Steve who is running in the London 10K with other Kenyans for Karibuni.

Earlier in November 10 of us from the charity were invited to the celebration of Kenya's 60th Anniversary of Independence at Buckingham Palace. Wow! What an exciting day that was. All of us met the King or the Queen.



And even this committed anti-monarchist had a great time – and behaved well! The canapes were delicious too.

Thank you again for your faithfulness and love for the children in Kenya that we are empowering in our partnership. Please pray for Karibuni and its future and all those affected by cutbacks.

Link to Hope – Margaret Miskin

After 2021 being a bit of a disappointment for the number of shoe boxes coming in, I am pleased to say that in 2022 we amassed a fantastic total of 143 boxes, 57 from our church.



Shoebox smiles!

As usual the many boxes were distributed in Romania, Bulgaria & Moldova, they even managed to get some into Ukraine to help the displaced families there. It's a joy to see happy, smiley faces when they receive a shoebox. If you haven't filled a box before, then perhaps you would like to give it a go next year. Thanks to all those who continue to support Link to Hope.

MHA – Jennie Torpey



"As the UK's leading charity care provider dedicated to enriching the lives of older people, we are committed to delivering exceptional care, accommodation, and support services across Britain, ensuring the highest quality of life at every stage of later life."

Our story began in 1943 when compassionate members of the Methodist Church came together to establish our mission.

Today, we proudly serve and support:

- **3,896** older people living in our care homes, where we offer specialised dementia or nursing care to ensure their wellbeing



- **2,763** older people living independently in retirement living communities, enjoying access to various social and leisure facilities, with the added comfort of flexible care when needed
- **11,400** older people living independently in their own homes, empowered by our community services, that span across Britain.

We are driven by the desire to inspire the best care and promote wellbeing for every individual as they journey through later life. “



Hillside Care Home, Aylesbury

Aylesbury Methodist Church has strong ties, traditionally, with the MHA Hillside Care Home, partly because of our close proximity, since AMC is more accessible for residents to attend our Sunday services, if they are able. Our Minister and others regularly hold a short communion service for the residents at the home.

The theme for MHA Sunday, on 11th June 2023, followed 1 Corinthians 12:12-27: ‘There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body’. This explores how we need one another for our happiness, highlighting the importance of community and inclusion in making us stronger. A retiring collection at our MHA service this year raised £192.20.

WHITECHAPEL MISSION — Ruth Watkins

Tony Miller MBE, Director at Whitechapel, reports that need increases as more and more folk are hit by financial crisis. So, I am pleased to report that we have managed to keep up our support despite the price increases we all face.

The Easter Breakfast raised even more money this year - the wonderful amount of £482. My thanks for all who were involved in this event. Harvest giving was again very generous, an abundance of food and generous



amounts of new and used clothing. There was also an extra collection in memory of Peter.

Tony was very pleased to see all the goods waiting for him in the entrance on the Monday morning after our Harvest, and not a little surprised!



Part of the Harvest giving for Whitechapel

Some of John Wesley's words of yesterday with a resonance today...

1. Be ye ready to distribute to everyone, according to their necessity.
2. Wickedly, devilishly false is that common objection, 'They are poor only because they are idle.... Find them work.... They will then earn and eat their own bread.'
3. How many are there in this Christian country that toil, and labor, and sweat... but struggle with weariness and hunger together? Is it not worse for one, after a hard days labour, to come back to a poor, cold, dirty, uncomfortable lodging, and to find there not even the food which is needful to repair his wasted strength?

See [john-wesleys-manifesto-newdocx.pdf](#) (methodist.org.uk) for more.



FINANCE

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS - Roger Kirk



*Church Treasurer
Roger Kirk*

Our accounts will be submitted, through the formal Methodist Channels, on the Accruals basis. This allocates income and expenditure to the year to which they relate rather than in which they were received or paid, thus providing a more meaningful picture of the accounts.

The year 2022/23 – General Fund

Our finances are being affected by the recent high rates of inflation resulting mainly from the war in the Ukraine. The full effect of these will occur in 2024/25 when there will be a large increase in the Circuit assessment and our current three-year fuel contracts expire.

Income from members has remained fairly constant in recent years and an appeal is being made to encourage members to increase their contributions to match our rising costs now and in future years. Income from lettings has increased by £12,000 to £41,000 compared to the previous year.

The **General Fund** made a net surplus of £2,346, increasing our fund balance to £44,536 which is in line with our reserves policy of 33% of expenditure. **The Benevolent Fund** increased its balance by £284 to £717 during the year. **The Welcome Area project fund** had a balance of £3,393 at 31st August 2023 and as it is unlikely that any further payments will be necessary that sum will be transferred to the General fund during 2023/24.



AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Informal STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES on an accruals basis as at 31st August 2023

Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.

Actual 2021/22	Funds balances at 31st August 2023	General fund	Restricted funds			Church orgs.	Total 2022/23
			Welcome area	Benevol- ent	Endow- ments		
£		£	£	£		£	£
60,174	Liquid Funds per Income & Expend. accounts	44,536	3,393	717	3,434	11,196	63,276
1,015,720	Capitalised expenditure	1,015,720					1,015,720
1,075,894	Total funds	1,060,256	3,393	717	3,434	11,196	1,078,996
	Represented by:						
	Assets:						
	Capitalised expenditure on fixed tangible assets:						
1,015,720	Community centre improvements at cost b/f	1,015,720					1,015,720
-	Welcome area improvements at cost this year	-					-
1,015,720		1,015,720					1,015,720
	Current assets						
	Bank balances						
10,834	HSBC current	5,132					5,132
8,896	HSBC deposit	6,945					6,945
2,599	Metro current	2,636					2,636
8,643	Central Finance Board	7,004	3,393	717		148	11,262
100	Imprest account	100					100
10,484	Held by church organisations					11,048	11,048
	Endowment funds accounts*						
3,314	Stranks & Staley's bequests				3,224		3,224
210	Mead bequest (J Team and choir)				210		210
16,192	Debtors and prepayments	24,494				-	24,494
61,272	Total current assets	46,312	3,393	717	3,434	11,196	65,051
	Current liabilities						
600	Lettings deposits	100					100
498	Creditors and amounts received in advance	1,675					1,675
1,098	Total liabilities	1,775					1,775
60,174	Net current assets (current assets less liabilities)	44,536	3,393	717	3,434	11,196	63,276
1,075,894	Net assets (all assets less liabilities)	1,060,256	3,393	717	3,434	11,196	1,078,996

*Held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

There are differences of up to £1, which are due to rounding up to the nearest £1

These informal accounts show the position as at 31st August 2023 before any charge for depreciation of fixed assets. The formal accounts will include provision for depreciation, yet to be approved.



AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Informal income and expenditure account
for the year ended 31st August 2023

GENERAL (UNRESTRICTED) FUNDS on accruals basis

***Note:** The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.*

2021/22 £	GENERAL FUND	2022/23 £
	INCOME	
83,428	Offerings & tax recovered:	82,671
68,040	Collection (services, standing orders and annual)	67,399
15,388	Income Tax refund	15,272
34	Bank & CFB interest and investment income	385
38,108	Lettings	40,996
8,806	Other income, detail in shaded area below:	10,563
3,064	Fund raising	3,391
2,745	Donations and legacies	3,986
253	Government Job Protection Scheme re Covid 19	-
1,406	Weddings and funerals	1,675
1,338	Coffee Bar profits	1,512
-	Miscellaneous	-
130,376	Income Grand Total	134,615
	EXPENDITURE	
86,724	Circuit contribution	84,372
520	Donations and subscriptions	2,003
22,165	Repairs & maintenance, detail in shaded area below:	19,007
3,816	Building maintenance	3,856
9,250	Cleaner's wages and supplies	9,976
9,099	Equipment maintenance (incl.organ & piano)	5,175
13,653	Utilities & insurance, detail in shaded area below:	15,369
9,881	Heat, light, water and refuse	11,135
3,772	Insurance	4,232
9,769	Other expenditure, detail in shaded area below:	10,602
2,766	Administration	3,257
5,258	Administrators - wages, less Circuit share	4,878
121	Layworker (last year only) and Young Leaders Scheme	-
4	Telephones	289
962	Church Activities	1,159
658	Publicity & miscellaneous expenses	1,020
132,831	Total Expenditure, excl. Welcome Area Improvements	131,353
(2,455)	NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR accruals basis	3,262
44,214	Balance brought forward 1/9/2022	42,191
41,759	Subtotal	45,453
433	Net transfers between funds, excl. Welcome Area Fund	(916)
42,192	Subtotal	44,536
	Welcome Area Improvements:	
-	Funds transferred from the Welcome Area Fund	-
-	Above funds then expended on the Welcome Area and capitalised	-
42,192	GENERAL LIQUID FUNDS AT 31/8/23 C/ FWD.	44,536



AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Informal Summary of Income and expenditure accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023 (on Accruals Basis)

ALL FUNDS

Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.

Actual 2021/ 22 accruals basis £		General Fund £	Re- strict- ed Funds £	En- dow- ment Fund s	Church Or- gan- isa- tions £	Totals 1922/23 £
135,030	Income	134,615	334	88	9,437	144,473
136,874	Expenditure, excl. Welcome Area improvements	131,353	50		9,882	141,285
(1,844)	Net income/(Expenditure)	3,262	284	88	(445)	3,189
	Welcome Area improvements:					
-	Earlier years' expenditure capitalised	-	-			-
-	Expenditure capitalised this year	-	-			-
(209)	Change in value of investments			(86)		(86)
(2,053)	Subtotal	3,262	284	2	(445)	3,102
	Net transfers between funds:					
	Welcome Area Fund	-	-			-
	Other funds	(916)	-	(92)	1,008	
(2,053)	Subtotal	2,346	284	(90)	563	3,102
62,229	Liquid Funds Balances b/fwd 1/9/2022	42,191	3,826	3,524	10,633	60,174
60,176	Liquid Funds Balances c/fwd 31/8/23	44,536	4,110	3,434	11,196	63,276



AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Informal income and expenditure accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023

RESTRICTED FUNDS, ENDOWMENTS AND CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

2021/22		Welcome Area Fund	Benevolent Fund		Total 2022/23
£		£	£		£
	Income				
38	Offerings		334		334
-	Grants, donations, etc & tax recovered	-			-
38	Total income	-	334		334
	Payments				
-	Other expenses	-	50		50
-	Total expenditure	-	50		50
38	Net income / (expenditure)		284		284
-	Earlier years' expenditure capitalised	-			-
-	Transfers between funds	-			-
38	Net income / (expend.) after transfers	-	284		284
3,788	Balances brought forward 1/9/2022	3,393	433		3,826
38	Net income / (expenditure)	-	284		284
3,826	Balances carried forward 31/8/2023	3,393	717		4,110

ENDOWMENT FUNDS HELD BY THE TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES

Totals 2021/22		Mead Bequest	Stranks & Staley's Bequests	Totals 2022/23
£		£	£	£
		Restricted	Unrestricted	
3,731	Balances brought forward 1/9/2022	210	3,314	3,524
13	Income	7	81	88
(11)	Paid to General Fund	(7)	(85)	(92)
-	Paid to J Team and Choir	-	-	-
(209)	Change in Value of investments	-	(86)	(86)
3,524	Balances carried forward 31/8/2023	210	3,224	3,434

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

£	Income		£
	Offerings & tax recovered		
	Investment income, etc		
4,603	Other income		9,437
4,603	Total income		9,437
	Payments		
4,043	Other expenses (incl. external donations £300)		9,882
4,043	Total expenditure		9,882
560	Net income / (expenditure)		(446)
(422)	Transfers between funds		1,008
138	Net income / (expend.) after transfers		562
10,495	Balances brought forward 1/9/2022		10,633
138	Net income / (expenditure)		562
10,633	Balances carried forward 31/8/2023 *		11,195

* Excludes Endowment Mead Bequest Fund, which is shown above.



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AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

A Registered Charity

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

(ACCRUALS BASIS)

for the year ended 31st August 2023

Charity Registration Number 1129749

Belonging to Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit - Circuit number 23/29

Minister	Rev. Richard Atkinson
Church Stewards	Gill Marks Frances Aylen Jackie Simpson - Tyda Elaine Hope Gill Nord Derek Adams Matilda Phiri retired 2022/23 Kaz Tyda retired 2022/23 Lusi Dirorimwe retired 2022/23
Treasurer	Roger Kirk

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023

Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) See Note 2 *	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2023	Totals 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	67,399				67,399	68,040
	3,986		334		4,320	2,783
3	15,272		-		15,272	15,388
4	385	-		88	473	47
					-	-
5		9,437			9,437	4,603
6	47,574		-		47,574	44,169
	134,616	9,437	334	88	144,475	135,030
	84,372				84,372	86,724
7	2,003	250	50		2,303	520
8	19,007		-		19,007	22,165
9	15,368				15,368	13,654
1c(v),*2	15,843				15,843	15,843
10	8,424				8,424	8,028
11	2,181		-		2,181	1,741
5		9,632			9,632	4,043
* 2	147,198	9,882	50	0	157,130	152,718
13	(86)				(86)	(209)
					-	-
* 2	(12,582)	(445)	284	2	(12,741)	(17,897)
14	(916)	1,008		(92)	-	-
					-	-
	(13,498)	563	284	(90)	(12,741)	(17,897)
	1,058,812	10,633	3,826	3,525	1,076,796	1,094,693
* 2	1,045,314	11,196	4,110	3,435	1,064,055	1,076,796

* Note 2 of Notes to Accounts shows division of the General Fund between unrestricted Funds and Property Reserve.

Not included above: Money received for and passed on to external organisations. These are specified in note 25 Notes to the accounts

Name of Church

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Church No.

1129749

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

Notes to the accounts

General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2023	Totals 2022
£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Land and buildings	15	840,275			840,275	845,053
Welcome Space		83,990			83,990	89,590
Contents	15	76,513			76,513	81,978
Investment properties					0	0
Investments	16			3,434	3,434	3,524
Total fixed assets		1,000,778	0	0	3,434	1,020,145

Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments	17	24,494			24,494	16,192
Loans by the Churches					0	0
Investments with TMCP					0	0
Central Finance Board Deposits	18	7,004	148	4,110	11,262	8,643
Cash at Bank and in hand	18	14,813	11,048		25,861	32,912
Total current assets		46,311	11,196	4,110	0	57,747

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	19	1,775			1,775	1,098
Grants payable within 2023/24					0	0
Total current liabilities		1,775	0	0	1,775	1,098
Net current assets / liabilities		44,536	11,196	4,110	0	56,649

Total assets less current liabilities		1,045,314	11,196	4,110	3,434	1,064,054	1,076,794
--	--	------------------	---------------	--------------	--------------	------------------	------------------

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2023/24						0	0
Loans to the Church						0	0
						0	0
Net assets		1,045,314	11,196	4,110	3,434	1,064,054	1,076,794

Funds of the Church

General Fund (Unrestricted)	20	1,045,314			1,045,314	1,058,812	
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			11,196		11,196	10,632	
Total Unrestricted Funds					1,056,510	1,069,444	
Restricted Funds				4,110	4,110	3,826	
Endowment Funds					3,434	3,524	
Total Funds		1,045,314	11,196	4,110	3,434	1,064,054	1,076,794

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies

a. **Basis of Accounting**

The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention, (except where noted below) and in compliance with the Standard of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), (effective from 1/1/2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)).

b. **Public benefit entity**

Aylesbury Methodist Church of Buckingham Street, Aylesbury meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. It is an unincorporated charity.

c. **More on the basis of accounting, including departures from the historic cost convention.**

- i The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis.
- ii The accounts are designed to show a true and fair view of Aylesbury Methodist Church's financial position and activities.
- iii Quoted investments are shown at their market value, rather than cost.

iv Tangible fixed assets values:

As the original cost of the church's land and buildings and much of the contents is not known, (apart from improvements and alterations carried out within the last 13 years), a deemed cost has been established. In the case of the land on which the church buildings stand, its estimated current use value has been used. As regards the buildings and contents, their deemed cost has been determined by using Discounted Replacement Cost (DRC) in place of actual cost. This method applies a discount, calculated by reference to the age of the building and estimated age of the contents, and their useful economic life, and applying the discount to their sum insured values.

This does not apply to additions to fixed assets acquired since 1st September 2017, where cost stated is actual cost.

v Depreciation policy:

Assets held at 1/9/2017

Land upon which the church stands	Not depreciated
The church building, including community centre	Over 140 years on a straight line basis
Contents	Over 20 years on a straight line basis

Assets acquired since 1/9/2017

Modernising church foyer ('Welcome Space')	Over 20 years on a straight line basis
--	--

These expected useful lives, which represent a standard/initial assessment for each asset-class, have been reviewed against current assumptions of each asset's likely further useful life.

- vi All values are expressed in sterling (pounds), and have been rounded to the nearest pound.
- vii The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees are of the opinion that the church is sufficiently resourced financially and in members' support to continue for the foreseeable future.
- viii Income is recognised when the church becomes entitled to the resources, and the monetary value is reliably measurable, and it is considered more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the monetary value of volunteers' time is not recognised in the accounts.
- ix Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the value is reliably measurable and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.
- x The church is not registered for VAT, and consequently expenditure on which it has been incurred has been included gross in the accounts, i.e. inclusive of the VAT.
- xi The church's only monetary investments held in the year and the previous year, were those pertaining to the Stranks endowment. They are deposited with TMCP as custodian trustees, and have been valued at market value by TMPC.
- xii Debtors stated represent the amounts owed to the church or prepaid by the church at the financial year end. Creditors are amounts owed by the church or have been received in advance at the financial year end.
- xiii The church makes monthly contributions to the Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit, which have been assessed by the circuit annually, based on the the church's main regular sources of income. The circuit remits part of the contributions received to the Northampton Methodist District by way of its assessment on the circuit. The district in turn remits most of its income from the circuits in its jurisdiction, to The Methodist Church Fund.

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023

2 Division of unrestricted General Funds between Liquid Funds and Property Reserve

	Liquid Funds		Property Reserve		Total	Total
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
8 Total income per Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)	134,616	130,376			134,616	130,376
17 Total charitable expenditure per Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)	147,198	148,675			147,198	148,675
13 Adjust for depreciation charged in the accounts for the year - see note 15	(15,843)	(15,843)	15,843	15,843	-	-
17 Adjusted expenditure	131,355	132,832	15,843	15,843	147,198	148,675
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	-				-	
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties	-				-	
20 Net income/(expenditure)	3,261	(2,456)	(15,843)	(15,843)	(12,582)	(18,299)
21 Transfers between funds	(916)	433	-	-	(916)	433
22 Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Net movement in funds	2,345	(2,023)	(15,843)	(15,843)	(13,498)	(17,866)
24 Total funds brought forward	42,189	44,212	1,016,623	1,032,466	1,058,812	1,076,678
25 Total funds carried forward	44,534	42,189	1,000,780	1,016,623	1,045,314	1,058,812

Property Reserve

Since there is no evidence of a permanent endowment, it is assumed that the money donated to build the church premises at various times, was in the expectation of their long-term use, and therefore in these accounts prepared under SORP (FRS102), the fair value of the land, the buildings and contents on a DRC basis is taken as their deemed historical cost under FRS102, and treated as belonging to an expendable endowment for the church's general purposes. More on the calculation of DRC values can be found in note 15.

	General Funds	Internal Organisations Designated	Welcome Area	Benevolent Fund	Endowment	Total 2023	Total 2022
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted			
3 <u>Gift Aid Tax receivable</u>							
On offerings	15,272					15,272	15,388
On Welcome Area gifts			-			-	-
	15,272		-			15,272	15,388
4 <u>Interest and income from investments</u>							
Bank & CFB interest	385	-				385	34
Endowments					88	88	13
	385	-			88	473	47

5 Designated Funds (unrestricted)

<u>Internal organisations</u>	Balances b/f	Income from activities & interest	Expenditure on activities & donations	Internal transfers	Balance c/f 2023	Balance c/f 2022
J Team (Junior Church)	435	-	30	-	405	435
German Exchange	7,005	4,402	4,471	-	6,936	7,005
Girls' Brigade	448	957	1,655	660	410	448
Boys' Brigade	1,301	2,181	2,088	660	2,054	1,301
Youth Club	674	-	-	-	674	674
Tuesday Fellowship	240	90	73	-	257	240
Choir	19	-	-	-	19	19
Banner Group	135	-	-	-	135	135
Flower Fund	171	870	1,242	400	199	171
Sunbeams Toddler Group	88	-	-	-	88	88
Badminton Club	116	937	322	(712)	19	116
	10,632	9,437	9,881	1,008	11,196	10,632

	General Funds	Internal Organisations Designated	Welcome Area Restricted	Benevolent Fund Restricted	Endowment	Total 2023	Total 2022
6 Other charitable income	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted			
Fund raising	3,391		-			3,391	3,064
Income from use of church premises	40,996					40,996	38,108
Government Job Protection Scheme	-					-	253
Weddings and funerals	1,675					1,675	1,406
Coffee Bar	1,512					1,512	1,338
Miscellaneous	-					-	-
Total	47,574		-			47,574	44,169

7 Grants and donations expended

Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy	1,000					1,000	500
Connexional donations:							
Methodist Missions	500					500	-
Other connexional funds	500					500	-
Donation from Benevolent Fund				50		50	-
Karibuni Children		250				250	-
Minor donations	3					3	20
	2,003	250		50		2,303	520

8 Property & equipment maintenance and repairs

Buildings maintenance	3,856					3,856	3,816
Cleaner's wages and cleaning supplies	9,976					9,976	9,250
Equipment repairs and replacements	5,175		-			5,175	9,099
Organ & piano repairs and maintenance	-					-	-
	19,007		-			19,007	22,165

	General Funds	Internal Organisations Designated	Welcome Area	Benevolent Fund	Endowment	Total 2023	Total 2022
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted			
9 <u>Insurance, utilities, etc.</u>							
Light & heat	9,903					9,903	8,816
Water	652					652	522
Refuse collection	581					581	544
Insurance	4,232					4,232	3,772
	15,368					15,368	13,654
10 <u>Office expenses</u>							
Office wages, less Circuit contribution	4,878					4,878	5,258
Telephone	289					289	4
Other office expenses	3,257					3,257	2,766
	8,424					8,424	8,028
11 <u>Other expenditure</u>							
Young Leaders Scheme/Layworker	-					-	121
Church activities	1,159					1,159	962
Publicity	886					886	424
Miscellaneous incl. rounding diff.	136			-		136	234
	2,181			-		2,181	1,741
12 <u>Salaries & associated costs</u> (included in Notes 8, 10 & 11 above).							
Salaries were paid to 3 (4 in 2021/22) members of staff during the year and were in total as follows							
Gross salaries, before deduction of							
Circuit contribution of £3,840	17,128					17,128	16,710
Employer's:							
NIC	-					-	-
Pension contrib.	-					-	513
	17,128					17,128	17,223
There were no members of staff employed full-time last year, or in 2022/23.							
13 <u>Gains/(losses) in value of monetary investments</u>							
Unrealised gain/(loss) in market value on endowment investments						(86)	(86)
							(209)

14 Transfers between funds

General/Welcome area

The Welcome Area Fund was instigated to raise funds for transforming the church foyer into a more welcoming space for the community in which the church stands. This was achieved during the 2018/19 financial year, and funds were transferred to the General Fund to enable the works to be carried out. These were completed also in the 2018/19 financial year. A small balance is retained in the Welcome Area Fund for use on furnishings and other future related costs associated with the space.

	General Funds	Internal Organisations Designated	Welcome Area	Benevolent Fund	Endowment	Total 2023	Total 2022
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted			
Transfer from Welcome Area Fund to General Funds	-			-		-	-
Transfer from Endowment funds for Junior Church and Choir for general purposes	85				(92)	(92)	(11)
Transfers from General Funds to Internal Church Organisations	(1,220)	1,220				-	-
Transfers from Internal Church Organisations to General Funds	212	(212)				-	-
	(916)	1,008	-	-	(92)	-	-

15 Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation

B/fwd at 1/9/22 at deemed cost	200,000	668,943		109,305	978,248
B/fwd at 1/9/22 at actual cost			111,990		111,990
Improvements in year at actual cost			-		-
C/fwd at 31/8/23	200,000	668,943	111,990	109,305	1,090,238

Depreciation

B/fwd at 1/9/22	N/a	23,890	22,400	27,326	73,616
Provided in year	N/a	4,778	5,600	5,465	15,843
C/fwd at 31/8/23	N/a	28,668	28,000	32,791	89,459

Net book amount at 1/9/22	200,000	645,053	89,590	81,979	1,016,622
Net book amount at 31/8/23	200,000	640,275	83,990	76,513	1,000,778

The expected useful lives, which represent a standard/initial assessment for each asset-class, have been reviewed against current assumptions of each asset's likely further useful life. No significant changes are considered necessary at this time.

Deemed cost - Discounted Replacement Cost (DRC)

Insurance values at 1/9/2017:

Assets excl. land	Acquired date (approx)	Insurance values	Total useful economic life (years)	Average age at 1/09/2017 (years)
Buildings-church & commun. c'tre	1893/1920	3,902,168	140	110
Contents	Various	218,609	20	10

Tangible fixed assets continued overleaf

15 Tangible fixed assets continued

Land value £200,000 (Current use value estimated by the trustees after taking professional advice.)

DRC calculation - deemed cost at 1/9/2017

Assets excl. land	Insurance values (buildings less 20% for site clearance)	Anticipated future life divided by total useful economic life	Fair value on DRC basis
Buildings-church & commun. c'tre	3,121,734	30/140	668,943
Contents	218,609	10/20	109,305
	3,340,343		778,248

Tangible fixed assets - Year ended 31st August 2022

	Land	Buildings	Welcome space	Contents	Total
Deemed cost 1/9/2017	200,000	668,943		109,305	978,248
Actual cost 2019			111,990		111,990
Depreciation to 31/8/2022*		23,890	22,400	27,326	73,616
Net book value at 31/8/2022	200,000	645,053	89,590	81,980	1,016,622
*Annual rate of depreciation		1/140	1/20	1/20	

Property Reserve

Since there is no evidence of a permanent endowment, it is assumed that the money donated to build the church premises at various times, was in the expectation of their long-term use, and therefore in these accounts prepared under SORP (FRS102), the fair value of the land, and the buildings and contents on a DRC basis is taken as their deemed historical cost under FRS102, and treated as belonging to an expendable endowment for the church's general purposes.

16 Investments

Endowments - Mead, Stranks and Staley bequests (deposits & investments)

	Endowment	Total 2023	Total 2022
Carrying (market) value at start of year	3,524	3,524	3,731
Income	88	88	13
Transferred to General Funds	(92)	(92)	(11)
Increase/(decrease) in market value of investments	(86)	(86)	(209)
Carrying (market) value at end of year	3,434	3,434	3,524

17 Debtors and prepayments

	General Funds	Internal Organisations Designated	Welcome Area	Benevolent Fund	Endowment	Total 2023	Total 2022
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted			
Prepaid circuit contributions	7,115					7,115	7,031
HMRC Gift Aid tax	5,478					5,478	5,600
Income from use of church premises	11,701					11,701	2,879
Other	200					200	682
	24,494					24,494	16,192
	General Funds	Internal Organisations	Welcome Area	Benevolent Fund	Endowment	Total 2023	Total 2022

18 Cash at bank and in hand

		Designated				
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted		
Current accounts:						
HSBC	5,132				5,132	10,833
Metro Bank	2,636				2,636	2,599
Deposit funds:						
HSBC deposit account	6,945				6,945	8,896
Central Finance Board	7,004	148	3,393	717	11,262	8,643
Various held by Internal Church Organisations		11,048			11,048	10,484
Cash in hand - Imprest account	100				100	100
	21,817	11,196	3,393	717	37,123	41,555

19 Creditors & accruals (due within one year)

For goods and services	1,675				1,675	287
Grants and donations received in advance for expenses relating to the next financial year	-				-	-
Deposits held relating to use of church premises	100				100	600
Gift Aid tax to pass on					-	-
Donations collected to be passed on	-				-	211
	1,775				1,775	1,098

20 Funds of the church

General funds (unrestricted)

These exist for the furtherance of the church's general objectives, and are represented by the church building and its community centre, and liquid assets for use at the trustees' discretion in the achievement of those objectives, and maintaining the church's premises.

Internal church organisations (Designated fund)

These are maintained by various groups to support their activities within the church, who are required to provide annual accounts to the church council. The funds are represented by bank and cash balances.

Welcome Area Fund (Restricted)

The Welcome Area Fund was instigated to raise funds for the transformation of the church foyer into a more welcoming space for the community in which the church stands. This was achieved during the 2018/19 financial year, and funds were transferred to the General Fund to enable the works to be carried out. These were completed also in that financial year. A small balance is retained in the Welcome Area Fund for use on furnishings and other future related costs associated with the space. The Fund is represented by a balance held within the church's bank account.

	2023	2022
<u>Income</u>		
2 Donations, legacies & grants	-	-
3 Gift aid	-	-
7 Other charitable income	-	-
8 Total income	-	-
<u>Expenditure</u>		
11 Property & equipment maintenance	-	-
15 Other expenditure	-	-
17 Total charitable expenditure	-	-
20 Net income/(expenditure)	-	-
21 Transfers between funds	-	-
23 Net movement in funds	-	-
24 Total funds brought forward	3,393	3,393
25 Total funds carried forward	3,393	3,393

20 Funds of the church continued.....

Benevolent Fund (restricted)

The Benevolent Fund exists for the relief of poverty and distress, and is required by Methodist Standing Order 651.
It is represented by balances held at bank.

	2023	2022
<u>Income</u>		
2 Donations, legacies & grants	334	38
<u>Expenditure</u>		
10 Grants and donations	50	-
20 Net income/(expenditure)	284	38
23 Net movement in funds	284	38
24 Total funds brought forward	433	395
25 Total funds carried forward	717	433

Endowment Funds

These arise from bequests in the past. They are:
Mead, for general purposes
Stranks and Staley, for the junior church and the church choir
The endowment funds are represented by investments and CFB balances held.
The information below combines the Stranks and Staley
data, as the latter fund is miniscule.

	2023		2022	
	Mead	Stranks & Staley	Mead	Stranks & Staley
<u>Income</u>				
4 Interest and investment income	7	81	1	12
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		(86)		(209)
20 Net income/(expenditure)	7	(5)	1	(197)
21 Transfers between funds	(7)	(85)	(1)	(10)
23 Net movement in funds	-	(90)	-	(207)
24 Total funds brought forward	210	3,314	210	3,521
25 Total funds carried forward	210	3,224	210	3,314

21 Capital Commitments and contingent liabilities

The church had no capital commitments at 31st August 2023.
There were no known contingent liabilities at that date.

22 Loans and creditors due after one year

There were no loans or other liabilities due after more than one year as at 31st August 2023.

23 Related party transactions

Name of related party	Relationship	Payments to related parties 2022/23	Payments to related parties 2021/22
Contributions to Vale of Aylesbury Method.Circuit	Connexion	84,372	86,724
Methodist Connexional Funds:			
Methodist Missions	Connexion	500	-
Other connexional funds	Connexion	500	-
Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy	Charity	1,000	500
		86,372	87,224

There were no trustees employed by Aylesbury Methodist Church in other roles (other than the minister's stipend)

	Name of related party	Relationship	Payments to related parties 2022/23	Payments to related parties 2021/22
23	<u>Related party transactions continued</u>			
	Trustees who received fees in respect of weddings/funerals, etc:			
	Rev. Richard Atkinson		100	620
	John Miskin		60	140
	Margaret Miskin		20	80
	Stephen Marks		20	80
	Gill Marks		40	
	Jenny Torpey		50	

24 The church trustees

The trustees are the members of the church council.

Those who served in the year ended 31st August 2023 were:

Superintendent minister:

Rev. Richard Atkinson

Team ministry:

Arthur Sara

Secretary:

Jackie Simpson - Tyda

Church stewards:

Gill Marks

Matilda Phiri retired 2022/23

Frances Aylen

Jackie Simpson - Tyda

Kaz Tyda retired 2022/23

Elaine Hope

Gill Nord

Lucinda Dirorimwe retired 2022/23

Derek Adams

Communications:

Peter Green

Church treasurer:

Roger Kirk

Leadership team:

Rev. Richard Atkinson

Jenny Torpey

Margaret Miskin

Vivienne Kemp

Albert Odoro

Missions Chair:

David Neville

Community Centre:

Rev. Richard Atkinson

Property:

Kevin Hardern

Circuit steward:

Keith Wallace

Pastoral Co-ordinator:

Pauline Noble

Safeguarding:

Tim Olufosoye

Representatives appointed by
the Annual Church Meeting:

John Miskin

Lynn Berstone retired 2022/23

Derek Berstone retired 2022/23

Stephen Marks

Paul Ingram retired 2022/23

Rae Garden

Sandy Steeden

Nick Aylen

Karen Crussell

25 Money received for and passed on to external organisations (not included in income or expenditure of the church)

	2022/23	2021/22
Action for Children	407	
Turkish earthquake appeal	697	
Easter offering - Methodist Church Missions	310	463
MHA	192	211
	1606	674

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-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.....

Name and address of treasurer: Roger Kirk.....

77 Aylesbury Road, Bierton, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP22 5BT

Presentation to the Church trustees

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev. Richard Atkinson..... Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Charity Number 1129749

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Aylesbury Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 1 to 11. 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.

Aylesbury Methodist Church..... No 1129749

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination
the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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 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: Michael Foote.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: FCA

Address 8 Bates Lane, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

Post Code: HP22 5SL

Date

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner: Michael Foote.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: FCA

Address 8 Bates Lane, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

Post Code: HP22 5SL

Date 31/12/23

Accounts



Annual Report 2021-2022

Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre

Buckingham St. Aylesbury Bucks. HP20 2NQ

T: 01296 426526

E: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk

Registered charity number: 1129749

W: www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk

Minister: Rev. Richard Atkinson

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WELCOME

Report Summary – Rev. Richard Atkinson



Whilst writing this, our daughter has just gone down with Covid which is a reminder that this pernicious disease is still out there. However, we also know that thanks to the abilities of scientists and the phenomenal response of the NHS we are in a better position, and, in many ways, life is more normal.

The information contained within the Annual Report shows signs of greater normality as we have learnt to live in our new circumstances. It also means that as a church we have the chance to reset and ask what we can let go of and what else we might be able to do to build our mission and witness.

The Report gives us chance to reflect on what has been and contemplate that which might emerge in the hope that next year's Report shows us to be a yet more dynamic community.

With thanks for *your* part in our ongoing life.

Blessings,

Richard

ORGANISATION

Governance – Peter Green

The Constitution Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church of Great Britain sets how we, as a part of that church, are governed. It can be downloaded from the Methodist Church website (www.methodist.org.uk). Changes to CPD can be voted on by the annual Methodist Conference, which includes representation for all the districts. We are part of the Northampton District and the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit.

The local decision-making body of each church is the church council, whose members are also the trustees. Last year, these trustees were:

Rev. Richard Atkinson, Jackie Simpson-Tyda, Roger Kirk, Gill Marks, Gill Nord, Kaz Tyda, Frances Aylen, Elaine Hope, Matilda Phiri, Derek Adams, Lusi Dirorimwe, Keith Wallace, Peter Green, Vivienne Kemp, Margaret Miskin, Albert Odro, Jennie Torpey, Arthur Sara, Pauline Noble, David Neville, Kevin Hardern, John Miskin, Sandie Steeden, Rae Garden, Paul Ingram, Lynn Bernstone, Nick Aylen and Tim Olufosoye.

At Aylesbury, the church council appoints church stewards and a leadership team. The church stewards ensure the smooth running of worship services and act as a conduit between minister and congregation. The leadership team includes church steward representation and acts as the executive arm of the church council.

The Methodist Church believes that God loves everyone unconditionally. In response, it urges its churches and members to do twelve things:

Pray daily

Worship with others regularly

Notice God in Scripture and the world

Care for ourselves and those around us.

Learn more about our faith

Open with hospitality and generosity.

Serve people in our communities and beyond.

Flourish by caring for creation and all God's gifts.

Challenge injustice.

Tell of the love of God.

Live in a way that draws people to Jesus.

Share our faith.

Leadership Team – Jennie Torpey

Congregation numbers continue to increase, with more people gradually feeling ready to return after the pandemic, and several new people joining. It has been heartening to see so many of the congregation meeting in the Hall after the service for coffee or tea and a chat. We have also had a record number of Baptisms in Sunday morning services.



*Matt Forsyth
District Mission Enabler*

In May, as part of our Mission and Future Message, the District Mission Enabler, Matt Forsyth, began a series of events to encourage the Church to engage with communities, looking outwards, and building on current projects. Several other ways to share our Christian faith are being planned, with talks by members of the congregation during the Sunday service on their coming to faith, and courses available to attract new people.

The monthly Messy Church has gone from strength to strength, on a Saturday afternoon, offering crafts, games and stories, activities such as table tennis and air hockey for the older children, and with afternoon tea to end. Many of the little ones attend our weekly Sunbeams Baby & Toddler group on Thursday mornings.

Many regular groups and individual hirers have now returned to the building, and our own groups such as Girls' and Boys' Brigades, Tuesday Fellowship and the Prayer Group have resumed meeting. A Social Badminton group has also started on a Friday afternoon.

The Coffee Bar in the Welcome Space has increasing numbers visiting, and is open on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings at present, although, with more volunteers, it would be possible to open other days as well.

The Welcome Space is also host to the AMC Foodbank, in association with the Trussell Trust, on Monday evenings, between 7.30 and 9.00pm, offering a listening ear, issuing food parcels, and serving hot drinks and left-over food donated by Wenzels and Greggs. A box for donations towards the foodbank is available in the Welcome Space.

Sadly, after 33 years and sales of £673,277.40, the charity Cards for Good Causes has decided not to run a Christmas Card Shop from our Church any longer, as a result of increased on-line sales during the pandemic. This is disappointing news for the Church, the volunteer helpers, and of course, the customers.

Membership of the Leadership Team this year has been Rev Richard Atkinson, Kevin Hardern, Vivienne Kemp, Gill Marks, Margaret Miskin, Albert Odro, Tim Olofuso and Jennie Torpey.

Property – Kevin Hardern

The church and community centre have come back into use during this year, much to everyone's delight. We have concluded discussions with our neighbour regarding the rebuilding of the wall at the rear of the fire escape passage. This is at no cost to us, many thanks to a friendly neighbour.

We have also fixed a problem due to overflowing gutters by replacing them with much larger ones to take the fall from the roof, the resulting stain on the high ceiling in the church does need us to think about options for repainting without incurring significant cost. The retention for the heat shield is still ongoing, the church leadership team have decided to retain this for another year before transferring it into general fund as we are managing to work around the problem as we need to use it. The front doors have developed an intermittent problem which the suppliers are finding difficult to track down. Again, it seems we have managed to find a workaround when it happens, but we will keep onto this one.



Finally, the Property Stewards continue to provide support to Stoke Mandeville Methodist church on an ad hoc basis as requested by the circuit. Our thanks go to those who have committed to provide that extra support, Bob Bucknell, John Miskin and Paul Ingram in particular. As ever, many thanks also to John and Roger Kirk who continue to open and shut the building, on a rota basis with myself, which does give more flexibility for lettings.

Communications – Peter Green

Our streamed Sunday services, which can be accessed from the Streaming button on the home page of the website, continues to be well used, especially by those who can no longer easily get to church. We are indebted to our Stream Team of Albert Odro, Harry Darku and Solo Awadzi for sharing the rota on this. Happily, the team has now expanded to include Tim Rolls and Steve Kemp.



In May, we posted the 540th Thought For The Day video on the website. In it, our minister Richard, who set up the programme at the onset of the pandemic and lockdowns, paid tribute to the core of local preachers who, together with him, had offered us a varied diet of food for thought, five times a week, every week since they started. As we have come out of the pandemic, the programme is now paused as other means of enriching our thinking and reflecting on our faith have become possible again.

Since the videos ceased, we have reverted to the previous practice of posting a variety of news items on the website each week. The purpose is to provide a shop window to newcomers to the area and others of something of our church's interests, activities, actions, and values. Linked with each news item is a Facebook posting and Tweet. There is an open invitation for anyone to get involved on a regular or one-off help or advisory basis with our social media. Thanks again to Margaret Smith for her regular updating of our Calendar section.

Church Stewards – Gill Marks

The stewards at AMC are responsible for the smooth running of the Sunday morning services. They work closely together with the minister or visiting preacher to ensure everyone knows what is needed, when and where, every Sunday morning. They liaise with other groups within the church for special services like Easter, Christmas, Communion and the many Christenings we are now having, to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Every Sunday we have 2 stewards available; one to open up the church and one to close up after everything is finished. In the main, everything goes as planned. On the rare occasions it doesn't, hopefully, most people don't notice!

YOUTH

Boys' Brigade – Steve Kemp

We have been delighted to return to normal face-to-face sessions this year. It is nice for everyone to take part in group and team activities again. Headquarters has expanded the resources available throughout the age groups for face-to-face activities and this has made it easier to put together interesting weekly programmes. We shared a joint Awards/Promotion Evening with the Girls' Brigade which gave parents and carers the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of boys and girls in the Brigades.

Before the summer break we presented the church with a rose for the front area to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. She was our patron for the duration of her reign.



The Boys' Brigade party, with the minister, at the planting of the rose for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

As always, I am very grateful to all the officers and helpers and the continued support from all parents and carers that enables BB to run; I truly believe we make a difference to the boys' confidence, outlook, and sense of community. My special thanks go to John Miskin who retired as a BB officer at the end of this year after many years of service. He will continue to help as President's and King's Badge Coordinator.

Girls' Brigade – Sarah Davidge and Dawn Wright



It has been an exciting year at 1st Aylesbury Girls Brigade with both an increase in numbers of girls and our 50th Anniversary.

We came back last September to face to face Girls Brigade, on a Monday evening, which we were all delighted about. It was so lovely to be able to chat, laugh and re

connect with each other.

Following a 'Bring a Friend' evening the numbers on a Monday night increased and we now regularly have over 20 girls each week playing games, listening to bible stories, discussing many topics from our environment to needs in our local community, making crafts and always laughing and making lots of noise. Some of our new girls had never been in a church before so it has been great to introduce them to the Christian Faith.

This year we celebrated 50 years since 1st Aylesbury Girls Brigade opened at Aylesbury Methodist Church. We had an afternoon tea for nearly 100 people followed by a Thanksgiving Service which all the girls took part in. The service was taken by our Chaplain Arthur Sara who has been a huge part of 1st Aylesbury over many years. We invited back previous girls, Officers and Captains of the Girls Brigade and were honoured to see so many coming and received some lovely messages afterwards. It was a fun afternoon sharing old memories and meeting with faces we had not seen in a long time – no one had aged! We look forward to many more years of 1st Aylesbury.

J Team - Vivienne Kemp

Our numbers have been building back slowly after lockdown. Although attendance is irregular, we generally have 4 or 5 children each week and continue to work in 2 groups, with our younger group focussing on bible stories and crafts and our older group discussing the bible and how it relates to our everyday lives. I'm very grateful to our J Team leaders, who have proved very adept and flexible; able to accommodate an extra 10 children from a christening party at a moment's notice.

Sunbeams – Margaret Miskin



Our numbers continue to grow on a Thursday morning with new mums, dads and grandparents accompanied by their toddlers/babies. Everyone enjoys their time due to the amount of space we have, plus a varied selection of toys and bigger equipment such as slide and mini trampoline. This is the first year that we

have introduced a charge per session to keep us in line with other groups. This has enabled us to purchase some new toys. Everyone is welcome to join our happy group, so if you know someone who could benefit from coming, then please pass on our details. Many thanks to Elaine Hope who is with me every week, helping out in this truly wonderful place.

ACTIVITIES

AMC Greeting Cards – Janice Matthews and Rosemarie Bucknell

Janice and Rosemarie continue to provide a large variety of handmade crafted greetings cards appropriate for birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and all other like occasions. These are available to purchase from the display stand in the rear reception area.



The cards are attractively priced and the substantial income from sales is transferred into church funds periodically. Why pay more at local shops

for mass produced printed cards when you can have unique examples of superior quality at lower cost!

We are happy to create Personalised Cards to order. Please speak to one of us advising your requirements, you won't be disappointed.

AMC Social Badminton Club – John Miskin



Friday 22nd October 2021 saw the first afternoon for the new badminton club. 4 people turned up. We now have a core of 10 people. Sometimes only 2 players have arrived which meant an energetic afternoon, but most afternoons there are 6 to 8 players.

We have a variety of standards of skill, but we all have a good time. We play from 2.00pm till 4.00pm with a tea & biscuit break halfway through, all for only £4.00 a session. From Oct 21 to the end Aug 22, we raised £626.00 for the church. Our only costs being for shuttles & biscuits.

If you fancy a go then please just turn up at 2.00pm on a Friday, we have spare rackets if you do not have one.

Banner Group – Brenda Horne

I am glad to report that we have a new member, who has joined us this session. We are currently finishing off a new "music banner " to be put next to the "choir" one and there are other ideas in the pipeline.

It is lovely to be back sewing again!!!

Bedgrove House Group – Rosemarie Bucknell

As the pandemic began to lessen our House Group met last November for our AGM and programme planning for the next year. Still wary of joining large gatherings of people, instead of our "Christmas Lunch" in January, we

had a soup lunch at a member's home, and it was good to meet and chat with each other.

An afternoon in March found us drinking tea and asking Rev. Richard Atkinson various questions as part of our religious/spiritual theme. In June a few of us rambled gently in Wendover Woods enjoying the sunshine and spectacular views. On a fine evening in July, we held our annual Garden party in the back garden of one of our members, and it was enjoyed by all. In August we travelled to Whipsnade Village and enjoyed a visit to the Tree Cathedral (NT owned) and then moved to the Dunstable Downs Visitor Centre overlooking the downs for lunch.



In between visits out we have met for coffee or afternoon tea and have enjoyed meeting together and hearing everybody's news.

Food Bank – Karen Crussell

Aylesbury Methodist Foodbank, run in conjunction with the Trussell Trust, launched in January 2022. We welcome between 10 and 12 guests each Monday evening in the Welcome Area.

We appreciate all the generous food donations you place in the white basket in the Welcome Space for the Food Project. We hand out food parcels to those in need and share out food donated at the end of the working day by Wenzels and Greggs to all those present. We serve tea, coffee, cakes, and biscuits and, latterly, toast as well (thanks to Wenzels). Food is an important part of what we do. However, at least as important, is the atmosphere of trust, safety and friendship we seek to create for everyone who visits us.

Any perishable food left over at the end of the evening goes to other organisations we have links with or the homeless guests in a local hotel who are being supported into housing by Bucks Council.



The Foodbank offers an atmosphere of trust, safety, and friendship.

Some of our guests have never had the easiest of lives, others are going through a temporary 'blip'. We have rough sleepers who join us (we have recently given out sleeping bags and extra blankets to guests). We have also welcomed an illegal immigrant who has no recourse to public funds so sleeps rough and receives no financial or other help from the state whatsoever. We have someone who is currently being exploited by an

unscrupulous local landlord, being a victim of the Universal and Housing Benefit system. The delays in rent being paid means he could be asked to leave at any time and the landlord uses that as a lever to exploit him to do cheap labour so that, as he says, he can 'keep her sweet'. We have seen one visitor I used to call Harry Potter, because he slept under the stairs in a block of flats, who succumbed to a breakdown at the beginning of lockdown after the death of his mother. He has overcome his heroin addiction, found a room in a shared house, and settled back into well-paid work and hopes to become a volunteer in due course.

We currently have 18 volunteers: six are members of AMC and seven are members of other Christian churches in Aylesbury. We would like to see more volunteers from AMC who are willing to accept the cost of this service, witnessing to the love of God in Christ, for the sake of the common good of our community. Quite apart from that, it is hugely rewarding, and you would be working alongside a friendly and motivated, enthusiastic team of volunteers.

Cards For Good Causes – John Miskin

It was with sadness that I had to announce that the Cards for Good Causes charity Christmas card shop would no longer be held at our church. Following Covid they found that more people were buying their cards on-line. This led them to the decision to only open their 80 biggest selling shops, and a few smaller one where they had free use of the premises. They closed all the other shops.



The 2010 Cards for Good Causes pop-up Christmas card shop in our church

Over the 33 years we have run the card shop we raised **£673,277.40**.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped in the shop, past and present. The companionship that we all had will be sadly missed.

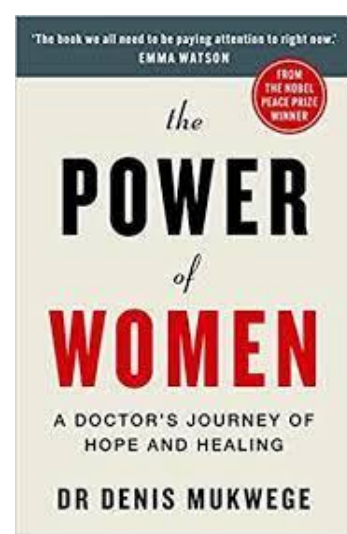
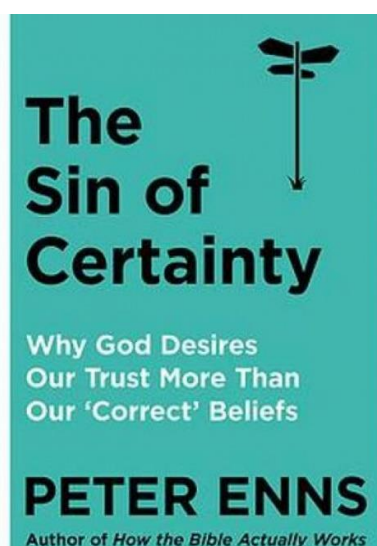
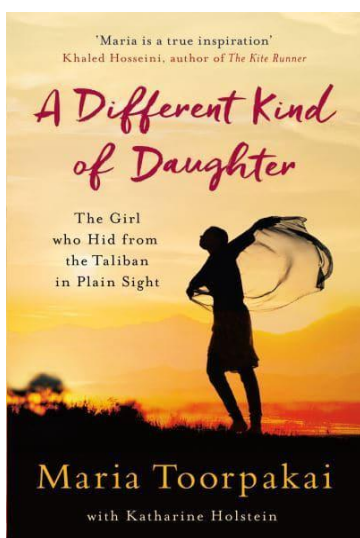
Flower Arrangers – Melanie Dean

The Church Flower Arranging team have been kept busy on Friday mornings every week this last year with floral creations for the Welcome Space and the Church, going all out for the various celebrations.

The team are Janice Matthews, Edith Awadzi, Ruby Darku, Sue Kirk and me. We would welcome anyone who would like to come along on a Friday morning and arrange flowers with us. Even if you don't have any experience, but are keen to learn, we have a wealth of knowledge between us, and will be happy to help you.

The Good Faith Book Club – Peter Green

In January this year, the club celebrated its tenth anniversary with its sixtieth book. It continues to fulfil its main purpose 'to provide a forum for people to discuss matters of faith and what they believe, through the discussion of a book in a relaxed, convivial, non-threatening atmosphere'. It has also succeeded 'to provide motivation for wider reading on matters spiritual'.



This year's six books included a religious novel, an autobiography about a woman who became Pakistan's leading squash player, despite the best efforts of the Taliban, another autobiography of a Nobel Peace Prize doctor on his work in Africa, caring for the victims of sexual violence, and three different slants on hope and certainty in these uncertain times. All the books, especially where we disagreed with some of the author's thinking, generated some lively discussions on wide-ranging aspects of faith and belief in today's world.

The value of the club to those attending was seen in the desire to continue beyond the ten years. So, whilst I have stepped down from co-ordinating and chairing meetings, others have stepped up and we have also welcomed two new members. Given that our membership is circuit-wide, it has been decided that to save people travelling time, most of our meetings will be held on Zoom with a couple of face-to-face meetings in the summer months.

Music Director's Report – Derrick Matthews

The Organists and Choir continue to provide music accompaniment for our worship on many Sundays throughout the year. Our small, but loyal choir are given advance opportunity to familiarise themselves with the chosen hymns together with their selected tunes to enable them to give an effective lead to the congregation singing.



I am particularly grateful to my fellow organists, David Brooker and William Parker who with many hours of practice, assist me in providing fitting organ accompaniment to the hymn singing, also playing appropriate voluntaries to set the mood for preparation and conclusion of worship.

Music Group – Nick Aylen

We have continued to accompany morning service once a month. New singers and musicians of all ages are always welcome to join us.

SOS Group – Lynn Bernstone

We are a group who meet roughly once a month and thoroughly enjoy each other's company. We bring and share amazing food and enjoy a glass of wine or something soft along with a good chat and catch up.

The SOS group have been meeting regularly for nearly 30 years with people coming and going, dipping in and out and just being. Our year has, as usual been just an overall feeling of friendship and warmth.

As SOS, we very much look forward to 2023 with lots more food, laughter, and fellowship.

Tuesday Fellowship – Coral Soulsby

We are enjoying the Fellowship on the first Tuesday of the month, starting at 2.30pm. God has been kind to us so that our faithful members are now keeping well and confident of being Covid-free, thanks to the regular Covid injections. However, we are down in numbers, so we would welcome any like-minded Church members.

We have had some interesting speakers, and inspiring speakers are planned. Also, on alternative months, we plan to re-introduce members' afternoons for favourite readings, hymns, and sharing of interests.

We hope and pray that you will join us in 2023.

Welcome Space Coffee Bar – Margaret Miskin

The coffee bar is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays and is a haven for our regular ladies and gentlemen. The Knit and Natter group continue to use our premises on a regular basis.

We always make time to chat to everyone as sometimes, we are the only contact they will have with anyone that day. It is such a lovely bright space to meet in and I must say that the cakes the volunteers make are delicious.

My thanks go to all the volunteers who give up their time to enable the coffee bar to open. Come and give us a try; you won't be disappointed.



CHARITIES

Action for Children – Pauline Noble

As we begin to look forward to Christmas and our annual Toy Service this year, we remember the joy we brought to many children in the area last Christmas. As children and adults brought forward new toys for children of all ages the communion area became packed with toys and gifts.

Presents are never wrapped, but we supply Christmas paper so that presents can be matched to each child before being wrapped. Many who were not able to purchase toys brought in cash donations. As it will be this

year the cost-of-living crisis is huge and with cash donations we were able to purchase food vouchers for Family Workers to be able to give out when some families suffered food emergencies.



The Toy & Gift Service, 2021

Fund Raising is never easy and this year we concentrated on Action for Children Sunday by running a cake, plant and produce stall plus a church collection and raised £565.79.

As well as fund raising activities several of our members have a little Home Collecting box where small change can be placed. Boxes are collected in and counted once a year and for the year up to March 30th 2022 we collected over £300 with an extra £208.17 from a Christmas Day collection.

Christian Aid – Jennie Torpey & Maureen Tucker



Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

“Everyone is equal in the sight of God. Yet we live in a world where poverty still persists. Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. But together we have the power to transform lives.

For over 70 years, we’ve been standing with the poorest of our neighbours. We work in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none, to stand up for dignity, equality, and justice.

Together we can create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. Our voices and actions are stronger together. And with your help, we can make an even bigger difference. Together with our supporters and partners, we aim:

- to expose poverty throughout the world
- to help in practical ways to end it
- to highlight, challenge and change the structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.” – *Christian Aid website.*

At Aylesbury Methodist Church, in October 2021, we were able to celebrate the work of Christian Aid at our Harvest Festival service, to replace our usual May service during Christian Aid Week which was cancelled due to Covid. We watched a video and held a retiring collection amounting to £632.28 (with Gift Aid - £720.53). A collection for Christian Aid at our annual Carol Concert in December 2021, totalled £39. In Christian Aid Week, May 2022, the retiring collection totalled £484.50 (with Gift Aid - £560).

Karibuni Children – Joy Murphy

As Kenya recovers slowly from the pandemic, and people begin to pick up the pieces again, they find they are struggling again, with droughts in many areas, floods in other places, and rapidly rising prices of all basic foodstuffs, fuel, and the already unreliable electricity supply. They are, of course, affected by the war in Ukraine and the shortage of wheat flour from there, and the cut in the UK grant aid which is having a massive effect on every aspect of Kenyan life, especially on health and education. Not just ‘double whammies!



Children at Tusaidie Watoto (Let us help the children), Kibra, Nairobi.

Sugar, maize flour, beans, cooking oil and margarine, all basic ingredients of the Kenyan diet, have all doubled in price, and are beyond the means of the families Karibuni is involved with. This is having a serious knock-on effect on Karibuni's budget, as all the projects we are working with request extra funding to continue providing the children with nutritious food. The last thing we want to do is reduce the nutritional value to these children, who get little or no food at home.

Despite the challenges the social workers and other staff continue to explore ways of raising funds in their own areas. At Njoro, the project continues to sell the clean fresh water from the borehole, but this supply will be affected if the drought reaches the area.

At Tharaka, they continue to provide fruit trees that were granted to the project, to each of the families in the area – and are praying that the rain, which started to fall this week, will continue to water the trees, and break the drought of the last two years of failed wet seasons. The hope is that there will eventually be a fruit tree forest – mangoes, bananas, papaya, and avocado - which will itself bring much needed rain!

So, all is not doom and gloom. The children are doing well in school, although they are having to deal with many organisational changes – reducing from 8 years in Primary to 6 years, therefore extending Secondary from 4 to 6 years. The effect on the Karibuni budget is huge as secondary education is very expensive whereas primary is (supposedly) free. 2023

and 2024 will be especially difficult, as there will be children moving up from both classes 6 and 8 at the same time – another ‘double whammy’!



Children at Embakasi slum near Nairobi Airport

We heard yesterday that the relevant children have all completed their end of the National Primary exams and that the Secondary school leavers have started their final National exams. Sometime in January we will get the results and learn what their next steps will be in education.

Here Karibuni will be losing two Trustees in January, John Cotton, who followed Bill as Chair 12 years ago, resigning

from that early this year, and Pat Starr who has been the Trust Treasurer for about 25 years! We certainly benefit from long and faithful service both within the Trust and among our lovely donors, both here at AMC and in the circuit, and in the wider community. We are very thankful that we at last have a Kenyan trustee, and hopefully another will be joining us in 2023, and bringing a new insight to the charity.

Thank you again for your faithfulness and love for the children in Kenya that we are empowering in our partnership.

Link To Hope – Margaret Miskin



We had a slightly better year than the previous one. In total, 93 boxes were sent from Aylesbury and surrounding villages. I managed to fill quite a few boxes on behalf of church members due to their generous monetary donations.

It is so pleasing when the pickup van arrives, and we catch up with the drivers for another year and feel part of The Link to Hope Family. John and

I are always on hand to help pack the shoeboxes into the van and then we get the use of our garage back again until the following year. It's a truly wonderful charity to be part of as it allows us to help others who are less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you everyone for your continued support.

MHA – Jennie Torpey



MHA (originally called Methodist Homes for the Aged) is a charity founded in 1943 by members of the Methodist Church. The charity provides care, accommodation, and support services for older people throughout Britain. Their mission is to inspire the best care and wellbeing at every stage of later life, and they are proud to be recognised as a leading provider of care and support.

We have strong ties traditionally with Hillside Care Home, partly as a result of our close proximity, since AMC is more accessible for residents to attend our Sunday services, if they are able. Our Minister and others regularly hold a short communion service for the residents at the home, and although this had to stop during the Covid-19 pandemic, it has now thankfully resumed.

After two years of Church closures during the pandemic, which prevented our regular MHA Sunday service and collection, we were able to celebrate MHA Sunday this year on 12th June 2022, with a short video about their work. The theme was **'Growing Together'**, inspired by Isaiah 43:19: *'See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.'* (NIV).

It was to celebrate how the beauty, tranquillity, and joy of nature, can reduce isolation and bring communities together. Fundraising and donations in 2022 will enable MHA to improve their gardens and outdoor areas to benefit the residents' and their families' wellbeing. **The retiring collection totalled £260.50.**

Whitechapel Mission – Ruth & Peter Watkins



Since my report last year, we have kept in contact with the Mission. The work increases and changes. Beside the breakfast feeding programme there are various support systems in place and there is a greater need for these with the financial difficulties so many faces.

As a church we have sent extra deliveries of clothing since the 2021 Harvest giving, joining with other churches to make the collection viable. At Easter we saw the return of the Easter Breakfast and a wonderful £252 was sent to the mission.

This year we again supported them with our Harvest gifts and as I remarked last year despite a smaller congregation the giving was very generous with gifts of food, clothing (old and new) plus money.

FINANCE

Accounts – Roger Kirk

The accounts are presented on the following pages.

We are once again indebted to Michael Foote for auditing them.

The contact address for any queries is:

Roger Kirk, Church Treasurer
77 Aylesbury Road
Bierton
Aylesbury
Bucks. HP22 5BT.

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH
Informal income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st August 2022
General (Unrestricted) Funds on accruals basis

Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.

2020/21 £	GENERAL FUND	2021/22 £
	INCOME	
83,232	Offerings & tax recovered:	83,428
67,673	Collection (services, standing orders and annual)	68,040
15,559	Income Tax refund	15,388
13	Bank & CFB interest and investment income	34
23,982	Lettings	38,108
19,923	Other income, detail in shaded area below:	8,806
3,180	Fund raising	3,064
6,839	Donations and legacies	2,745
4,000	Layworker (last year) and Young Leaders Scheme grants	-
4,966	Government Job Protection Scheme re Covid 19	253
926	Weddings and funerals	1,406
12	Coffee Bar profits	1,338
-	Miscellaneous	-
127,150	Income Grand Total	130,375
	EXPENDITURE	
74,616	Circuit contribution	86,724
1,000	Donations and subscriptions	520
13,524	Repairs & maintenance, detail in shaded area below:	22,165
2,157	Building maintenance	3,816
6,154	Cleaner's wages and supplies	9,250
5,213	Equipment maintenance (incl.organ & piano)	9,099
11,292	Utilities & insurance, detail in shaded area below:	13,654
7,742	Heat, light, water and refuse	9,881
3,550	Insurance	3,772
17,602	Other expenditure, detail in shaded area below:	9,768
2,126	Administration	2,766
9,320	Administrators - wages, less Circuit share	5,258
2,902	Layworker (last year only) and Young Leaders Scheme	121
1,738	Telephones	4
1,025	Church Activities	962
491	Publicity & miscellaneous expenses	658
118,034	Total Expenditure, excl. Welcome Area Improvements	132,831
9,116	NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR accruals basis	(2,456)
35,088	Balance brought forward 1/9/2021	44,214
44,204	Subtotal	41,758
10	Net transfers between funds, excl. Welcome Area Fund	433
44,214	Subtotal	42,191
	Welcome Area Improvements:	
	- Funds transferred from the Welcome Area Fund	-
	- Above funds then expended on the Welcome Area and capitalised	-
44,214	GENERAL LIQUID FUNDS AT 31/8/22 C/ FWD.	42,191

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH
Informal Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022
Restricted Funds, Endowments and Church Organisations

Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

2020/21		Welcome Area Fund	Benevolent Fund		Total 2021/22
£		£	£		£
	Income				
5	Offerings		38		38
-	Grants, donations, etc & tax recovered	-			-
5	Total income	-	38		39
	Payments				
-	Other expenses	-	-		-
	<i>(£102,352 treated in 2018/19 as part of 'Transfer between funds' below)</i>				
-	Total expenditure	-	-		-
5	Net income / (expenditure)		38		39
-	Earlier years' expenditure capitalised	-			-
	<i>(added to and treated in 2018/19 as part of 'Transfer between funds' below)</i>				
-	Transfers between funds	-			-
5	Net income / (expend.) after transfers	-	38		38
3,783	Balances brought forward 1/9/2021	3,393	395		3,788
5	Net income / (expenditure)	-	38		38
3,788	Balances carried forward 31/8/2022	3,393	433		3,826

ENDOWMENT FUNDS HELD BY THE TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES

Totals 2020/21		Mead Bequest	Stranks & Staley's Bequests		Totals 2021/22
£		£	£		£
		Restricted	Unrestricted		
3,759	Balances brought forward 1/9/2021	210	3,521		3,732
10	Income	1	12		13
(10)	Paid to General Fund	(1)	(10)		(11)
-	Paid to J Team and Choir	-	-		-
(27)	Change in Value of investments	-	(209)		(209)
3,732	Balances carried forward 31/8/2022	210	3,314		3,524

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

£			£
	Income		
	Offerings & tax recovered		
1,846	Investment income, etc		4,603
1,846	Other income		
	Total income		4,603
	Payments		
3,066	Other expenses		4,043
3,066	Total expenditure		4,043
(1,220)	Net income / (expenditure)		559
-	Transfers between funds		(422)
(1,220)	Net income / (expend.) after transfers		137
11,715	Balances brought forward 1/9/2021		10,495
(1,220)	Net income / (expenditure)		137
10,495	Balances carried forward 31/8/2022 *		10,632

** Excludes Endowment Mead Bequest Fund, which is shown above.*

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Informal Summary of Income and expenditure accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022 (on Accruals Basis)
All Funds

Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.

Actual 2020/21 accruals basis £		General Fund £	Resticted Funds £	Endow- ment Funds	Church Organ- isations £	Totals 1921/22 £
129,012	Income	130,375	39	13	4,603	135,030
121,100	Expenditure, excl. Welcome Area improvements	132,831	-		4,043	136,874
7,912	Net income/(Expenditure)	(2,456)	39	13	560	(1,844)
	Welcome Area improvements:					
	- Earlier years' expenditure capitalised		-			-
	- Expenditure capitalised this year	-	-			-
(27)	Change in value of investments			(209)		(209)
7,885	Subtotal	(2,456)	39	(196)	560	(2,053)
	- Net transfers between funds:					-
	Welcome Area Fund	-	-			
	Other funds	433	-	(11)	(422)	
7,885	Subtotal	(2,023)	39	(207)	138	(2,053)
54,345	Liquid Funds Balances b/fwd 1/9/2021	44,214	3,788	3,732	10,495	62,229
62,230	Liquid Funds Balances c/fwd 31/8/22	42,191	3,827	3,525	10,633	60,176

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Informal Statement of Assets and Liabilities on an accruals basis as at 31st August 2022

Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.

Actual 2020/21 £	Funds balances at 31st August 2022	General fund £	Restricted funds			Church orgs. £	Total 2021/22 £
			Welcome area £	Benevol- ent £	Endow- ments		
62,228	Liquid Funds per Income & Expend. accounts	42,191	3,393	433	3,524	10,633	60,174
1,015,720	Capitalised expenditure	1,015,720					1,015,720
1,077,948	Total funds	1,057,911	3,393	433	3,524	10,633	1,075,894
	Represented by:						
	Assets:						
	Capitalised expenditure on fixed tangible assets:						
1,015,720	Community centre improvements at cost b/f	1,015,720					1,015,720
-	Welcome area improvements at cost this year	-					-
1,015,720		1,015,720					1,015,720
	Current assets						
14,569	Bank balances						
8,626	HSBC current	10,833					10,833
755	HSBC deposit	8,896					8,896
8,276	Metro current	2,599	3,393	433			2,599
100	Central Finance Board	4,669				148	8,643
10,366	Imprest account	100					100
	Held by church organisations					10,484	10,484
3,521	Endowment funds accounts*						-
210	Stranks & Staley's bequests				3,314		3,314
17,296	Mead bequest (J Team and choir)				210		210
63,719	Debtors and prepayments	16,192				-	16,192
	Total current assets	43,289	3,393	433	3,524	10,633	61,272
	Current liabilities						
600	Lettings deposits	600					600
892	Creditors and amounts received in advance	498					498
1,492	Total liabilities	1,098					1,098
62,228	Net current assets (current assets less liabilities)	42,191	3,393	433	3,524	10,633	60,174
1,077,948	Net assets (all assets less liabilities)	1,057,911	3,393	433	3,524	10,633	1,075,894

*Held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

There are differences of up to £1 which are due to rounding.

These informal accounts show the position as at 31st August 2022 before any charge for depreciation of fixed assets. The formal accounts will include provision for depreciation, yet to be approved.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre

Accounts	Roger Kirk
Auditor	Michael Foote
Production	Jennie Torpey
Editor	Peter Green

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

A Registered Charity

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

(ACCRUALS BASIS)

for the year ended 31st August 2022

Charity Registration Number 1129749

Belonging to Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit - Circuit number 23/29

Minister	Rev. Richard Atkinson
Church Stewards	Gill Marks Philip Kolade Matilda Phiri Frances Aylen Jackie Simpson - Tyda Kaz Tyda Elaine Hope Gill Nord Lucinda Dirorimwe Derek Adams
Treasurer	Roger Kirk

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2022

Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) See Note 2 *	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2022	Totals 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	68,040				68,040	67,673
	2,745		38		2,783	10,844
3	15,388		-		15,388	15,559
4	34	-		13	47	42
					-	-
5		4,603			4,603	1,828
6	44,169		-		44,169	33,066
	130,376	4,603	38	13	135,030	129,012
	86,724				86,724	74,616
7	520	-	-		520	1,100
8	22,165		-		22,165	13,524
9	13,654				13,654	11,292
1c(v),*2	15,843				15,843	15,843
10	8,028				8,028	13,184
11	1,741		-		1,741	4,419
5		4,043			4,043	2,966
* 2	148,675	4,043	0	0	152,718	136,944
13	(209)				(209)	(27)
					-	-
* 2	(18,299)	560	38	(196)	(17,897)	(7,959)
14	433	(422)		(11)	-	-
					-	-
	(17,866)	138	38	(207)	(17,897)	(7,959)
	1,076,678	10,495	3,788	3,732	1,094,693	1,102,652
* 2	1,058,812	10,633	3,826	3,525	1,076,796	1,094,693

* Note 2 of Notes to Accounts shows division of the General Fund between unrestricted Funds and Property Reserve.

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2022

Notes to the
accounts

General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2022	Totals 2021
£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Land and buildings	15	845,053			845,053	849,831
Welcome Space		89,590			89,590	95,190
Contents	15	81,978			81,978	87,443
Investment properties					0	0
Investments	16			3,524	3,524	3,732
Total fixed assets		1,016,621	0	0	3,524	1,036,196

Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments	17	16,192			16,192	17,296
Loans by the Churches					0	0
Investments with TMCP					0	0
Central Finance Board Deposits	18	4,669	148	3,826	8,643	8,277
Cash at Bank and in hand	18	22,428	10,484		32,912	34,416
Total current assets		43,289	10,632	3,826	0	59,989

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	19	1,098			1,098	1,492
Grants payable within 2018-19					0	0
Total current liabilities		1,098	0	0	1,098	1,492
Net current assets / liabilities		42,191	10,632	3,826	0	58,497

Total assets less current liabilities		1,058,812	10,632	3,826	3,524	1,076,794	1,094,693
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)						
Grants payable after 2022/23						0
Loans to the Church						0
						0
						0
Net assets		1,058,812	10,632	3,826	3,524	1,076,794

Funds of the Church

General Fund (Unrestricted)	20	1,058,812			1,058,812	1,076,678
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			10,632		10,632	10,495
Total Unrestricted Funds					1,069,444	1,087,173
Restricted Funds				3,826	3,826	3,788
Endowment Funds					3,524	3,732
Total Funds		1,058,812	10,632	3,826	3,524	1,076,794
						1,094,693

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policies

a. **Basis of Accounting**

The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention, (except where noted below) and in compliance with the Standard of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011.

b. **Public benefit entity**

Aylesbury Methodist Church of Buckingham Street, Aylesbury meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. It is an unincorporated charity.

c. **More on the basis of accounting, including departures from the historic cost convention.**

- i The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis.
- ii The accounts are designed to show a true and fair view of Aylesbury Methodist Church's financial position and activities.
- iii Quoted investments are shown at their market value, rather than cost.

iv Tangible fixed assets values:

As the original cost of the church's land and buildings and much of the contents is not known, (apart from improvements and alterations carried out within the last 13 years), a deemed cost has been established. In the case of the land on which the church buildings stand, its estimated current use value has been used. As regards the buildings and contents, their deemed cost has been determined by using Discounted Replacement Cost (DRC) in place of actual cost. This method applies a discount, calculated by reference to the age of the building and estimated age of the contents, and their useful economic life, and applying the discount to their sum insured values.

This does not apply to additions to fixed assets acquired since 1st September 2017, where cost stated is actual cost.

v Depreciation policy:

Assets held at 1/9/2017

Land upon which the church stands	Not depreciated
The church building, including community centre	Over 140 years on a straight line basis
Contents	Over 20 years on a straight line basis

Assets acquired since 1/9/2017

Modernising church foyer ('Welcome Space')	Over 20 years on a straight line basis
--	--

These expected useful lives, which represent a standard/initial assessment for each asset-class, have been reviewed against current assumptions of each asset's likely further useful life.

- vi All values are expressed in sterling (pounds), and have been rounded to the nearest pound.
- vii The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees are of the opinion that the church is sufficiently resourced financially and in members' support to continue for the foreseeable future.
- viii Income is recognised when the church becomes entitled to the resources, and the monetary value is reliably measurable, and it is considered more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the monetary value of volunteers' time is not recognised in the accounts.
- ix Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the value is reliably measurable and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.
- x The church is not registered for VAT, and consequently expenditure on which it has been incurred has been included gross in the accounts, i.e. inclusive of the VAT.
- xi The church's only monetary investments held in the year and the previous year, were those pertaining to the Stranks endowment. They are deposited with TMCP as custodian trustees, and have been valued at market value by TMPC.
- xii Debtors stated represent the amounts owed to the church or prepaid by the church at the financial year end. Creditors are amounts owed by the church or have been received in advance at the financial year end.
- xiii The church makes monthly contributions to the Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit, which have been assessed by the circuit annually, based on the the church's main regular sources of income. The circuit remits part of the contributions received to the Northampton Methodist District by way of its assessment on the circuit. The district in turn remits most of its income from the circuits in its jurisdiction, to The Methodist Church Fund.

2 Division of unrestricted General Funds between Liquid Funds and Property Reserve

	Liquid Funds		Property Reserve		Total	Total
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
8 Total income per Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)	130,376	127,150			130,376	127,150
17 Total charitable expenditure per Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)	148,675	133,878			148,675	133,878
13 Adjust for depreciation charged in the accounts for the year - see note 15	(15,843)	(15,843)	15,843	15,843	-	-
17 Adjusted expenditure	132,832	118,035	15,843	15,843	148,675	133,878
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	-				-	
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties	-				-	
20 Net income/(expenditure)	(2,456)	9,115	(15,843)	(15,843)	(18,299)	(6,728)
21 Transfers between funds	433	10	-	-	433	10
22 Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Net movement in funds	(2,023)	9,125	(15,843)	(15,843)	(17,866)	(6,718)
24 Total funds brought forward	44,212	35,087	1,032,466	1,048,309	1,076,678	1,083,396
25 Total funds carried forward	42,189	44,212	1,016,623	1,032,466	1,058,812	1,076,678

Property Reserve

Since there is no evidence of a permanent endowment, it is assumed that the money donated to build the church premises at various times, was in the expectation of their long-term use, and therefore in these accounts prepared under SORP (FRS102), the fair value of the land, the buildings and contents on a DRC basis is taken as their deemed historical cost under FRS102, and treated as belonging to an expendable endowment for the church's general purposes. More on the calculation of DRC values can be found in note 15.

	General Funds	Internal Organisations Designated	Welcome Area	Benevolent Fund	Endowment	Total 2022	Total 2021
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted			
3 <u>Gift Aid Tax receivable</u>							
On offerings	15,388					15,388	15,559
On gift to fund layworker	-					-	-
On Welcome Area gifts			-			-	-
	15,388		-			15,388	15,559
4 <u>Interest and income from investments</u>							
Bank & CFB interest	34	-				34	31
Endowments					13	13	11
	34	-			13	47	42

5 Designated Funds (unrestricted)

<u>Internal organisations</u>	Balances b/f	Income from activities & interest	Expenditure on activities & donations	Internal transfers	Balance c/f 2022	Balance c/f 2021
J Team (Junior Church)	393	42	-		435	393
German Exchange	7,005	-	-		7,005	7,005
Girls' Brigade	355	1,200	1,107	-	448	355
Boys' Brigade	1,455	1,630	1,784	-	1,301	1,455
Youth Club	674	-	-		674	674
Tuesday Fellowship	176	84	20	-	240	176
Choir	19	-	-		19	19
Banner Group	135	-	-		135	135
Flower Fund	155	838	1,022	200	171	155
Sunbeams Toddler Group	128	-	40		88	128
Badminton Club		809	71	(622)	116	-
	10,495	4,603	4,044	(422)	10,632	10,495

	General Funds	Internal Organisations Designated	Welcome Area Restricted	Benevolent Fund Restricted	Endowment	Total 2022	Total 2021
6 Other charitable income	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted			
Fund raising	3,064		-			3,064	3,180
Income from use of church premises	38,108					38,108	23,982
Layworker grants	-					-	-
Government Job Protection Scheme	253					253	4,966
Weddings and funerals	1,406					1,406	926
Coffee Bar profits	1,338					1,338	12
Miscellaneous	-					-	-
Total	44,169		-			44,169	33,066

7 Grants and donations expended

Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy	500					500	500
Connexional donations:							
Diaconal Order	-					-	100
Home Mission Fund	-					-	150
Methodist Property Fund	-					-	100
Methodist Ministers Housing Society	-					-	150
Donation from Benevolent Fund				-		-	-
Boys Brigade Headquarters		-				-	100
Minor donations	20						
	520	-		-		500	1,100

8 Property & equipment maintenance and repairs

Buildings maintenance	3,816					3,816	2,157
Cleaner's wages and cleaning supplies	9,250					9,250	6,154
Equipment repairs and replacements	9,099		-			9,099	6,435
Organ & piano repairs and maintenance	-					-	(1,222)
	22,165		-			22,165	13,524

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

	General Funds	Internal Organisations Designated	Welcome Area	Benevolent Fund	Endowment	Total 2022	Total 2021
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted			
9 <u>Insurance, utilities, etc.</u>							
Light & heat	8,816					8,816	7,518
Water	522					522	(215)
Refuse collection	544					544	439
Insurance	3,772					3,772	3,550
	13,654					13,654	11,292
10 <u>Office expenses</u>							
Office wages, less Circuit contribution	5,258					5,258	9,320
Telephone	4					4	1,738
Other office expenses	2,766					2,766	2,126
	8,028					8,028	13,184
11 <u>Other expenditure</u>							
Young Leaders Scheme/Layworker	121					121	2,902
Church activities	962					962	1,025
Publicity	424					424	491
Miscellaneous incl. rounding diff.	234			-		234	1
	1,741			-		1,741	4,419
12 <u>Salaries & associated costs</u> (included in Notes 8, 10 & 11 above).							
Salaries were paid to 4 (5 in 2020/21) members of staff during the year and were in total as follows							
Gross salaries, before deduction of							
Circuit contribution of £3,840	16,710					16,710	20,278
Employer's:							
NIC	-					-	444
Pension contrib.	513					513	720
	17,223					17,223	21,442
There were no members of staff employed full-time last year, or in 2021/22.							
13 <u>Gains/(losses) in value of monetary investments</u>							
Unrealised gain/(loss) in market value on endowment investments						(209)	(209)
							(27)

14 Transfers between funds

General/Welcome area

The Welcome Area Fund was instigated to raise funds for transforming the church foyer into a more welcoming space for the community in which the church stands. This was achieved during the 2018/19 financial year, and funds were transferred to the General Fund to enable the works to be carried out. These were completed also in the 2018/19 financial year. A small balance is retained in the Welcome Area Fund for use on furnishings and other future related costs associated with the space.

	General Funds	Internal Organisations Designated	Welcome Area	Benevolent Fund	Endowment	Total 2022	Total 2021
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted			
Transfer from Welcome Area Fund to General Funds	-			-		-	-
Transfer from Endowment funds for Junior Church and Choir for general purposes	11				(11)	(11)	(10)
Transfers from General Funds to Internal Church Organisations	(200)	200				-	-
Transfers from Internal Church Organisations to General Funds	622	(622)				-	-
	433	(422)	-	-	(11)	-	-

15 Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation

B/fwd at 1/9/21 at deemed cost	200,000	668,943		109,305	978,248
B/fwd at 1/9/21 at actual cost			111,990		111,990
Improvements in year at actual cost			-		-
C/fwd at 31/8/22	200,000	668,943	111,990	109,305	1,090,238

Depreciation

B/fwd at 1/9/21	N/a	19,112	16,800	21,861	57,773
Provided in year	N/a	4,778	5,600	5,465	15,843
C/fwd at 31/8/22	N/a	23,890	22,400	27,326	73,616

Net book amount at 1/9/21	200,000	649,831	95,190	87,444	1,032,465
Net book amount at 31/8/22	200,000	645,053	89,590	81,978	1,016,621

The expected useful lives, which represent a standard/initial assessment for each asset-class, have been reviewed against current assumptions of each asset's likely further useful life. No significant changes are considered necessary at this time.

Deemed cost - Discounted Replacement Cost (DRC)

Insurance values at 1/9/2017:

Assets excl. land	Acquired date (approx)	Insurance values	Total useful economic life (years)	Average age at 1/09/2017 (years)
Buildings-church & commun. c'tre	1893/1920	3,902,168	140	110
Contents	Various	218,609	20	10

Tangible fixed assets continued overleaf

15 Tangible fixed assets continued

Land value £200,000 (Current use value estimated by the trustees after taking professional advice.)

DRC calculation - deemed cost at 1/9/2017

Assets excl. land	Insurance values (buildings less 20% for site clearance)	Anticipated future life divided by total useful economic life	Fair value on DRC basis
Buildings-church & commun. c'tre	3,121,734	30/140	668,943
Contents	218,609	10/20	109,305
	3,340,343		778,248

Tangible fixed assets - Year ended 31st August 2021

	Land	Buildings	Welcome space	Contents	Total
Deemed cost 1/9/2017	200,000	668,943		109,305	978,248
Actual cost 2019			111,990		111,990
Depreciation to 31/8/2021 *		19,112	16,800	21,861	57,773
Net book value at 31/8/2021	200,000	649,831	95,190	87,445	1,032,465
*Annual rate of depreciation		1/140	1/20	1/20	

Property Reserve

Since there is no evidence of a permanent endowment, it is assumed that the money donated to build the church premises at various times, was in the expectation of their long-term use, and therefore in these accounts prepared under SORP (FRS102), the fair value of the land, and the buildings and contents on a DRC basis is taken as their deemed historical cost under FRS102, and treated as belonging to an expendable endowment for the church's general purposes.

16 Investments

Endowments - Mead, Stranks and Staley bequests (deposits & investments)

	Endowment	Total 2022	Total 2021
Carrying (market) value at start of year	3,732	3,732	3,759
Income	13	13	10
Transferred to General Funds	(11)	(11)	(10)
Increase/(decrease) in market value of investments	(209)	(209)	(27)
Carrying (market) value at end of year	3,525	3,525	3,732

17 Debtors and prepayments

	General Funds	Internal Organisations Designated	Welcome Area	Benevolent Fund	Endowment	Total 2022	Total 2021
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted			
Prepaid circuit contributions	7,031					7,031	7,227
HMRC Gift Aid tax	5,600					5,600	5,815
Income from use of church premises	2,879					2,879	2,444
Other	682					682	1,810
	16,192					16,192	17,296

18 Cash at bank and in hand

Current accounts:

HSBC	10,833				10,833	14,569
Metro Bank	2,599				2,599	755
Deposit funds:						
HSBC deposit account	8,896				8,896	8,626
Central Finance Board	4,669	148	3,393	433	8,643	8,277
Various held by Internal Church Organisations		10,484			10,484	10,366
Cash in hand - Imprest account	100				100	100
	27,097	10,632	3,393	433	41,555	42,693

19 Creditors & accruals (due within one year)

For goods and services	287				287	300
Grants and donations received in advance for expenses relating to the next financial year	-				-	-
Deposits held relating to use of church premises	600				600	600
Gift Aid tax to pass on					-	592
Donations collected to be passed on	211				211	-
	1,098				1,098	1,492

20 Funds of the church

General funds (unrestricted)

These exist for the furtherance of the church's general objectives, and are represented by the church building and its community centre, and liquid assets for use at the trustees' discretion in the achievement of those objectives, and maintaining the church's premises.

Internal church organisations (Designated fund)

These are maintained by various groups to support their activities within the church, who are required to provide annual accounts to the church council. The funds are represented by bank and cash balances.

Welcome Area Fund (Restricted)

The Welcome Area Fund was instigated to raise funds for the transformation of the church foyer into a more welcoming space for the community in which the church stands. This was achieved during the 2018/19 financial year, and funds were transferred to the General Fund to enable the works to be carried out. These were completed also in that financial year. A small balance is retained in the Welcome Area Fund for use on furnishings and other future related costs associated with the space. The Fund is represented by a balance held within the church's bank account.

Income

	2022	2021
2 Donations, legacies & grants	-	-
3 Gift aid	-	-
7 Other charitable income	-	-
8 Total income	-	-

Expenditure

11 Property & equipment maintenance	-	-
15 Other expenditure	-	-
17 Total charitable expenditure	-	-
20 Net income/(expenditure)	-	-
21 Transfers between funds	-	-
23 Net movement in funds	-	-
24 Total funds brought forward	3,393	3,393
25 Total funds carried forward	3,393	3,393

20 Funds of the church continued.....

Benevolent Fund (restricted)

The Benevolent Fund exists for the relief of poverty and distress, and is required by Methodist Standing Order 651.
It is represented by balances held at bank.

Income

2 Donations, legacies & grants

2022	2021
38	5

Expenditure

10 Grants and donations

-	-
---	---

20 **Net income/(expenditure)**

38	5
----	---

23 Net movement in funds

38	5
----	---

24 Total funds brought forward

395	390
-----	-----

25 Total funds carried forward

433	395
-----	-----

Endowment Funds

These arise from bequests in the past. They are:

Mead, for general purposes

Stranks and Staley, for the junior church and the church choir

The endowment funds are represented by investments and CFB balances held.

The information below combines the Stranks and Staley
data, as the latter fund is miniscule.

Income

4 Interest and investment income

2022		2021	
Mead	Stranks & Staley	Mead	Stranks & Staley
1	12	1	10

18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments

(209)	(27)
--------	-------

20 **Net income/(expenditure)**

1	(197)	1	(17)
---	--------	---	-------

21 Transfers between funds

(1)	(10)	(1)	(9)
------	-------	------	------

23 Net movement in funds

-	(207)	-	(26)
---	--------	---	-------

24 Total funds brought forward

210	3,521	210	3,547
-----	-------	-----	-------

25 Total funds carried forward

210	3,314	210	3,521
-----	-------	-----	-------

21 Capital Commitments and contingent liabilities

The church had no capital commitments at 31st August 2022.

There were no known contingent liabilities at that date.

22 Loans and creditors due after one year

There were no loans or other liabilities due after more than one year as at 31st August 2022.

23 Related party transactions

Name of related party	Relationship	Payments to related parties 2021/22	Payments to related parties 2020/21
Contributions to Vale of Aylesbury Method.Circuit	Connexion	86,724	74,616
Methodist Connexional Funds:			
Methodist Fund for Property	Connexion	-	100
Diaconal Order	Connexion	-	100
Home Mission Fund	Connexion	-	150
Methodist Ministers Housing Soc.	Connexion	-	150
Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy	Charity	500	500
		87,224	75,616

There were no trustees employed by Aylesbury Methodist Church in other roles (other than the minister's stipend)

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022

23 Related party transactions continued

Trustees who received fees in respect of weddings/funerals:

Rev. Richard Atkinson	620	295
John Miskin	140	95
Margaret Miskin	80	
Stephen Marks	80	

24 The church trustees

The trustees are the members of the church council.

Those who served in the year ended 31st August 2022 were:

Superintendent minister:

Rev. Richard Atkinson

Team ministry:

Arthur Sara

Secretary:

Jackie Simpson - Tyda

Church stewards:

Gill Marks

Philip Kolade

Matilda Phiri

Frances Aylen

Jackie Simpson - Tyda

Kaz Tyda

Elaine Hope

Gill Nord

Lucinda Dirorimwe

Derek Adams

Church treasurer:

Roger Kirk

Leadership team:

Rev. Richard Atkinson

Jenny Torpey

Kevin Hardern

Margaret Miskin

Vivienne Kemp

Trevor Nord

Peter Green

Tim Olufosoye

Peter Farmer

Circuit steward:

Keith Wallace

Pastoral Co-ordinator:

Pauline Noble

Representatives appointed by
the Annual Church Meeting:

John Miskin

Barbara Trend

David Neville

Lynn Berstone

Stephen Marks

Paul Ingram

Albert Odoro

Rae Garden

Sandy Steeden

Elaine Hope

Karen Crussell

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-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.....

Name and address of treasurer: Roger Kirk.....

77 Aylesbury Road, Bierton, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP22 5BT

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev. Richard Atkinson..... Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Charity Number 1129749

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Aylesbury Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages 1 to 11. 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.

Aylesbury Methodist Church..... No 1129749

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination
the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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 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: Michael Foote.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: FCA

Address 8 Bates Lane, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

Post Code: HP22 5SL

Date

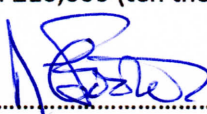
Independent Examiner's Statement

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Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner: Michael Foote.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: FCA

Address 8 Bates Lane, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

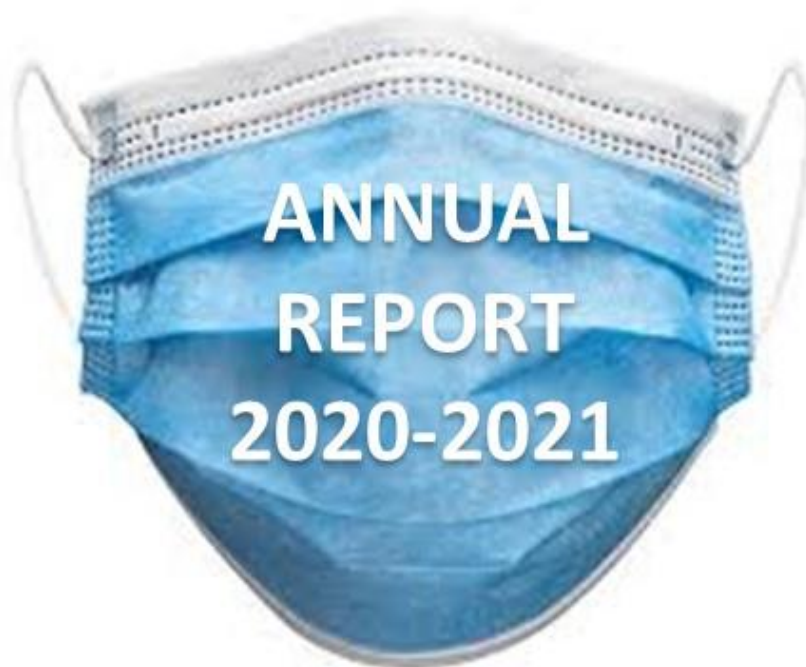
Post Code: HP22 5SL

Date 28/10/22.....

Accounts



Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre



Buckingham St. Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2NQ
Registered charity number: 1129749
Minister: Rev. Richard Atkinson

T: 01296 426526
E: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk
W: www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk

CONTENTS

This annual report shows what we, as a registered charity, have done during the past Methodist year (September 2020 to August 2021). It includes how our organisation, youth and other groups, the charities we support, and our finances have been affected by, and risen to, the challenge of the coronavirus pandemic.

[Welcome](#) | [Organisation](#) | [Youth](#) | [Activities](#) | [Charities](#) | [Finance](#) | [Contact](#)

WELCOME – Rev. Richard Atkinson

I don't know about anyone else but simply trying to piece together the last year is complicated. When have we been allowed out and when locked in? What has been vaguely normal? We went on holiday. What has been different? Celebrating Christmas at Easter and having to sit outside to abide by the regulations. Remembering what restarted when, or at least trying to, adds to the fun.

The good news is that we are back and apart from the continued request to wear masks things are feeling relatively normal; Christmas is being planned in the hope that all the usual events and services will take place. It has been good to see the gradual return of our congregation. There are still those coming back for the first time, and I suspect this will continue for a while yet.

All this means that the content of the Annual Report will not be as fulsome as in previous years because as we look back, the shadow of the pandemic still casts a large shadow. However, we appear to be emerging and with booster jabs and such more normal life is ahead. We have new folk who have joined us, we are looking to rebuild and hopefully continue to serve the community around us as well as proclaiming the story of our faith in Jesus Christ

Our hope and prayer need to be that the potential contained within these passages spurs us on in the adventures that the future has in store.

Blessings,

Richard.

ORGANISATION

Governance – Peter Green

Methodists belong to local churches or ecumenical partnerships, but also feel part of a larger connected community, **the Connexion**. The local decision-making body is the **church council**. Members of this council are also the church trustees and comprise elected officials and representatives from the **annual General Church Meeting**, which anyone can attend. Our own church council members last year were:

Rev. Richard Atkinson, Jackie Simpson-Tyda, Roger Kirk, Gill Marks, Gill Nord, Kaz Tyda, Frances Ayles, Elaine Hope, Philip Kolade, Matilda Phiri, Keith Wallace, Vivienne Kemp, Peter Green, Margaret Miskin, Albert Odro, Jennie Torpey, Arthur Sara, Pauline Noble, David Neville, Peter Farmer, Kevin Hardern, John Miskin, Sandie Steeden, Rae Garden, Babs Trend, Paul Ingram, Lynn Bernstone and Tim Olufosoye.

At Aylesbury, the church council appoints **church stewards** and a **leadership team**. Church stewards ensure the smooth running of worship services and act as a conduit between minister and congregation. The leadership team includes church steward representatives and acts as the executive arm of the church council.



District Chair Rev. Helen Cameron with our minister and Circuit Superintendent, Rev. Richard Atkinson

Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre belongs to the **Vale of Aylesbury circuit**, a group of 16 churches served by a team of ministers. The circuit is led by the superintendent minister, who is also our own minister, Rev. Richard Atkinson. He presides over the circuit staff (both lay and ordained) and the circuit meeting, and with lay and ordained colleagues facilitates and encourages mission throughout the circuit. Our cir-

cuit is one of 21 within the **Northampton district**, whose chair is Rev. Helen Cameron. The district exists primarily to advance the mission of the Church in a region by providing support for the circuits in line with the connexional priorities.



The Covid-spaced 2021 Methodist conference

All districts are represented at the **annual Methodist conference**, the governing body of the Methodist Church. Detailed governance is set out in **CPD**, the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church. This is available in two volumes as a free download from the Methodist Church website.

Leadership Team – Jennie Torpey

Leadership Team meetings continued to be conducted via Zoom throughout the imposition and lifting of various Covid restrictions during the year. This enabled the team to monitor the resumption of Sunday Church services and other activities in the Church and Community Centre.

Both Government Covid regulations and Methodist Church guidance were strictly observed during Sunday services, and a small and increasing number of the congregation attended between September and December, until they had to be suspended again just before Christmas. However, services have continued to be streamed, either from the Church or from the Manse, and the daily Thought for Today videos recorded and made available on the website. Sunday worship resumed on 23rd May 2021, Harvest Festival, with current Covid guidelines in place.

Funds were made available for a Young Leaders scheme, and Charlie Levitt and Jeremy Hanson chosen to take these positions, working within the confines of lockdowns. Some safeguarding training was delivered by Zoom, with more planned for the autumn of 2021. Up until the end of April, AMC members, as part of a group from local churches, continued to cook and deliver evening meals to a local hotel, where rooms for rough sleepers were temporarily funded by the government.



NHS Blood Donation sessions - essential hirers during the pandemic

Use of the Community Centre was mainly restricted to essential hirers such as the NHS Blood Donation service and Sees the Day - a day centre for people with learning difficulties. However, several user groups plan to return in the autumn of 2021. The Coffee Shop in the Welcome Space is due to reopen in September 2021, initially on three days a week.

A security system upgrade installation took place in December 2020. Membership of the Leadership Team this year has been Rev Richard Atkinson, Peter Green, Kevin Hardern, Vivienne Kemp, Gill Marks, Margaret Miskin, Albert Odro, Tim Olofusoye and Jennie Torpey. Peter Green has now retired from the group after many years' service.

Church Stewards – Gill Marks

All the group of stewards at AMC have worked well together and liaised with Richard to ensure that our congregation come back to worship safely as we emerged from lockdown twice during this last year. We have worked out how to adjust as different rules have been brought in or relaxed and more and more people have been coming through our doors. Although some of our regulars are yet to come back, we are welcoming many new worshippers which is great to see. Also with fewer ministers and lay workers in the circuit, the stewards have worked



Gill Marks - Senior Church Steward

with many visiting preachers to ensure a smooth running service can take place.

Having dealt with many different problems over the last 12 months, we are all looking forward to the future when we hope things will be back to the new normal and our church seats are back full again. We are very grateful to the regular members who have also stood in to help with the extra jobs we have had to cover and would like to point out we can always do with more stewards if anyone is interested in this very worthwhile and rewarding role.

Property – Kevin Hardern

It has been a very strange year, with not much activity on the premises by users, but some continuing work needed on the fabric of the building itself and the services for which we contract.



Kevin Hardern

Tim Olufosoye

Jennie Torpey

Shirley Francis

Following the successful re-sanding of the main floor last year and the laying of the badminton court, this year's main project has been a revision of the security arrangements. This was led by Tim Olufosoye, ably assisted by Shirley Francis and Jennie Torpey. This has resulted in a much more secure environment for all users. It does not require any passwords for access, as all people with 'fobs' are uniquely identifiable on their opening of the building and opening its secure doors, both from the foyer and into the church itself.

Other works to the building include minor repairs to roofing, which was creating water ingress issues, and the replacement of Room 4 fire escape

door and surrounds. Certification of the 10-year electrical check, in line with legal requirements, has now been obtained and discussions continue about wall repair due to tree growth at the rear of the property. It is hoped this will be concluded next year. Regular, weekly checks of the property during periods of lockdown were undertaken by appropriate volunteers for which we thank them very much. We continue to retain final payment due to contractors for the 'Welcome Space' as they have yet to complete works adequately on the heat curtain in the foyer.



Trevor Nord

Finally, our sincere thanks go to Trevor Nord for leading the change of our telephone supplier from BT to Vodafone. This saved us considerable expense due to the nature of the contractual arrangements that were in place with BT, our reduced usage, and their inflexibility in altering the contract to meet our needs.

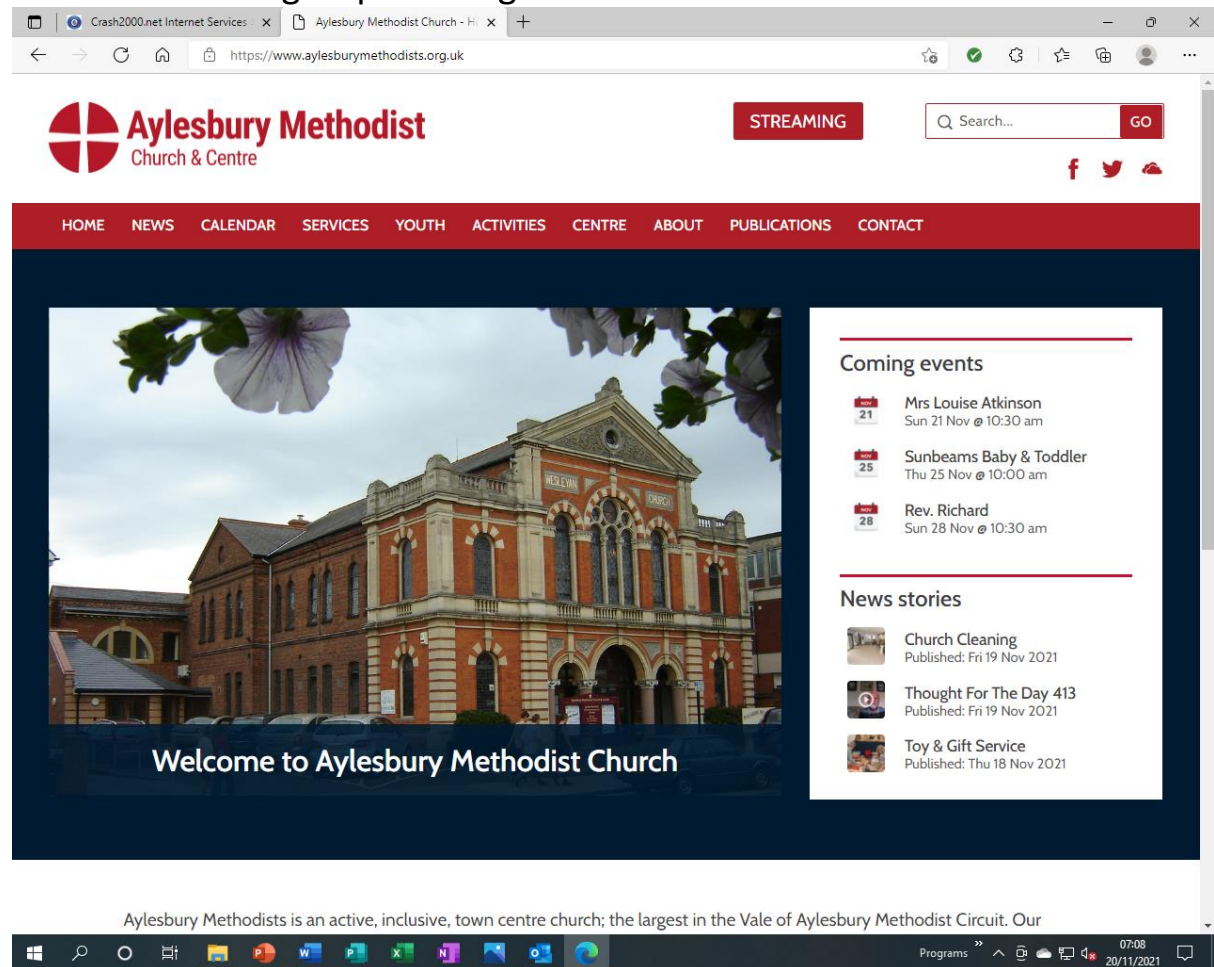
Let us all hope 2021/22 brings some sense of a return to normal use of the premises.

Communications – Peter Green

All church members share their faith with neighbours, friends, family, and the wider community with what they say and do. We have some tools to help in this, namely, our website, streamed services, social media, noticeboards, Thought For The Day videos and this annual report. Each gives more detail about who we are, what we do and what we care about. We look at each in turn.

Website: During the last year, we have been discussing with Then Media, our website providers, an upgrade to a faster, more stable platform. The transition was completed in September 2021, giving a refreshed look. By the end of 2021, thanks to Marilyn Storer's guidance, we will become compliant with government and Methodist Church data protection requirements by automatically removing news items more than two years old. The new site includes quick links to the weekly notices, preaching plan, calendar, and policies. During lockdown, the calendar was minimal but as we return towards normality, we are pleased to welcome back Margaret

Smith as the office volunteer who will help to populate the calendar with church and user group bookings.

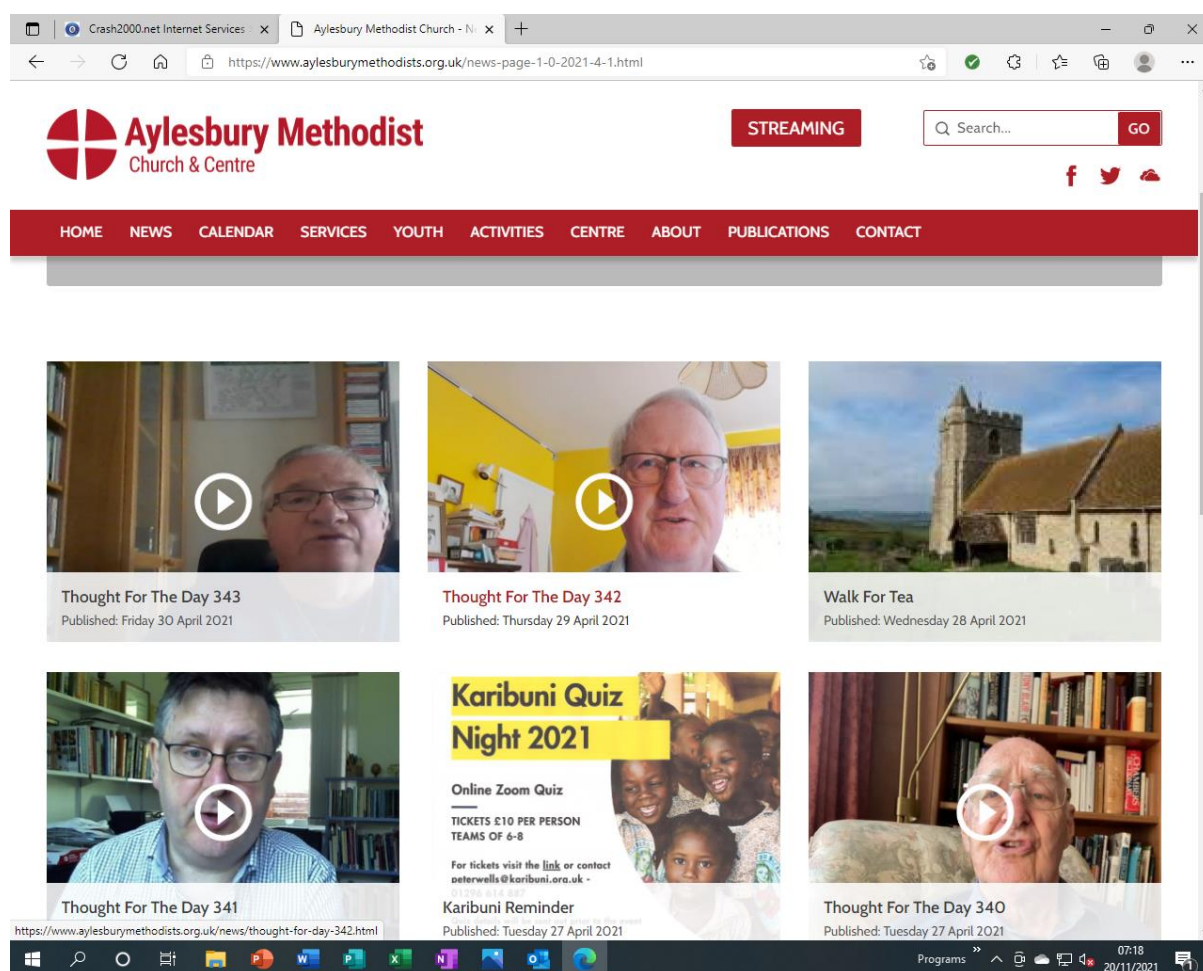


The 'new look' website

Social media: Whenever we post a news item or Thought For The Day video on the website, there is also a linked Facebook posting and Tweet. In addition, during the last year as part of the District Young Leaders' Scheme, Jeremy Hanson has also posted some items. Longer term, we would like someone to take on or guide our social media presence to help gain greater interaction with our local communities, so if you know someone who might be interested, please let Richard or me know. Support will be available to them from the recently formed Network of Methodist Communicators.

Streaming: Our streamed services have been a real blessing during the pandemic and continue to be so for those not yet able to return in person. We are indebted to The Sunday Service for providing us with the free equipment and technical support to enable us to stream services from both the manse and from church. A big thank you too to Albert Odro and Harry

Darku for manning the camera keyboard in the gallery each week since we returned to church. It is good to learn that some of our younger members have expressed interest in helping them. Services can be accessed from the Streaming button on the website and are kept on the site for about six weeks.



Geoff Short, Pete Honeyball, Richard Atkinson, and David Neville - some of the regular contributors to TFTD videos on the website News section

Thought For The Day (TFTD): 398 TFTD videos were produced six days a week during the pandemic, until a break was taken in July 2021. Shown on our website and averaging three to four minutes each, they were written and presented by Richard, other circuit clergy, and lay preachers. Feedback received, means that they are being recommenced with Richard and his lay team in November 2021. Our thanks go to Roy Collis, for his technical work to help make this happen.

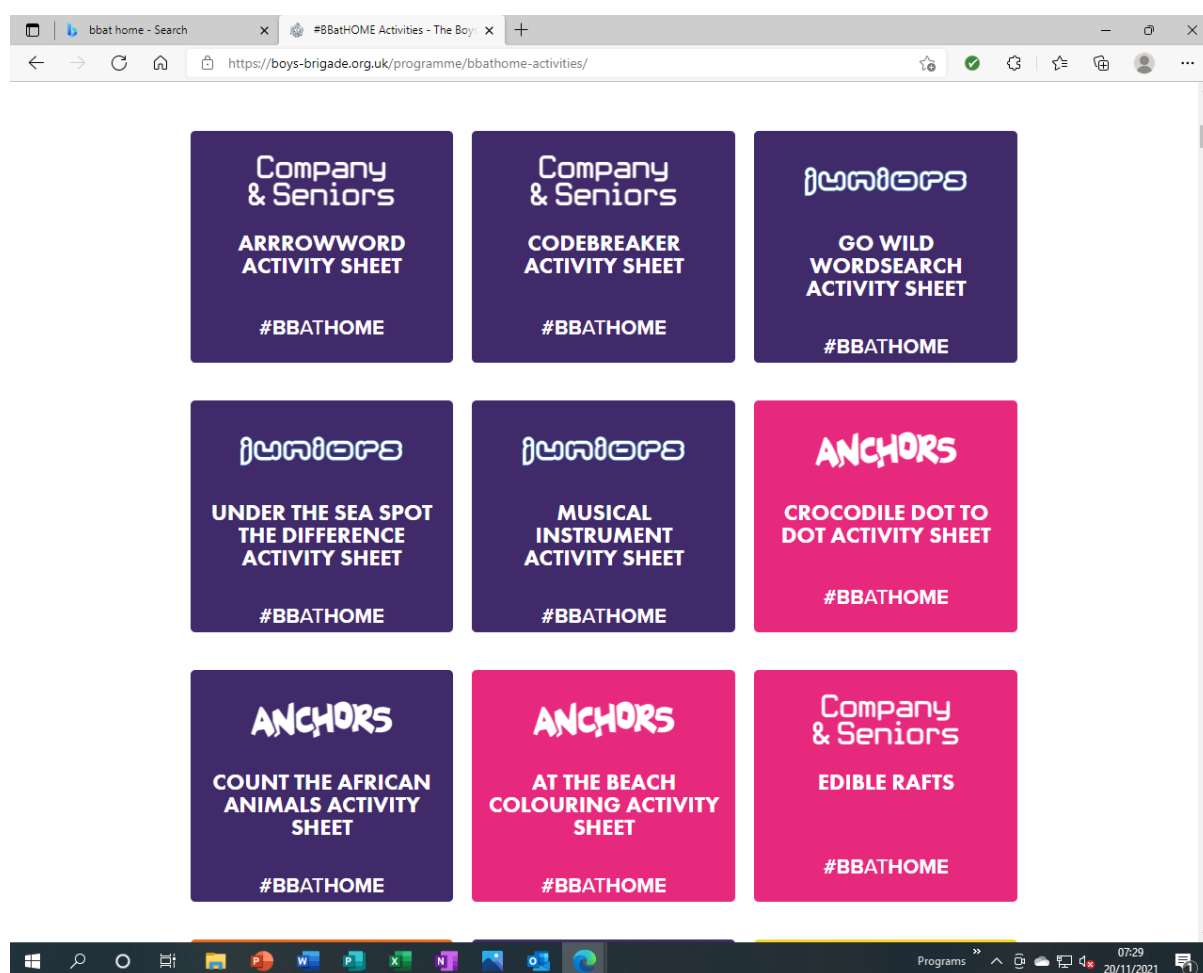
Noticeboard: Our external noticeboard was showing its age and the church council agreed to have a replacement one slotted into the existing posts.

Pandemic-related staff illnesses, furloughing and travel restrictions meant the installation was delayed until October but is now complete (see back cover of this report).

YOUTH

Boys' Brigade – Steve Kemp

We started back in the Autumn to face-to-face activities with social distancing and PPE in place although that made sessions difficult to run. When we hit another lockdown, we employed more excellent #BBatHome resources from Headquarters, supplemented with resources packs that we delivered to boys' homes.



Some of the BB resource material

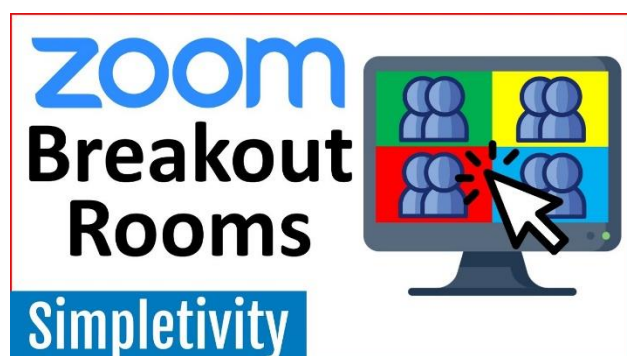
Zoom was used for weekly meetings for each age group with three officers on each call. We returned to face-to-face activities at the church before the

summer break including a carefully organised Awards/Promotion Evening for parents and family members to share in the boy's achievements during a difficult year, which saw one boy gaining the Queen's Badge (the highest award in BB) and one boy the President's Badge.

As always, I am very grateful to all the officers and helpers and the continued support from all parents/carers that enables BB to run; I truly believe we make a difference to the boys' confidence, outlook, and sense of community.

Girls' Brigade – Dawn Wright & Sarah Davidge

1st Aylesbury Girls' Brigade has continued to run throughout COVID albeit in a very different way. As every other organisation did, we had to adapt through the last year to all the restrictions. Being leaders with barely any technical ability between us, this at times was extremely stressful, but somehow, we managed.



We met each week via zoom – even managing to split into breakout rooms for the different age groups – I am still not sure that any of us believe we managed it! We are so grateful that we were able to find a way to meet as it became quickly obvious how much

many of our girls were struggling with home schooling and isolation from their friends. This was particularly noticed in our older girls. We tried to make Monday evenings as upbeat and fun as we could, with time for them also to talk in a safe space and realise they were not alone in some of their feelings.

Thankfully, we are now back at GB face-to-face on a Monday evening which is lovely. We have started back with games, craft and learning about things such as homelessness, refugees, and poverty.

We continue to be proud of all the girls and hope that over this next year they will continue to come along, have fun, and hear more about God's love for us all.

J Team and Creche - Vivienne Kemp

After various lockdowns and church closures, we tentatively opened our doors again at the beginning of the summer and have now resumed some form of normal activity. With numbers initially small as we returned to J Team, we began with all-age activities but have now split into two groups with more age-specific activities. We remain masked and covid-safe, but it has been a delight to welcome our youngsters back.

Sunbeams – Margaret Miskin

Sunbeams continues to thrive despite the many times we had to close because of Covid restrictions. Lots of text messages were sent and phone calls made so that we could keep in touch. It was truly wonderful when we all met up again. How the children had grown and the smiles on everyone's faces spoke louder than words. My thanks go to Elaine Hope, who stepped in when Mel left us. It really does take two to tango.

Youth Exchange - Vivienne Kemp and Dawn Wright



*Daun in the Eifel - home of our youth exchange
partners T.u.S. Daun*

Our exchange has now been in abeyance for 2 years although we continue to keep up with our German friends in Daun. Central Daun was affected by some flooding but luckily our friends all managed to stay safe, although former exchange leaders Gorden and Petra Nickel had some moping up to do in their holiday let near Gerolstein. We continue to

receive regular updates and will need to review in the autumn whether the virus has subsided enough for us to plan an exchange for 2022.

ACTIVITIES

Banner Group – Brenda Horne

We have not met since March 2020 and so have been unable to do any work on banners. Instead, we have all been working on our own projects at home. We are hoping to start again in the spring of 2022 when we shall be looking for new members and new ideas for banners.

Bedgrove House Group – Rosemarie Bucknell

Despite planning our programme together last November at our AGM we were unable to meet as planned due to the pandemic. The group said goodbye to two of our members who relocated back to Yorkshire but welcomed two new joiners, so our numbers remain at 16. Some of us learnt new skills as we embarked on 'Zoom' meetings and a monthly email from myself helped us to keep in touch, especially those of us isolating.



...a gloriously sunny day in April...

Our first meeting together was a coffee morning on a gloriously sunny day in a member's garden, where we enjoyed each other's company and a chat over cake and biscuits. Our garden party in August eventually went ahead having been delayed when the host was isolated because of a covid contact.

Although the weather was a little cool, we feasted inside in well ventilated rooms and enjoyed ourselves. Another coffee morning was also hot and sunny and enjoyed by all. Let us hope our plans for next year will be more achievable, but we will have to wait and see, won't we!

Flower Arrangers – Melanie Dean

During the time that the Sunday services were being streamed from Herston Close, flower arrangements were not created for the church. But the front gardens at AMC were tended and watered along with the indoor plants. (Kevin Hardern dealt with the weeds!) Once services resumed in AMC, an arrangement was placed at the front in church as usual.



*Thank you to
Janice Matthews*

Going forward, flower arrangements are created on Friday mornings and placed in the Church and the Welcome Space now the coffee bar has resumed. We also work together when decorating the Church for celebrations and we had a wedding!

Janice Matthews has now handed over the 'reins' of the Flower Team to myself - after many years of keeping us organised. My thanks to her for her dedication to the role and her mentoring. Janice will continue to create beautiful arrangements along with the rest of the team, who are myself, Ruby Darku, Edith Awadzi and Sue Kirk.

Friday Food – Karen Crussell

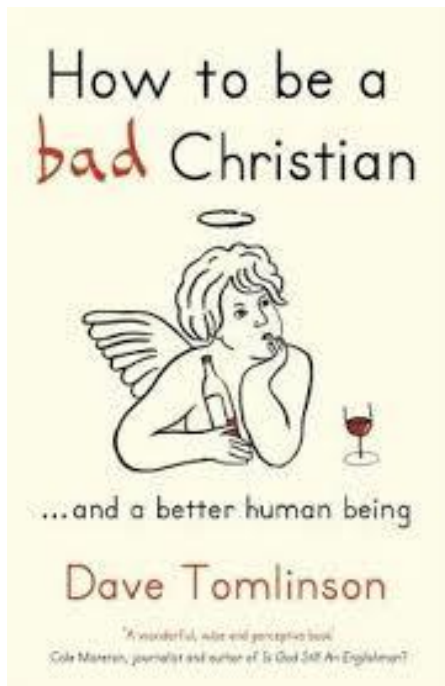
The provision of hot food and hospitality in our newly refurbished Welcome Space came to an end with the announcement of the first lockdown in March 2020. Since then, up until 30 April 2021, members of the Friday Food continued to work tirelessly alongside St Joseph's Church and the Quaker Meeting to ensure that all homeless people, lodged in a local hotel because of Coronavirus precautions, received a daily two course hot meal. Our efforts were much appreciated by the homeless guests at the hotel and the agencies supporting them.

There has been a noticeable reduction in rough sleepers in the town and this is expected to continue as the Council, AHAG and other organisations have expressed a determination to do all they can to ensure that accommodation is made available to all who need it.

The team, however, has not disbanded. We are maintaining contact with relevant organisations, ready to respond appropriately to the situation of

poverty and homelessness in our town as needs become apparent. We welcome feedback, suggestions, and ideas from anyone in the church community as to how we might most effectively do this.

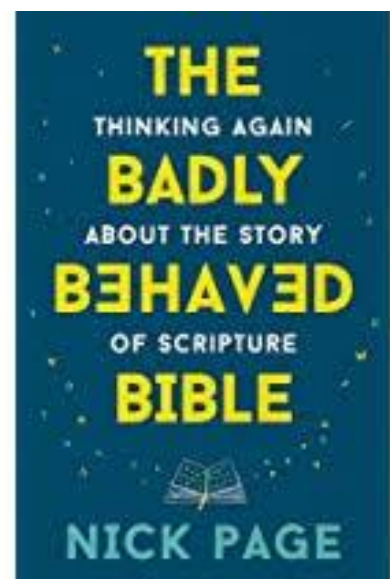
Good Faith Book Club – Peter Green



Zoom, rather than face-to-face meetings were the Covid-enforced order of the day this year for our six meetings. We aim for a mix of styles and genres to cater for our differing preferences. So, this year's books included an inspirational one by the American Bishop who spoke at Harry and Meghan's wedding, the work of a locally based charity working in Guatemala, an autobiography of England cricket captain and Anglican Bishop, David Sheppard and one on why faith makes sense in this secular world.

However, we found the two best books were bad books – *The Badly Behaved Bible* by Nick Page and *How To Be A Bad Christian And A Better Human Being* by Dave Tomlinson. A summary of our discussion of each book is on our website under Activities/Good Faith Book Club.

In the coming year, we plan to revert to meeting in person. As we come towards our tenth anniversary and 60th book, we will also debate whether to continue, or celebrate our ten years and cease to meet.



In Stitches – Pauline Latham

With some of our group shielding during the pandemic, we have not been able to meet but hope to do so, all being well, in early 2022.

Greeting Cards - Janice Matthews and Rosemarie Bucknell

For many years we have together crafted a large variety of handmade greetings cards which are available to purchase from the display stand in the Reception Area of the community centre. The cards are attractively priced and the substantial income from sales is transferred into church funds periodically. We are happy to create Personalised Cards to order. Please speak to one of us advising your requirements. You won't be disappointed!

Music Director's Report – Derrick Matthews

Choir: Regrettably since the outbreak of Covid 19 the choir have been unable to contribute to worship due to the prevailing restrictions. They have however, during recent weeks attended to give backing support to the appointed soloists during Sunday morning worship. Choir Members and Organists greatly miss providing their skills to the worship of our church and hopefully it will not be too long before 'normal service can be resumed! The Preachers and Stewards give generous support to the Choir, and this is greatly appreciated.



Derrick Matthews at the console

Organists: The appointed organists have attended on their allocated Sundays to accompany the appointed soloists and more recently the limited congregational singing. They have also provided suitable voluntaries before and after worship.

Organ Concerts: The acclaimed Annual Organ Concerts (34 to date)

were to have taken place with top recitalists Ian Tracey in 2020 and Gordon Stewart in 2021, but unfortunately these had to be cancelled as audiences of well over 200 could not be guaranteed or accommodated. Resumption of this event will hopefully continue when deemed viable.

Music Group - Sue Kirk

In May, live services resumed after the second lockdown, and the Music Group played at monthly family services. Our numbers were restricted to six, but in the Autumn we were allowed our full complement.

We thank Julie Maguire for her leadership and piano playing over the years and to Nick Aylen for his stage management. We are hoping to encourage younger singers and players to join the group.



Nick Aylen

SOS – Lynn Bernstone



During 2020, SOS continued with Zoom most months and in December we had a Christmas quiz and shared a coordinated virtual meal. We have a WhatsApp group where we share bits of news and very silly posts which crop up on various social media pages. We had our first face to face get together in September this year at the Storer's home. It was a very well attended, joyful occasion with wonderful food as you would expect at any

SOS do, matched with laughter and free flowing conversations. No one wanted to leave.

We have a couple of casual events planned for the rest of this year into January, after which we shall hopefully gather and put together our annual programme for 2022. As we didn't do half of what we had planned for 2020, we may well dip into that. We remain a happy, welcoming bunch, approaching 30 years of sharing fellowship.

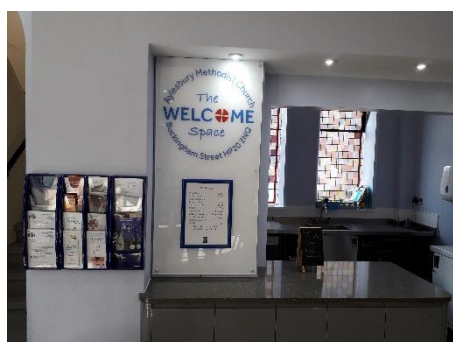
Tuesday Fellowship – Coral Soulsby

We are back, with much thankfulness for our health and strength to pick up the fellowship and friendship we enjoyed pre-virus.

Our first meeting was the long-awaited AGM. It was chaired by our Minister, the Rev Richard Atkinson, and ten of our members attended. The decision was voted on to limit our meetings to just once every month, at least until everyone feels happy to increase our meetings, if just for friendship and a cup of tea. Many thanks to Margaret and Jean for picking up the task of teas again. Thanks also to Roger Kirk for his assistance whilst we are without a treasurer.

Prayerfully, we will be able to again book the speakers who were cancelled due to the lockdown. They will be informative and inspirational, so I trust that others from the church family will join us for the afternoon on occasions.

Welcome Space Coffee Bar – Chris Sara



We were saddened, that like so many venues, we had to remain closed through much of the past year. We did open for a few weeks during the brief lifting of restrictions, with careful consideration to Covid rules. Our three or four regulars were pleased to be able to meet up again. However, with the age group of our volunteers, we struggled to open every weekday as we had previously done.

Pat Martin Seehusen, our co coordinator for the previous year, moved away from the area in June, and we offer our thanks to her for her work and wish her every blessing in her new home. I felt that I could not take on the responsibility again as I am away from Aylesbury on many occasions, so we closed again across the summer.

We are delighted that Margaret Miskin and Elaine Hope have taken on the task and have the coffee bar up and running again. Sadly, we are still short of helpers and so at present it is only opening on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, so far with very few clients attending. The ladies of the knitting group, who used the space on Fridays, were delighted when we reopened and now come along on Mondays. We do hope that we will continue to be supported as it is such a valuable space for people to meet and share friendship.

CHARITIES

Action for Children – Pauline Noble



Another very difficult year in our fundraising work for Action for Children with no possibility of holding any of our annual events or collecting money from those with home collecting boxes. However, hopefully there is a little light at the end of the tunnel and in 2022 we hope to have our annual Quiz and hold Cake and Produce Stalls in the church hall. We have also been able to start collecting in our home collecting box money, and

to date £345.13 has been forwarded to Action for Children HQ, together with a further donation of £75 for the Charity from our Wingrave chapel.

However, within this difficult year there has been a highlight. Shortly before our 2020 Toy Service there came an announcement of a Christmas lock down and therefore cancellation of our plans to collect new toys for children in our area who would otherwise have had very little. Not to be downhearted, and with help from our Church Treasurer, we put out an appeal for money donations and within 2 weeks had collected £900. In discussion with Bucks CC Outreach Officer as to the way forward, we then turned this money into vouchers for children and young people. All wrapped and each with a Christmas card ready to name they were handed to the Family Workers to deliver.

Cards for Good Causes – John Miskin

What a year 2020 turned out to be. First, we opened on 17th October, then we were closed on the 4th November because of "Lock Down", then we opened again on 2nd December and then finally closed for the year on 19th December. This meant we were open for 32 days and closed for 23 days. However, we still managed to sell £6145.17 of cards and gifts.



Cards for Good Causes

Add to this we had all the Covid restrictions, hand sanitizer as people came in, signing in on the NHS app or manually, face masks, a one-way system around the shop and only 4 people in the shop at any one time. On top of all that we had a new computerised till system which allowed us to scan the bar codes and the computer did the rest, including taking a credit card payment.

I would like to thank all my volunteers, some of whom did not have a chance to work in the shop because of the lockdown. A big thanks goes to my duty managers, Steve Marks, Bob Bucknell, Arthur Sara and a special thanks to Cliff Darlington who after many years as manager and duty manager has decided to retire.

Christian Aid – Jennie Torpey & Maureen Tucker

Christian Aid is an international development organisation that insists the world can and must be changed to one where ‘everyone can live a full life, free from poverty and inequality’. Their aim to end poverty and injustice involves working in partnership with local organisations, as well as with governments and the private sector. Their work includes helping people to:

- claim their rights and access services such as healthcare and education
- ensure they are not discriminated against for any reason
- become more resilient to shocks and disasters such as drought, climate change and hurricanes
- make the most of opportunities, such as being able to sell their produce for a fair price.

Aylesbury Methodist Church counts Christian Aid as one the main charities

they support, with collections at the annual Christmas Carol Concert and the Christmas Eve Midnight Communion Service going to help fund the crucial work done by this charity.



The main fund-raising usually takes place annually during Christian Aid Week in May, with a House-to-House collection, and a retiring collection on Christian Aid Sunday, when we have a video or a speaker to tell the congregation about some

of the individuals whose lives have been transformed with help. Sadly, because of the Coronavirus pandemic, none of these events were able to take place this year; neither were store collections, which are another way we raise funds for Christian Aid. However, once the Church returns to a more 'normal' life, we plan to acknowledge, celebrate, and support the valuable contribution that Christian Aid makes around the world, during our Harvest Festival service in October, including a retiring collection.

We hope that our regular events will be able to take place during 2021 – 2022.

Karibuni Children – Joy Murphy



**Transforming young
Kenyan lives.**

Registered UK Charity Number 1044872

Last year really was a challenge to us all, and not least for those we support and work with in Kenya. Last year I told of how Karibuni had been able to raise extra money through generous donors, and by using a significant amount from reserves, to continue feeding the children and their families. This did cause many difficulties for the social workers who were approached and sometimes threatened by men not connected with the projects. The brave staff (mainly young women) confronted them and were able to send them away empty handed. In the meantime, very young,

hungry children unknown to the projects, but who had heard about the food parcels, were arriving and often the staff were moved to provide 'chai kidogo' (something small) for them, from their own resources.



Back to school

In January most children returned to school and the government decreed that both this year and next should each have four terms to replace the terms lost through the shutdown. For the children and staff this has meant very short holidays and increased pressure. For Karibuni it has meant an extra term's fees for two years! It is difficult to know what the Covid infection rate is in Kenya –

their official figures are very low, but quite different to the accounts we hear from the social workers on the ground.

We are experiencing rising prices of food and fuel here at home, and many people are struggling as a result. In Kenya, having lost crops last year to plagues of locusts, quickly followed by floods and then drought, all during the Covid pandemic, the cost of living has increased alarmingly. This obviously has repercussions for our fundraising this year.



Joy Murphy making a surprise visit pre-Covid-19

We have been able to have monthly zoom meetings with the social workers from the 6 largest projects, and this has been an invaluable tool, giving moral support to them and encouraging us. This has been so useful to both

sides, that it will continue in some way even after Covid. There have been some challenges – Kenya suffers from regular electricity cuts, and poor internet connections plus, on one occasion, a deluge of rain which, falling on a tin roof, made it impossible to hear what our Kenyan friends were saying!

Last year we were unable to have many fundraising events, although we did manage to have our annual quiz, albeit via zoom thanks to some very talented friends! This was successful and we raised almost the same amount as we do with our face-to-face quizzes, which we are hoping to have in January 2022 – possibly a hybrid affair to enable people not local to Aylesbury to join in.



Karibuni oven gloves

There are several small sales of Karibuni merchandise booked so far, including one in Wingrave Methodist Church on November 27th (2pm - 4pm) and one at Stone Village Hall on December 3rd. There are also two primary and a secondary school offering support in different ways – we are always delighted when young people want to be involved with Karibuni, and a Methodist Church in Kendal is going to adopt Karibuni as their Christmas project.

We are beginning to feel we are at the beginning of a re-opening of opportunities and are ready to take advantage of this. Several of us are ready and eager to go out to churches and other groups and share information about the work being done in Kenya among the children from the ‘poorest of the poor’.

Again, thank you for the support you continue to give to Karibuni – our hope is that none of us grow tired of enabling the children to reach their potential.

Link to Hope – Margaret Miskin



As was expected, our Link to Hope shoe box appeal was down on previous years as many of our regular donors were in isolation due to Covid-19 so found it difficult to participate. However, many very generously donated money which I then used to buy goods to fill some shoe boxes. From our local area, 85 boxes were sent to Link to Hope's main warehouse in Worthing ready to go on their journey to Romania and surrounding countries.

MHA – Jennie Torpey

MHA, (originally called Methodist Homes for the Aged), is a charity founded in 1943 by members of the Methodist Church. The charity provides care, accommodation, and support services for older people throughout Britain.



Their mission is to inspire the best care and wellbeing at every stage of later life, and are proud to be recognised as a leading provider of care and support in later life. They provide:

- care homes, many offering specialist dementia or nursing care.
- retirement living communities, with access to social and leisure facilities and flexible care if and when needed.
- 'Live at Home' community services to support those who wish to live independently in their own homes.

At Aylesbury Methodist Church we usually have an annual retiring collection in June on MHA Sunday, sometimes inviting a speaker to tell us more about their work, especially about the local project, Hillside Care Home, just along the road from the Church. Sadly, due to the church closures during the Covid-19 pandemic, MHA Sunday collections have been unable to take place for the past two years.

We have strong ties traditionally with Hillside, partly because of our proximity, since AMC is more accessible for residents to attend our Sunday services, if they are able. Our Minister and others regularly hold a short communion service for

the residents at the home, and Hillside have, in the past, held a service at AMC for families and friends to remember those residents who have passed away. Funerals of Hillside residents also sometimes take place at our Church.

However, again, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, communion services at Hillside were required to cease in March 2020, although it is planned to resume these in November 2021.

Whitechapel Mission - Ruth & Peter Watkins



*Whitechapel Mission -
always the homeless first*

We are pleased to report that we were able to support the Mission at Harvest time this year, both with food, clothing, and money. Despite a smaller congregation than usual for Harvest the gifts were very generous. Unfortunately, the Easter Breakfast did not take place, but I know some folk made a direct gift to the mission.

We have kept in touch with Tony Miller during the past year and we report that they have done sterling work coping with those clients unable or unwilling to access the help from the government. Now some of the restrictions are behind them, they have identified a new need for advice mainly to do with debt

and have managed to employ another person to help with this.

FINANCE

Notes to the accounts – Roger Kirk



Roger Kirk - Church Treasurer

Basis of accounts

This year our formal accounts will be submitted, through the formal Methodist channels, on the Accruals basis. This allocates income and expenditure to the year to which they relate rather than in which they were received or paid, thus providing a more meaningful picture of the accounts.

The year 2020/21 - General Fund

The accounts were affected by the closure of the Church, this time from December 2020 to May 2021 due to the Corona Virus pandemic. Lettings income, at £23,982 was again affected and was less than the £29,281 of the previous year.

To compensate for the loss of lettings income, additional income of almost £12,000 was received from members donations (£6,839) and the Governments job retention scheme (£4,966). A further benefit was the discount of 10% on the Circuit contribution, thus saving £8,000.

On expenditure, we spent £2,916 on improving the security system of the building and £1,816 on repairs to a door and a window in room 4 and 6 respectively.

The net result for the year was a surplus of £9,126, increasing our general fund balance to £44,214.

Restricted Funds

The Welcome Area Fund shows a balance of £3,393 and we are still waiting to pay the final balance to the contractor once all snags have been completed.

Joy Murphy making a surprise visit pre-Covid-19

Balance Sheet

Assets and Liabilities include the following debtors and creditors.

Debtors and prepayments	£
Tax refund	5,815
Letting fees	2,444
Water	521
Furlough grant	262
Stoke Mandeville MC	52
Payment in advance to Circuit	7,227
Deposit on new noticeboard	975
	17,296

Creditors	
Utilities	300
Gift Aid to Stone MC	592
	892

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH		
Informal income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st August 2021		
General (Unrestricted) Funds on accruals basis		
<i>Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.</i>		
2019/20	GENERAL FUND	2020/21
£		£
	INCOME	
87,993	Offerings & tax recovered:	83,232
69,455	Collection (services, standing orders and annual)	67,673
18,538	Income Tax refund	15,559
131	Bank & CFB interest and investment income	13
29,281	Lettings	23,982
44,251	Other income, detail in shaded area below:	19,922
3,470	Fund raising	3,180
7,805	Donations and legacies	6,839
27,302	Layworker (last year) and Young Leaders Scheme grants	4,000
3,205	Government Job Protection Scheme re Covid 19	4,966
881	Weddings and funerals	926
1,488	Coffee Bar profits	12
100	Miscellaneous	-
161,656	Income Grand Total	127,150
	EXPENDITURE	
83,184	Circuit contribution	74,616
-	Donations and subscriptions	1,000
21,299	Repairs & maintenance, detail in shaded area below:	13,524
11,014	Building maintenance	2,157
7,704	Cleaner's wages and supplies	6,154
2,581	Equipment maintenance (incl.organ & piano)	5,213
13,159	Utilities & insurance, detail in shaded area below:	11,292
9,612	Heat, light, water and refuse	7,742
3,547	Insurance	3,550
45,419	Other expenditure, detail in shaded area below:	17,602
3,537	Administration	2,126
9,599	Administrators - wages, less Circuit share	9,320
27,552	Layworker (last year only) and Young Leaders Scheme	2,902
2,264	Telephones	1,738
1,570	Church Activities	1,025
897	Publicity & miscellaneous expenses	491
163,061	Total Expenditure, excl. Welcome Area Improvements	118,034
(1,405)	NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR accruals basis	9,116
36,867	Balance brought forward 1/9/2020	35,088
35,462	Subtotal	44,204
(373)	Net transfers between funds, excl. Welcome Area Fund	10
35,089	Subtotal	44,214
	Welcome Area Improvements:	
111,990	Funds transferred from the Welcome Area Fund	-
(111,990)	Above funds then expended on the Welcome Area and capitalised	-
35,089	GENERAL LIQUID FUNDS AT 31/8/21 C/ FWD.	44,214

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH						
Informal Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021						
Restricted Funds, Endowments and Church Organisations						
<i>Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.</i>						
RESTRICTED FUNDS						
2019/20			Welcome Area Fund	Benevolent Fund		Total 2020/21
£			£	£		£
	Income					
64	Offerings			5		5
6,272	Grants, donations, etc & tax recovered		-			-
6,336	Total income		-	5		6
	Payments					
3,423	Other expenses		-	-		-
	(£102,352 treated in 2018/19 as part of 'Transfer between funds' below)					
3,423	Total expenditure		-	-		-
2,913	Net income / (expenditure)		-	5		6
-	Earlier years' expenditure capitalised		-			-
	(added to and treated in 2018/19 as part of 'Transfer between funds' below)					
-	Transfers between funds		-			-
2,913	Net income / (expend.) after transfers		-	5		5
870	Balances brought forward 1/9/2020		3,393	390		3,783
2,913	Net income / (expenditure)		-	5		5
3,783	Balances carried forward 31/8/2021		3,393	395		3,788
ENDOWMENT FUNDS HELD BY THE TRUSTEES FOR METHODIST CHURCH PURPOSES						
Totals 2019/20			Mead Bequest	Stranks & Staley's Bequests		Totals 2020/21
£			£	£		£
			Restricted	Unrestricted		
3,746	Balances brought forward 1/9/2020		210	3,548		3,759
25	Income		1	10		10
(25)	Paid to General Fund		(1)	(9)		(10)
-	Paid to J Team and Choir		-	-		-
13	Change in Value of investments		-	(27)		(27)
3,759	Balances carried forward 31/8/2021		210	3,521		3,731
CHURCH ORGANISATIONS						
£	Income					£
	Offerings & tax recovered					
	Investment income, etc					
5,591	Other income					1,846
5,591	Total income					1,846
	Payments					
4,976	Other expenses					3,066
4,976	Total expenditure					3,066
614	Net income / (expenditure)					(1,221)
398	Transfers between funds					-
1,012	Net income / (expend.) after transfers					(1,221)
10,702	Balances brought forward 1/9/2020					11,715
1,012	Net income / (expenditure)					(1,221)
11,714	Balances carried forward 31/8/2021 *					10,494
	<i>* Excludes Endowment Mead Bequest Fund, which is shown above.</i>					

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH							
Informal Summary of Income and expenditure accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021							
(on Accruals Basis)							
All Funds							
Note: The full accounts submitted to the Vale of Aylesbury Circuit will be found in an appendix to the Trustees Report.							
Actual 2019/20 accruals basis			General Fund	Resticted Funds	Endow- ment Funds	Church Organ- isations	Totals
£			£	£		£	£
173,608	Income		127,150	6	10	1,846	129,012
171,459	Expenditure, excl. Welcome Area improvements		118,034	-		3,066	121,100
2,149	Net income/(Expenditure)		9,116	6	10	(1,220)	7,912
	Welcome Area improvements:						
	- Earlier years' expenditure capitalised			-			-
	- Expenditure capitalised this year		-	-			-
13	Change in value of investments				(27)		(27)
2,162	Subtotal		9,116	6	(17)	(1,220)	7,885
	- Net transfers between funds:						-
		Welcome Area Fund	-	-			
		Other funds	10	-	(10)	-	
2,162	Subtotal		9,126	6	(27)	(1,220)	7,885
43,176	Liquid Funds Balances b/fwd 1/9/2020		35,088	3,783	3,759	11,715	54,345
45,338	Liquid Funds Balances c/fwd 31/8/21		44,214	3,789	3,732	10,495	62,230

Informal Statement of Assets and Liabilities on an accruals basis as at 31st August 2021

Actual 2019/20	Funds balances at 31st August 2021	General fund	Restricted funds			Church orgs.	Total
£		£	Welcome area £	Benevol- ent £	Endow- ments	£	£
54,345	Liquid Funds per Income & Expend. accounts	44,214	3,393	395	3,731	10,495	62,228
1,015,720	Capitalised expenditure	1,015,720					1,015,720
1,070,065	Total funds	1,059,934	3,393	395	3,731	10,495	1,077,948
	Represented by:						
	Assets:						
	Capitalised expenditure on fixed tangible assets:						
1,015,720	Community centre improvements at cost b/f	1,015,720					1,015,720
-	Welcome area improvements at cost this year	-					-
1,015,720		1,015,720					1,015,720
	Current assets						
	Bank balances						
15,124	HSBC current	14,569					14,569
9,507	HSBC deposit	8,626					8,626
182	Metro current	755					755
4,912	Central Finance Board	4,360	3,393	395		128	8,276
100	Imprest account	100					100
11,557	Held by church organisations					10,366	10,366
	Endowment funds accounts*						-
3,548	Stranks & Staley's bequests				3,521		3,521
210	Mead bequest (J Team and choir)				210		210
17,861	Debtors and prepayments	17,296				-	17,296
63,001	Total current assets	45,706	3,393	395	3,731	10,495	63,720
	Current liabilities						
850	Lettings deposits	600					600
7,819	Creditors and amounts received in advance	892					892
8,669	Total liabilities	1,492					1,492
54,344	Net current assets (current assets less liabilities)	44,214	3,393	395	3,731	10,495	62,228
1,070,064	Net assets (all assets less liabilities)	1,059,934	3,393	395	3,731	10,495	1,077,948

There are differences of up to £1 which are due to rounding.

The formal accounts will include provision for depreciation, yet to be approved.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



Putting the greatest number of people in the greatest possible danger of finding the love of Jesus Christ

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

A Registered Charity

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

(ACCRUALS BASIS)

for the year ended 31st August 2021

Charity Registration Number 1129749

Belonging to Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit - Circuit number 23/29

Minister	Rev. Richard Atkinson
Church Stewards	Gill Marks Philip Kolade Matilda Phiri Frances Aylen Jackie Simpson - Tyda Kaz Tyda Elaine Hope Gill Nord
Treasurer	Roger Kirk

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021

Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) See Note 2 *	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2021	Totals 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	67,673				67,673	69,455
	10,839		5		10,844	13,036
3	15,559		-		15,559	18,572
4	13	18		11	42	175
					0	0
5		1,828			1,828	5,571
6	33,066		-		33,066	66,797
	127,150	1,846	5	11	129,012	173,606
	74,616				74,616	83,184
7	1,000	100	-		1,100	155
8	13,524		-		13,524	24,247
9	11,292				11,292	13,159
1c(v),*2	15,843				15,843	15,843
10	13,184				13,184	15,400
11	4,419		-		4,419	30,341
5		2,966			2,966	4,976
* 2	133,878	3,066	0	0	136,944	187,305
13	(27)				(27)	13
					0	0
* 2	(6,728)	(1,220)	5	(16)	(7,959)	(13,686)
14	10	-		(10)	-	0
					0	0
	(6,718)	(1,220)	5	(26)	(7,959)	(13,686)
	1,083,396	11,715	3,783	3,758	1,102,652	1,116,338
* 2	1,076,678	10,495	3,788	3,732	1,094,693	1,102,652

* Note 2 of Notes to Accounts shows division of the General Fund between unrestricted Funds and Property Reserve.

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021

Notes to the accounts

General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2021	Totals 2020
£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed Assets

Land and buildings	15	849,831			849,831	854,609
Welcome Space		95,190			95,190	100,790
Contents	15	87,443			87,443	92,909
Investment properties					0	0
Investments	16			3,732	3,732	3,758
Total fixed assets		1,032,464	0	0	3,732	1,036,196

Current Assets

Debtors and prepayments	17	17,296			17,296	17,861
Loans by the Churches					0	0
Investments with TMCP					0	0
Central Finance Board Deposits	18	4,360	129	3,788	8,277	4,913
Cash at Bank and in hand	18	24,050	10,366		34,416	36,471
Total current assets		45,706	10,495	3,788	0	59,989

Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)	19	1,492			1,492	8,659
Grants payable within 2018-19					0	0
Total current liabilities		1,492	0	0	0	8,659
Net current assets / liabilities		44,214	10,495	3,788	0	58,497

Total assets less current liabilities		1,076,678	10,495	3,788	3,732	1,094,693	1,102,652
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2019/20						0	0
Loans to the Church						0	0
						0	0
Net assets		1,076,678	10,495	3,788	3,732	1,094,693	1,102,652

Funds of the Church

General Fund (Unrestricted)	20	1,076,678			1,076,678	1,083,396
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			10,495		10,495	11,715
Total Unrestricted Funds					1,087,173	1,095,111
Restricted Funds				3,788	3,788	3,783
Endowment Funds					3,732	3,758
Total Funds		1,076,678	10,495	3,788	3,732	1,094,693

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

1 Basis of accounting and accounting policiesa. **Basis of Accounting**

The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention, (except where noted below) and in compliance with the Standard of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011.

b. **Public benefit entity**

Aylesbury Methodist Church of Buckingham Street, Aylesbury meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. It is an unincorporated charity.

c. **More on the basis of accounting, including departures from the historic cost convention.**

- i The accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis.
- ii The accounts are designed to show a true and fair view of Aylesbury Methodist Church's financial position and activities.
- iii Quoted investments are shown at their market value, rather than cost.
- iv Tangible fixed assets values:

As the original cost of the church's land and buildings and much of the contents is not known, (apart from improvements and alterations carried out within the last 12 years), a deemed cost has been established. In the case of the land on which the church buildings stand, its estimated current use value has been used. As regards the buildings and contents, their deemed cost has been determined by using Discounted Replacement Cost (DRC) in place of actual cost. This method applies a discount, calculated by reference to the age of the building and estimated age of the contents, and their useful economic life, and applying the discount to their sum insured values.

This does not apply to additions to fixed assets acquired since 1st September 2017, where cost stated is actual cost.

v Depreciation policy:

Assets held at 1/9/2017

Land upon which the church stands	Not depreciated
The church building, including community centre	Over 140 years on a straight line basis
Contents	Over 20 years on a straight line basis

Assets acquired since 1/9/2017

Modernising church foyer ("Welcome Space")	Over 20 years on a straight line basis
--	--

These expected useful lives, which represent a standard/initial assessment for each asset-class, have been reviewed against current assumptions of each asset's likely further useful life.

- vi All values are expressed in sterling (pounds), and have been rounded to the nearest pound.
- vii The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees are of the opinion that the church is sufficiently resourced financially and in members' support to continue for the foreseeable future.
- viii Income is recognised when the church becomes entitled to the resources, and the monetary value is reliably measurable, and it is considered more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the monetary value of volunteers' time is not recognised in the accounts.
- ix Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, where the value is reliably measurable and it is considered more likely than not that there will be an outflow of economic benefit.
- x The church is not registered for VAT, and consequently expenditure on which it has been incurred has been included gross in the accounts, i.e. inclusive of the VAT.
- xi The church's only monetary investments held in the year and the previous year, were those pertaining to the Stranks endowment. They are deposited with TMCP as custodian trustees, and have been valued at market value by TMPC.
- xii Debtors stated represent the amounts owed to the church or prepaid by the church at the financial year end. Creditors are amounts owed by the church or have been received in advance at the financial year end.
- xiii The church makes monthly contributions to the Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit, which have been assessed by the circuit annually, based on the the church's main regular sources of income. The circuit remits part of the contributions received to the Northampton Methodist District by way of its assessment on the circuit. The district in turn remits most of its income from the circuits in its jurisdiction, to The Methodist Church Fund.

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

2 Division of unrestricted General Funds between Liquid Funds and Property Reserve

	Liquid Funds		Property Reserve		Total	Total
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
8 Total income per Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)	127,150	161,654			127,150	161,654
17 Total charitable expenditure per Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA)	133,878	178,906			133,878	178,906
13 Adjust for depreciation charged in the accounts for the year - see note 15	(15,843)	(15,843)	15,843	15,843	-	-
17 Adjusted expenditure	118,035	163,063	15,843	15,843	133,878	178,906
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 Net income/(expenditure)	9,115	(1,409)	(15,843)	(15,843)	(6,728)	(17,252)
21 Transfers between funds	10	(373)	-	-	10	(373)
22 Other gains/(losses)	-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Net movement in funds	9,125	(1,782)	(15,843)	(15,843)	(6,718)	(17,625)
24 Total funds brought forward	35,087	36,869	1,048,309	1,064,152	1,083,396	1,101,021
25 Total funds carried forward	44,212	35,087	1,032,466	1,048,309	1,076,678	1,083,396

Property Reserve

Since there is no evidence of a permanent endowment, it is assumed that the money donated to build the church premises at various times, was in the expectation of their long-term use, and therefore in these accounts prepared under SORP (FRS102), the fair value of the land, the buildings and contents on a DRC basis is taken as their deemed historical cost under FRS102, and treated as belonging to an expendable endowment for the church's general purposes. More on the calculation of DRC values can be found in note 15.

	General Funds	Internal Organisations Designated	Welcome Area	Benevolent Fund	Endowment	Total 2021	Total 2020
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted			
3 Gift Aid Tax receivable							
On offerings	15,559					15,559	13,348
On gift to fund layworker	-					-	5,189
On Welcome Area gifts				-		-	35
	15,559		-			15,559	18,572
4 Interest and income from investments							
Bank & CFB interest	13	18				31	150
Endowments					11	11	25
	13	18			11	42	175

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

5 Designated Funds (unrestricted)

<u>Internal organisations</u>	Balances b/f	Income from activities & interest	Expenditure on activities & donations	Internal transfers	Balance c/f 2021	Balance c/f 31/8/18 2020
J Team (Junior Church)	391	2	-		393	391
German Exchange	6,987	18	-		7,005	6,987
Girls' Brigade	1,305	-	950	-	355	1,305
Boys' Brigade	1,616	1,365	1,526	-	1,455	1,615
Youth Club	674	-	-		674	674
Tuesday Fellowship	184	-	8	-	176	184
Choir	9	150	140		19	9
Banner Group	135	-	-		135	135
Flower Fund	258	310	413	-	155	257
Sunbeams Toddler Group	157	-	29		128	158
	11,716	1,845	3,066	-	10,495	11,715

	General Funds	Internal Organisations Designated	Welcome Area	Benevolent Fund	Endowment	Total 2021	Total 2020
6 Other charitable income	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted			
Fund raising	3,180		-			3,180	4,540
Income from use of church premises	23,982					23,982	29,281
Layworker grants	-					-	27,302
Government Job Protection Scheme	4,966					4,966	3,205
Weddings and funerals	926					926	880
Coffee Bar profits	12					12	1,488
Miscellaneous	-					-	101
Total	33,066		-			33,066	66,797

7 Grants and donations expended

Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy	500					500	-
Connexional donations:							
Diaconal Order	100					100	-
Home Mission Fund	150	-				150	-
Methodist Property Fund	100	-				100	-
Methodist Ministers Housing Society	150	-				150	-
Donation from Benevolent Fund				-		-	155
Boys Brigade Headquarters		100				100	-
	1,000	100		-		1,100	155

8 Property & equipment maintenance and repairs

Buildings maintenance	2,157					2,157	11,014
Cleaner's wages and cleaning supplies	6,154					6,154	7,704
Equipment repairs and replacements	6,435		-			6,435	5,429
Organ & piano repairs and maintenance	(1,222)					(1,222)	100
	13,524		-			13,524	24,247

General Funds	Internal Organisations Designated	Welcome Area	Benevolent Fund	Endowment	Total 2021	Total 2020
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Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

9 Insurance, utilities, etc.	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted		
Light & heat	7,518				7,518	8,157
Water	(215)				(215)	964
Refuse collection	439				439	491
Insurance	3,550				3,550	3,547
	11,292				11,292	13,159
10 Office expenses						
Office wages, less Circuit contribution	9,320				9,320	9,599
Telephone	1,738				1,738	2,264
Other office expenses	2,126				2,126	3,537
	13,184				13,184	15,400
11 Other expenditure						
Young Leaders Scheme/Layworker	2,902				2,902	27,552
Church activities	1,025				1,025	1,570
Publicity	491				491	462
Miscellaneous incl. rounding diff.	1		-		1	757
	4,419		-		4,419	30,341
12 Salaries & associated costs (included in Notes 8, 10 & 11 above).						
Salaries were paid to 5 (4 in 2019/20) members of staff during the year and were in total as follows						
Gross salaries, <i>before deduction of</i>						
Circuit contribution of £3,840	20,278				20,278	40,756
Employer's:						
NIC	444				444	2,541
Pension contrib.	720				720	2,104
	21,442				21,442	45,401
There was one member of staff employed full-time last year, but none in 2020/21.						
13 Gains/(losses) in value of monetary investments						
Unrealised gain/(loss) in market value on endowment investments					(27)	(27) 13

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

14 Transfers between funds

General/Welcome area

The Welcome Area Fund was instigated to raise funds for transforming the church foyer into a more welcoming space for the community in which the church stands. This was achieved during the 2018/19 financial year, and funds were transferred to the General Fund to enable the works to be carried out. These were completed also in the 2018/19 financial year. A small balance is retained in the Welcome Area Fund for use on furnishings and other future related costs associated with the space.

	General Funds	Internal Organisations Designated	Welcome Area	Benevolent Fund	Endowment	Total 2021	Total 2020
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted			
Transfer from Welcome Area Fund to General Funds	-			-		-	-
Transfer from Endowment funds for Junior Church and Choir for general purposes	10				(10)	(10)	(25)
Transfers from General Funds to Internal Church Organisations	-		-			-	(398)
Transfers from Internal Church Organisations to General Funds	-		-			-	398
	10	-	-	-	(10)	-	-

15 Tangible fixed assets**Cost or valuation**

B/fwd at 1/9/20 at deemed cost	200,000	668,943		109,305	978,248
B/fwd at 1/9/20 at actual cost			111,990		111,990
Improvements in year at actual cost			-		-
C/fwd at 31/8/21	200,000	668,943	111,990	109,305	1,090,238

Depreciation

B/fwd at 1/9/20	N/a	14,334	11,200	16,396	41,930
Provided in year	N/a	4,778	5,600	5,465	15,843
C/fwd at 31/8/21	N/a	19,112	16,800	21,861	57,773

Net book amount at 1/9/20	200,000	654,609	100,790	92,909	1,048,308
Net book amount at 31/8/21	200,000	649,831	95,190	87,443	1,032,464

The expected useful lives, which represent a standard/initial assessment for each asset-class, have been reviewed against current assumptions of each asset's likely further useful life. No significant changes are considered necessary at this time.

Deemed cost - Discounted Replacement Cost (DRC)Insurance values at 1/9/2017:

Assets excl. land	Acquired date (approx)	Insurance values	Total useful economic life (years)	Average age at 1/09/2017 (years)
Buildings-church & commun. c'tre	1893/1920	3,902,168	140	110
Contents	Various	218,609	20	10

Tangible fixed assets continued.....

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

15 Tangible fixed assets continued

Land value £200,000 (Current use value estimated by the trustees after taking professional advice.)

DRC calculation - deemed cost at 1/9/2017

Assets excl. land	Insurance values (buildings less 20% for site clearance)	Anticipated future life divided by total useful economic life	Fair value on DRC basis
Buildings-church & commun. c'tre	3,121,734	30/140	668,943
Contents	218,609	10/20	109,305
	3,340,343		778,248

Tangible fixed assets - Year ended 31st August 2020

	Land	Buildings	Welcome space	Contents	Total
Deemed cost 1/9/2017	200,000	668,943		109,305	978,248
Actual cost 2019			111,990		111,990
Depreciation to 31/8/2020 *		14,334	11,200	16,396	41,930
Net book value at 31/8/2020	200,000	654,609	100,790	92,910	1,048,308
*Annual rate of depreciation		1/140	1/20	1/20	

Property Reserve

Since there is no evidence of a permanent endowment, it is assumed that the money donated to build the church premises at various times, was in the expectation of their long-term use, and therefore in these accounts prepared under SORP (FRS102), the fair value of the land, and the buildings and contents on a DRC basis is taken as their deemed historical cost under FRS102, and treated as belonging to an expendable endowment for the church's general purposes.

16 InvestmentsEndowments - Mead, Stranks and Staley bequests (deposits & investments)

	Endowment	Total 2021	Total 2020
Carrying (market) value at start of year	3,759	3,759	3,745
Income	10	10	25
Transferred to General Funds	(10)	(10)	(25)
Increase/(decrease) in market value of investments	(27)	(27)	13
Carrying (market) value at end of year	3,732	3,732	3,758

17 Debtors and prepayments

	General Funds	Internal Organisations Designated	Welcome Area	Benevolent Fund	Endowment	Total 2021	Total 2020
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted			
Prepaid circuit contributions	7,227					7,227	6,218
HMRC Gift Aid tax	5,815					5,815	7,414
Income from use of church premises	2,444					2,444	4,229
Other	1,810					1,810	-
	17,296					17,296	17,861

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

18 Cash at bank and in hand

Current accounts:

HSBC	14,569				14,569	15,125
Metro Bank	755				755	182

Deposit funds:

HSBC deposit account	8,626				8,626	9,507
Central Finance Board	4,360	129	3,393	395	8,277	4,913

Various held by Internal Church

Organisations		10,366			10,366	11,557
---------------	--	--------	--	--	--------	--------

Cash in hand - Imprest account	100				100	100
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28,410	10,495	3,393	395	42,693	41,384
--------	--------	-------	-----	--------	--------

19 Creditors & accruals (due within one year)

For goods and services	300				300	5,809
------------------------	-----	--	--	--	-----	-------

Grants and donations received in advance for expenses relating to the next financial year	-				-	2,000
---	---	--	--	--	---	-------

Deposits held relating to use of church premises	600				600	850
--	-----	--	--	--	-----	-----

Gift Aid tax to pass on	592				592	-
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1,492	1,492	8,659
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20 Funds of the church**General funds (unrestricted)**

These exist for the furtherance of the church's general objectives, and are represented by the church building and its community centre, and liquid assets for use at the trustees' discretion in the achievement of those objectives, and maintaining the church's premises.

Internal church organisations (Designated fund)

These are maintained by various groups to support their activities within the church, who are required to provide annual accounts to the church council. The funds are represented by bank and cash balances.

Welcome Area Fund (Restricted)

The Welcome Area Fund was instigated to raise funds for the transformation of the church foyer into a more welcoming space for the community in which the church stands. This was achieved during the 2018/19 financial year, and funds were transferred to the General Fund to enable the works to be carried out. These were completed also in that financial year. A small balance is retained in the Welcome Area Fund for use on furnishings and other future related costs associated with the space. The Fund is represented by a balance held within the church's bank account.

Income

	2021	2020
2 Donations, legacies & grants	-	5,167
3 Gift aid	-	35
7 Other charitable income	-	1,070

8 Total income	-	6,272
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Expenditure

11 Property & equipment maintenance	-	2,948
15 Other expenditure	-	320

17 Total charitable expenditure	-	3,268
--	---	-------

20 Net income/(expenditure)	-	3,004
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21 Transfers between funds	-	-
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23 Net movement in funds	-	3,004
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24 Total funds brought forward	3,393	389
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25 Total funds carried forward	3,393	3,393
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Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

20 Funds of the church continued.....

Benevolent Fund (restricted)

The Benevolent Fund exists for the relief of poverty and distress, and is required by Methodist Standing Order 651.

It is represented by balances held at bank.

Income

2 Donations, legacies & grants

2021 2020

5 64

Expenditure

10 Grants and donations

- 155

20 **Net income/(expenditure)**

5 (91)

23 Net movement in funds

5 (91)

24 Total funds brought forward

390 481

25 Total funds carried forward

395 390

Endowment Funds

These arise from bequests in the past. They are:

Mead, for general purposes

Stranks and Staley, for the junior church and the church choir

The endowment funds are represented by investments and CFB balances held.

The information below combines the Stranks and Staley

data, as the latter fund is miniscule.

Income

4 Interest and investment income

18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments

20 **Net income/(expenditure)**

21 Transfers between funds

23 Net movement in funds

24 Total funds brought forward

25 Total funds carried forward

2021		2020	
Mead	Stranks & Staley	Mead	Stranks & Staley
1	10	2	23
	(27)		13
1	(17)	2	36
(1)	(9)	(2)	(23)
-	(26)	-	13
210	3,548	210	3,535
210	3,522	210	3,548

21 Capital Commitments and contingent liabilities

The church had no capital commitments at 31st August 2021.

There were no known contingent liabilities at that date.

22 Loans and creditors due after one year

There were no loans or other liabilities due after more than one year as at 31st August 2021.

23 Related party transactions

Name of related party	Relationship	Payments to related parties 2020/21	Payments to related parties 2019/20
Contributions to Vale of Aylesbury Method.Circuit	Connexion	74,616	89,402
Methodist Connexional Funds:			
Methodist Fund for Property	Connexion	100	-
Diaconal Order	Connexion	100	-
Home Mission Fund	Connexion	150	-
Methodist Ministers Housing Soc.	Connexion	150	-
Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy	Charity	500	-
		75,616	89,402

Trustees employed by Aylesbury Methodist Church in other roles (other than the minister's stipend):

Melvina Brown as Layworker - Gross salary, employer's pension and NIC's - 27,552

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021

23 Related party transactions continued

Trustees who received fees in respect of weddings/funerals:

Rev. Richard Atkinson	295	754
John Miskin	95	-

24 The church trustees

The trustees are the members of the church council.

Those who served in the year ended 31st August 2021 were:

Superintendent minister:

Rev. Richard Atkinson

Team ministry:

Arthur Sara

Secretary:

Jackie Simpson - Tyda

Church stewards:

Gill Marks

Philip Kolade

Matilda Phiri

Frances Aylen

Jackie Simpson - Tyda

Kaz Tyda

Elaine Hope

Gill Nord

Church treasurer:

Roger Kirk

Leadership team:

Rev. Richard Atkinson

Jenny Torpey

Kevin Hardern

Margaret Miskin

Vivienne Kemp

Trevor Nord

Peter Green

Tim Olufosoye

Peter Farmer

Circuit steward:

Keith Wallace

Representatives appointed by
the Annual Church Meeting:

John Miskin

Barbara Trend

David Neville

Pauline Latham

Lynn Berstone

Stephen Marks

Paul Ingram

Albert Odro

Rae Garden

Sandy Steeden

Elaine Hope

Karen Crussell

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-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 Date.....

Name and address of treasurer: Roger Kirk.....

77 Aylesbury Road, Bierton, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP22 5BT

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev. Richard Atkinson..... Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Charity Number 1129749

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Aylesbury Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages 1 to 11. 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.

Aylesbury Methodist Church..... No 1129749

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination
the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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 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: Michael Foote.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: FCA

Address 8 Bates Lane, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

Post Code: HP22 5SL

Date

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner: Michael Foote.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: FCA

Address 8 Bates Lane, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire

Post Code: HP22 5SL

Date 30th October 2021