

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## 2024-2025

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Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre



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# Contact

## Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre

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## Annual Report

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# Welcome



*From Rev. Richard Atkinson*

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.

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.

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# 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.



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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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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

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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!

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## 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*

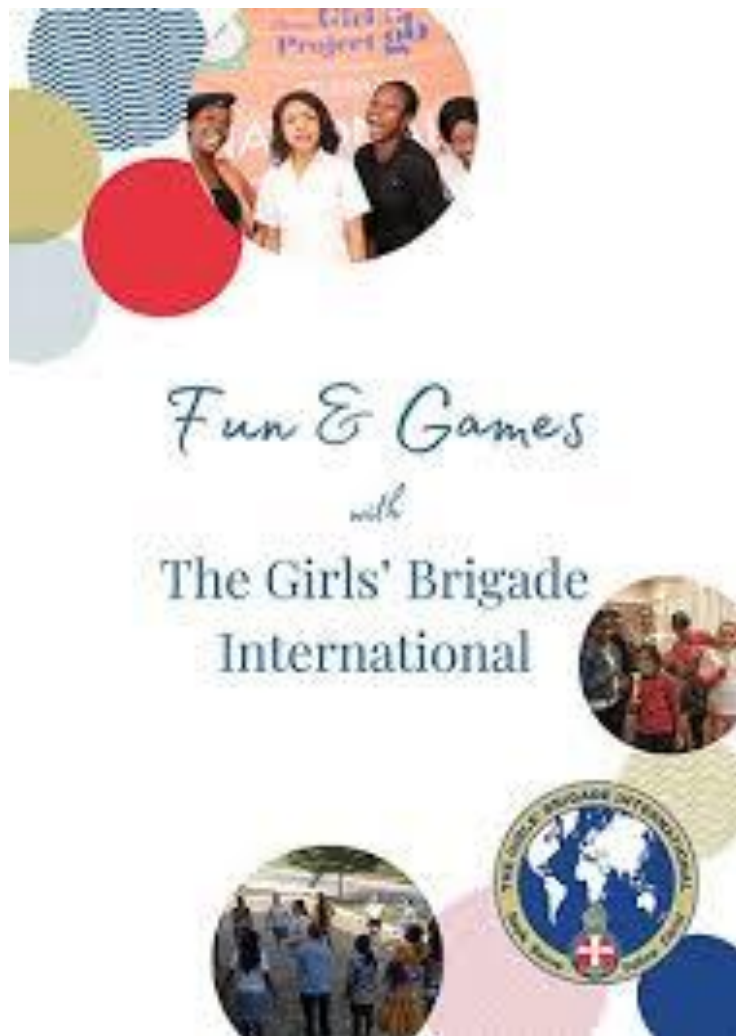
## **GIRLS' BRIGADE – Dawn Wright and Sarah Davidge**

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

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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.

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## **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.

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# 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 25<sup>th</sup> October 2025, in our Methodist New Year.



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## 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.



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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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



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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*



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## 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.

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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](mailto: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.

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## CHRISTIAN AID - Jennie Torpey & Maureen Tucker



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

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*"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."*

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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.

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## 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.



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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*

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*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

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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.

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# 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
£		£	£		£
	<b>Income</b>				
512	Offerings		337		337
-	Grants, donations, etc & tax recovered	-			-
512	<b>Total income</b>	-	337		337
	<b>Payments</b>				
-	Other expenses	-	-		-
-	<b>Total expenditure</b>	-	-		-
512	<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		337		337
( 3,393)	Earlier years' expenditure capitalised	-			-
-	Transfers between funds	-			-
( 2,881)	<b>Net income / (expend.) after transfers</b>	-	337		337
4,109	<b>Balances brought forward 1/9/2024</b>	-	1,228		1,228
( 2,881)	<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>	-	337		337
1,228	<b>Balances carried forward 31/8/2025</b>	-	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	<b>Balances brought forward 1/9/2024</b>	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	<b>Balances carried forward 31/8/2025</b>	210	3,252		3,462

**CHURCH ORGANISATIONS**

£	Income		£
	Offerings & tax recovered		
	Investment income, etc		
5,386	Other income		3,784
5,386	<b>Total income</b>		3,784
	<b>Payments</b>		
5,248	Other expenses (incl. external donations £250)		3,217
5,248	<b>Total expenditure</b>		3,217
137	<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		566
322	Transfers between funds		( 167)
459	<b>Net income / (expend.) after transfers</b>		398
11,195	<b>Balances brought forward 1/9/2024</b>		11,655
459	<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		398
11,654	<b>Balances carried forward 31/8/2025 *</b>		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
£		£	£		£
	<b>Income</b>				
512	Offerings		337		337
-	Grants, donations, etc & tax recovered	-			-
512	<b>Total income</b>	-	337		337
	<b>Payments</b>				
-	Other expenses	-	-		-
-	<b>Total expenditure</b>	-	-		-
512	<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		337		337
( 3,393)	Earlier years' expenditure capitalised	-			-
-	Transfers between funds	-			-
( 2,881)	<b>Net income / (expend.) after transfers</b>	-	337		337
4,109	<b>Balances brought forward 1/9/2024</b>	-	1,228		1,228
( 2,881)	<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>	-	337		337
1,228	<b>Balances carried forward 31/8/2025</b>	-	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	<b>Balances brought forward 1/9/2024</b>	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	<b>Balances carried forward 31/8/2025</b>	210	3,252		3,462

**CHURCH ORGANISATIONS**

£	Income		£
	Offerings & tax recovered		
	Investment income, etc		
5,386	Other income		3,784
5,386	<b>Total income</b>		3,784
	<b>Payments</b>		
5,248	Other expenses (incl. external donations £250)		3,217
5,248	<b>Total expenditure</b>		3,217
137	<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		566
322	Transfers between funds		( 167)
459	<b>Net income / (expend.) after transfers</b>		398
11,195	<b>Balances brought forward 1/9/2024</b>		11,655
459	<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		398
11,654	<b>Balances carried forward 31/8/2025 *</b>		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	<b>Total funds</b>	<b>1,073,418</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,566</b>	<b>3,462</b>	<b>12,055</b>	<b>1,090,500</b>
	<b>Represented by:</b>						
	<b>Assets:</b>						
	<b>Capitalised expenditure on fixed tangible assets:</b>						
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
	<b>Current assets</b>						
	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	<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>61,515</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,566</b>	<b>3,462</b>	<b>12,055</b>	<b>78,597</b>
	<b>Current liabilities</b>						
1,050	Lettings deposits	1,150					1,150
646	Creditors and amounts received in advance	2,667					2,667
1,696	<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>3,817</b>					<b>3,817</b>
78,584	<b>Net current assets (current assets less liabilities)</b>	<b>57,698</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,566</b>	<b>3,462</b>	<b>12,055</b>	<b>74,780</b>

\*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
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2025

Vale of Aylesbury Methodist	Circuit	Circuit no.	23/29
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**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	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	96,750	337	<b>97,087</b>	93,156
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	900		<b>900</b>	866
a4	Lettings	52,733		<b>52,733</b>	56,110
a5	Other receipts	36,337		<b>36,337</b>	19,083
a6	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>186,720</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>187,057</b> (a7)	<b>169,215</b>
SECTION B					
b1	<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	99,380		<b>99,380</b>	86,549
b3	Donations	2,000		<b>2,000</b>	2,500
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	40,765		<b>40,765</b>	22,859
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	15,939		<b>15,939</b>	14,844
b6					
b7	Other payments	34,203		<b>34,203</b>	23,086
b8	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>192,287</b>		<b>192,287</b> (b9)	<b>149,838</b>
SECTION C					
Re	<b>NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	(a6-b8)	(5,567)	337	(5,230)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	43,754	1,228	<b>44,982</b> (c6)	25,927
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	(c1+c2)	38,187	1,565	<b>39,752</b>
c4	Transfers and adjustments	167		<b>167</b> (c7)	(322)
c5	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	(c3+c4)	<b>38,354</b>	<b>1,565</b>	<b>39,919</b> (c8)
					<b>44,982</b> (c6)
SECTION D					
<b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b>					
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	<b>BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID</b>	(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	<b>Per schedule Page 4</b>	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	<b>Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)</b>	187,057 (a7)	192,287 (b9)	(5,230)	167 (c7)	44,982 (c6)	39,919 (c8)
e10	<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH</b>	190,840	195,505	(4,665)		56,638 (x)	51,973 (y)
	Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>				

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	<b>SUB TOTAL - Church accounts</b>	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	<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH</b>	56,638 (x)	51,973 (y)

**SECTION G****OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES			
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	3,488	3,462
g2	Land & Buildings (former capitalised cost value)	1,015,720	1,015,720
g3	Other Assets	20,154	23,162
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities	1,696	3,817

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

<b>INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Net Receipts/ Payments</b>	<b>Adjustments</b>	<b>Opening balances</b>	<b>Closing balances</b>
<b>J Team</b>			0		405	405
<b>German Exchange</b>	44		44		6,956	7,000
<b>Girls Brigade</b>	490	96	394	250	419	1,063
<b>Boys Brigade</b>	1,093	1,359	(266)	250	2,387	2,371
<b>Youth Club</b>			0		674	674
<b>Tuesday Fellowship (now closed)</b>			0	(236)	236	0
<b>Banner Group</b>	50	61	(11)		74	63
<b>Flower Fund</b>	922	1,257	(335)	400	231	296
<b>Sunbeams Toddler Group</b>	196	179	17		152	169
<b>Badminton Club</b>	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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### 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
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I have/~~have not~~\* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner .....



Name of independent examiner 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