

KNUTSFORD METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1130195

Details

Other names	KMC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-06-17
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Knutsford Methodist Church Princess Street Knutsford WA16 6BY
Phone	01565652251
Email	office@kmc.org.uk
Website	www.kmc.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: Religious activities to general public/mankind by providing buidings/facilities/open space and other charitable activities

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.
- Cheshire East

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£352,612	£285,709	-	-
2024-08-31	£240,184	£266,734	-	-
2023-08-31	£301,555	£303,573	-	-
2022-08-31	£283,550	£331,548	-	-
2021-08-31	£372,022	£315,920	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
AMANDA VICKERS		2013-06-28
Anne Marie Fearn		2024-05-01
Bryan Peak		2020-05-18
Carol Ann Bradley		2023-05-01
Carol Roberts		2024-05-01
Christopher Robertson		2023-05-01
David Michael Tomkins		2014-06-09
Dawn Julie Freeman		2022-01-18
Dorothy Richards		2020-01-22
Dr Christopher John Barratt		2016-05-01
ELIZABETH ALEXANDRA HALL		2016-09-01
Elizabeth Anne McGrath		2022-06-20
Elizabeth Waters		2016-05-01
George Nigel Langham		2020-06-10
Gillian Elizabeth Royle		2020-01-22
Jacqueline Robertson		2022-06-20
Jacqueline Tomkins		2021-05-13
Jenny Bailey		2014-06-09
Joanne Taylor		2020-06-10
John Herbert Mills		2023-04-26
Linda Bowler		2022-06-20
Rev Alan Raymond Bradley		2020-09-17
Rev Sincere Makunde		2023-09-01
Robert Hugh Chapman		2023-03-15
Stuart Crawford		2021-02-03
William James Waters		2023-05-01

Accounts

Charity Number: 1130195

KNUTSFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31st August 2025

Knutsford Methodist Church
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31 August 2025

Charity no. 1130195

Registered office and operational address Princess St., Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6BY

Trustees Those who served during the year and up to the date of this report were:

Amanda Vickers	Staff
Ann Fearn	
Bryan Peak	Treasurer
Carol Bradley	
Carol Roberts	
Chris Barratt	
Chris Robertson	
David Tomkins	
Dawn Freeman	
Denise Archer	Circuit representative (from September 2025)
Dorothy Richards	Senior Steward (until August 2025)
Elizabeth Hall	Circuit representative (until August 2025)
Elizabeth Waters	(until April 2025)
Gill Royle	
Hannah Hill	Staff
Hugh Chapman	
Jackie Robertson	
Jackie Tomkins	
Jenny Bailey	
Joanne Taylor	
John Mills	
Linda Bowler	
Liz McGrath	Staff
Nigel Langham	
Peter Freeman	
Revd Alan Bradley	Chair
Revd Sincere Makunde	
Stuart Crawford	Secretary
Suzy Keen	
Vicky Royle	
Will Waters	Senior Steward (from September 2025)

Also serving as Trustees of the Alderley Edge and Knutsford Methodist Circuit:

Bryan Peak
Chris Barratt
Denise Archer
Dorothy Richards
Elizabeth Hall
Jenny Bailey
Liz McGrath
Peter Freeman
Peter Richards

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Revd Alan Bradley
Revd Sincere Makunde

Personnel

Revd Alan Bradley	Minister of KMC and Superintendent Minister of the Alderley Edge and Knutsford Circuit
Revd Sincere Makunde	Minister at KMC and Plumley
Peter Freeman	Children & Families Worker (until October 2024)
Hannah Hill	Circuit Children & Schools Worker
Liz McGrath	Church and Community Pastoral Worker
Amanda Vickers	Administrator and Assistant Treasurer
Adam Sheridan	Maintenance Officer (from September 2024)

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Drummond House, 1 Redheughs Avenue, Edinburgh, EH12 9JN

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, 9 Bonhill St, London, EC2A 4PE

Independent Examiner

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA, Slade & Cooper Limited, Chartered Certified Accountants, Beehive Mill, Jersey Street, Manchester, M4 6JG

Website

www.kmc.org.uk

Knutsford Methodist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 August 2025

The Trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2025.

Reference and administrative information set out previously form part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's constitution, and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Summary

Knutsford Methodist Church (KMC) is a Christian church of just over 230 members, situated in the centre of the busy town of Knutsford. Its present location dates from 1864 (although in the town many years before then), since when it has been both a place of worship and a community centre for the town and surrounding area.

An independently registered charity, it is part of the Methodist Church in Britain and one of 5 churches in its Alderley Edge & Knutsford Circuit (the Circuit). In turn this is part of the North West of England District created in September 2024.

MISSION

'To grow and share in the love of God'

Our vision is: *to be a caring community that God shapes and moulds to reflect the life of Jesus, to make a profound difference to the lives and wider community of the people in and around Knutsford.*

At KMC we recognise that all of life is to be lived in response to God's grace and love in Christ.

Our mission is to extend the invitation to:

- Worship God
- Find Community
- Encounter Jesus
- Make a Difference

Knutsford Methodist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st August 2025

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worshipping God

Attendance at the Sunday morning service averaged in the region of 100. Investment in livestreaming technology has enabled those who are unable to attend in person or live elsewhere to watch the service remotely (up to 50 watch online either at the time or later).

Significantly higher numbers attended the full range of services we offered at the major festivals of Easter and Christmas, including additional services for external organisations at Christmas.

We continued to offer a mix of traditional and contemporary music and, through our Ministers, visiting and local preachers, delivered Bible-based teaching, in an environment where all ages can worship and pray together, in ways that are inclusive, relevant to their lives and spiritually uplifting.

The mid- week lunchtime Communion service, an opportunity for those working in and visiting the town centre, is attended by small numbers but is valued.

Attendance at Cameo, a monthly service of hymns, friendship and fellowship, aimed at senior citizens and those who find it difficult to attend our main service, has been falling in recent months and it has been paused for the time being. We hope to relaunch it with a fresh format.

Oasis, a monthly meditative service on Sunday evenings with prayers for healing and wholeness and Communion, had a modest attendance but was much appreciated.

We continued to support our community by helping mark special life events: baptisms & dedications, funerals, marriages.

We offered a range of corporate prayer opportunities, including a new meeting prior to the main morning service.

In addition to our formal membership, there were many others who attended our services and events last year and see KMC as "their church".

Finding community

House groups provided the context for pastoral care, fellowship, learning and spiritual growth. We currently have 11 groups meeting regularly with a significant and slightly increasing membership in the region of 130. They are open to anyone, and attendees included some from other churches or with no church background, who find this connection with KMC valuable and are welcomed and valued by the church in return.

Groups are encouraged to follow the preaching programmes through the year with appropriate Bible study but are free to select their own material and each group has its own distinctive style and emphasis.

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for the year ended 31st August 2025

Our objective is to continue to grow the groups, and we actively encourage those new to the church to join a group.

Monthly coffee mornings for the church and community have been organised by several of the groups. A charity is usually selected as a focus, helping raise both awareness and funds.

'Life groups' included Monday Club (meeting monthly, open to ladies) and 'Men's Breakfasts', both open to those not currently church members. 'Men's Breakfasts' now encompasses a broader range of activities, including regular walks in Tatton Park, meals in a local restaurant and acting as a forum for advice on practical issues through a WhatsApp group.

Renew Wellbeing Café provided a weekly drop-in space, "where it is okay not to be okay" and people can experience peace, welcome and friendship. We have received referrals from the local social prescriber for the town's medical practices, seeking support for patients with mental health struggles.

We continued to offer an extensive structure of pastoral support to the elderly, housebound, those in full time care and others in our community, including ministry within local care homes. Much of this work is directed by our Pastoral Worker who keeps in touch with those bereaved and sends greetings on significant anniversaries.

Bereavement is indeed a vital part of our pastoral ministry. Much appreciated was the annual bereavement service when those who lost loved ones came to light candles in remembrance and hope.

Following the partnership between KMC and the national Methodist Church at the RHS Tatton Garden Show in July 2024, the award-winning garden was relocated to our neighbouring Methodist Church in Mobberley, where it is offered as a wellbeing garden, a calming and reflective space.

Encountering Jesus

We believe all children, young people and their families matter; they are valued and welcomed at KMC, seeking to enable all ages to fully participate in the life of the church. The aim of our children and youth ministry is to enable them to grow in their love and worship of God, to nurture and enable all to learn about the way of faith of Jesus and to share the good news of God's love with them.

Our ministries included KidZone on Sunday mornings alongside the main service (increased this year from 2 to 3 age groups), the much valued Open the Book presentations (Bible teaching through drama in local primary schools) and helping deliver the RE syllabus in schools.

Especially popular was "Jolly Tots", a weekly term time group where some 30 parents and carers with their pre-school children met informally in a safe environment. Through this, attendees, often with no prior connection with KMC, can form new networks and

Knutsford Methodist Church
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relationships. Jackie Robertson, who had led this outreach since its inception with dedication and skill, stood down in Summer 2025 and her contribution was celebrated and applauded by the whole church.

Up to 150 children from 2/3 local primary schools attended interactive Easter & Harvest Experiences, helping them understand the significance of these major Christian festivals.

“Rock Solid”, our after-school youth group for those in school years 5-9, met fortnightly and continued to grow in strength and numbers. Several of them attended the 2025 3generate Conference, which aimed to help them wherever they are on their faith journey. The results of this experience were presented by them to the whole church at a Sunday service and enthusiastically received.

A church weekend was held in March 2025 with the theme “Hope”; it was open to all, with a range of activities, including a faith supper, worship and teaching, workshops and a Songs of Praise evening.

The town continued to host a monthly Makers' Market and we responded with an open doors policy, offering a warm welcome to those visiting through refreshments, conversation, a sanctuary, prayer as required and access to all its facilities.

We ran an Alpha course from January 2025, exploring the basics of the Christian faith, offered as a resource also to the Circuit and wider community.

All the church's programmes, together with the range of other activities taking place in the building have been brought together and described in a brochure entitled “A centre for the whole community” to raise awareness.

Making a difference

Our church and community centre is situated right in the heart of this lively market town, opening directly on to one of the town's main shopping streets. The building has been extensively modified internally over the last 20 years to provide a flexible space for the church and wider community. It has become a hub for a wide range of community groups, currently including U3A, AA, dance groups and exercise classes, uniformed organisations, first aid training and local choirs.

A new user of the building this year was the town's new Banking Hub following closure of all the various bank branches. Intended as a purely temporary arrangement, the original tenancy period was extended and provided an important service to the community whilst generating useful rental income for KMC. It has now re-located to its more permanent location.

Although the building is therefore extensively used, its essential purpose has not been compromised and it remains at its heart a sacred space for worship, reflection and prayer, open to all.

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We serve a mainly affluent area but there are pockets of deprivation, including real food poverty. KMC members continued to play their part in addressing these needs, offering their individual gifts and support in particular to 2 local charities: 'Hope Central' (a Christian charity operating a busy food bank, debt counselling through CAP and a weekly Hope Centre) and 'The Welcome' (a busy community centre). We have inherited the role of the former Welcome Methodist Church to minister to the social and spiritual needs of the people of the Longridge and Shaw Heath areas of Knutsford and continue to evaluate how we might best deliver this.

"Friendship Café" is offered weekly as a loving, accepting environment where those with dementia are recognised as a valued part of the community and where their loved ones and carers find mutual support and encouragement. It provides a variety of appropriate activities, including music, exercises, reminiscence, crafts and games and trips out. Transport is provided if needed. This continued to be a much appreciated and valued social outreach.

KMC and its members support other organisations and charities addressing social and faith issues which align with our own objectives, in varied ways.

Those supported last year, whether financially, in practical help or through raising awareness, included:

- Tearfund (partnering with churches in the world's poorest countries to tackle poverty and injustice).
- Christian Aid (committed to ending poverty worldwide).
- All We Can (Methodist international development and relief organisation).
- Methodist Church World Mission (supporting 100+ partner churches around the world).
- Mission in Britain (Methodist Charity helping people in our communities and beyond).
- Action for Children (protecting and supporting children and young people).
- Wood Street Mission (improving the life chances of children and families living in poverty in the Manchester area).
- Oasis Gorton (helping people in the community in critical and difficult situations to rebuild and re-engage).
- East Cheshire Hospice.
- Hope Central (a food bank, also offering debt counselling in Knutsford and NE Cheshire).

Council has approved a visit to Zimbabwe in 2026 for up to 20 church members under the leadership of Revd Sincere and Vicky Royle. They will be visiting and worshipping with Methodist churches there and serving alongside them in their communities

We have signed up to be a 'Welcome Church', joining an organisation which encourages churches to welcome and support refugees and asylum seekers.

We continued the process of becoming an Eco Church, moving us towards a more environmentally sensitive way of living with a reduced carbon footprint. We are currently working towards the Silver Award.

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Members of KMC continued to give generously to many local, national and international causes, financially and through service. The church supports and encourages all its members in these personal commitments.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the consolidated level we recorded a surplus of £67,064. Breaking down the results into their constituent parts gives a more complete picture:

Restricted funds:
(The Friendship Café & Benevolent Fund)
Closing net assets £6,387

Designated funds:
(The Welcome)
Closing net assets £37,844

Year-end funds continued to grow from regular giving.

As part of our reflection on the best use of these funds for ministry to the Longridge community, we have asked those who continue to give for their preferences and priorities.

Unrestricted funds:
(Core Knutsford operations)
Closing net assets £195,802
Operating surplus 2024/25 £66,493

Total unrestricted income grew year on year by £110,642, essentially due to a generous legacy of £101,773 from former church member Pippa Fells (see also below).

Within the overall total, the regular giving of church members, when combined with donations (also primarily from members but less regular), was virtually unchanged, an area of concern as this the foundation of our finances, on which we build forward planning (see also below).

Offsetting this, rental income was well above budget and the previous year, boosted by the Banking Hub.

Total unrestricted expenditure grew by £31,101, the largest factor being an increase in the Circuit Assessment to £155,004. This will fall back to a more manageable £132k in the current year, reflecting a reduction in the Ministerial complement to 2.35 and the use of reserves by the Circuit.

Our other main cost, as every year, was the repair and maintenance of our building, totalling £64,742. This total did though include an upgrade to our AV systems, including the installation of new, clearer screens, well received by church members and users of the building (reflected in a financial contribution from U3A). This was funded by Pippa's legacy

Knutsford Methodist Church
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for the year ended 31st August 2025

(our only use of this to date) and we believe is an improvement Pippa would have welcomed.

Apart from this and necessary repairs, we also sought to invest for the future, an example being LED light replacement throughout.

Excluding the legacy, there was an underlying operating deficit of £35,280 and this gives some cause for concern.

Our internal calculation of reserves (which excludes, restricted and designated funds and also now the balance of the legacy monies) stood at the year end at £106k, equivalent to 4.5 months' operating expenditure. We are though projecting a further operating deficit in 2025/26 of £40k and this would reduce reserves (according to our definition) to our policy minimum of 3 months. A working party reporting to Council is now reflecting on how we might increase income, particularly giving income. To give some breathing space for this to be undertaken carefully, Council agreed that remaining legacy monies could be used to fund operating expenditure if necessary. We hope to avoid this, and it certainly would not be necessary in 2025/26 or indeed possibly the following year, but it provides a welcome and necessary cushion for the time being.

There will continue to be sizeable property expenditure in 2025/26, including completion of delayed tower repairs and additional decorating required to the main Rose window. In the background we also have a vulnerability in the form of an old and inflexible heating system. We are currently exploring options, ranging from a radical change to a more straightforward replacement of the gas boiler. Whatever option is preferred, it will be expensive but with the potential to apply for external funding support, given the extensive community use of the building.

The next formal Quinquennial Inspection of the building is not due until 2028.

We have committed £45k over 4 years from September 2024 to the Circuit Children and Schools Worker.

At the end of the year we thanked Geoffrey Wallwork, who stood down after many years of dedicated and professional service as Gift Aid Officer.

Reserves policy

Reserves are held to cushion us from the primary risks of falls in giving income and unexpected property repair costs. They are primarily invested with the Central Board of Finance of the Methodist Church.

The trustees' policy is to hold between 3 and 6 months budgeted operating expenditure in unrestricted liquid reserves (defined as net current assets and excluding designated funds).

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for the year ended 31st August 2025

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

KMC operates under the Methodist Church Act 1976 and the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. Governance is exercised through its Council whose members are the Managing Trustees of the charity but have no beneficial interest. Council members are primarily appointed by the wider church membership at the Annual Church Meeting, serving a maximum period of 6 years. There are also a number of ex-officio members.

On first appointment trustees are provided with centrally issued guidance to support their understanding of the role.

During the year 11 KMC trustees were also trustees of the Circuit, which is responsible inter alia for ministers' stipends and housing and funds these by raising assessments on its constituent churches.

Council met on 3 occasions during the year, supported in its decision making by subordinate committees. Any conflicts of interest were properly declared.

Council is usually chaired by the Superintendent of the Circuit, currently Revd Alan Bradley, who has a particular responsibility for KMC. He currently combines the role on a 50/50 basis with acting as one of the Deputy Chairs in the N W England District and Mission Area Lead in the Manchester region (appointed on a 3-year term from September 2024). A sabbatical in mid-2025 enabled Alan to have much needed space for refreshment and reflection.

Supporting Alan with his responsibilities at KMC (and also at Plumley church in the Circuit) is Revd Sincere Makunde. Joining us two years ago as probationary Minister, she was ordained at an inspiring national service in June 2025, which many KMC members attended and 'received into Full Connexion'.

We are also blessed with a team of authorised Local Preachers and retired Ministers, who bring their own individual gifts to our regular services.

We employ directly 2 members of staff:

Amanda Vickers (Church Administrator and Assistant Treasurer)
Adam Sheridan (Maintenance Officer).

Operating from a KMC base but appointed by the Circuit are:

Hannah Hill (Children and Families Worker)
Liz McGrath (Church and Community Pastoral Worker)
Lee Leighton (Circuit manager)

Members of staff are authorised by CPD to be members of the Council but take no part in any discussion on the terms of their employment.

Supporting Ministers and staff members are Church Stewards who are lay members of the church elected at the Annual Church Meeting; split between a Leadership team, focused

Knutsford Methodist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st August 2025

on the overall direction and management of the church and a Worship team resourcing services and events.

Risk management

The trustees recognise it is neither possible nor appropriate to seek to eliminate risk entirely. Risk-taking is inherent within the task of communicating and living out the Gospel and we are prepared to embrace risks which aim to advance KMC's core purposes, whilst minimising those that might have a negative impact.

Flowing from this the trustees have approved a range of policies, reviewed regularly.

In particular the trustees take their responsibility for safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults very seriously and the Safeguarding Officer is a trustee and reports to each meeting of the Council. Our comprehensive policy, compliant with national guidelines, is audited and adopted annually and includes the provision for regular training of staff and volunteers.

The Methodist Church has adopted a "Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity" as a justice seeking church working towards inclusion and we have fully embraced this. A Domestic Abuse Charter issued by the Methodist Church was also adopted.

Users of the building are required to undertake risk assessments, and an updated Health & Safety policy was adopted during the year.

KMC complies with the General Data Protection Regulations, adopting the standard Data Protection and Privacy policies developed by the Methodist Church.

Insurable risks are covered by a comprehensive insurance policy.

Financial risks lie in 2 main areas:

80% of our income is represented by the voluntary giving of church members (including Gift Aid), which is clearly a strength. However individual circumstances will vary over time, and we are very conscious of the increasing age of our membership.

To mitigate this, we periodically issue appeals to members to maintain their giving in real terms, whilst we seek to grow the membership, especially through programmes designed to attract younger families.

A 150-year-old building can produce unexpected repair and maintenance costs – or they may be planned but have to be brought forward.

In mitigation we are required to commission a formal, thorough professional inspection every 5 years. From this we schedule required maintenance, according to its urgency. With major items of expenditure or where there would be real pressure on our operating

Knutsford Methodist Church
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for the year ended 31st August 2025

budgets, we have the option of issuing a specific appeal to our members for additional donations. This has been very successful when undertaken in recent years.

Although our largest item of expenditure - the annual Assessment - is decided at Circuit level and we could face increases beyond what we consider to be reasonable, we see this as more a theoretical risk. We have a very full representation on Circuit decision-making bodies and, as part of the budget setting process, discuss and agree with other churches in the Circuit what should be an equitable distribution between us of Circuit costs.

Plans for the future

We will continue to offer a wide range of services and styles of worship, open to new ideas to help individuals of all ages and backgrounds to worship God in meaningful ways. An illustration of this will be the launch early in 2026 of Lego Church for young families monthly.

A group will continue to prayerfully discern how we can faithfully use the balance of the generous legacy we have recently received, together with the funds designated as "The Welcome". Alongside this another group will be working at refreshing our overall strategy as a lead in to how we might grow our giving income.

A 'Church Weekend' will be held in March 2026 with a range of activities on offer.

We will run an Alpha course in September 2026.

We will put together a team to discuss the redevelopment of the Church entrance before going out to the membership.

The trustees have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission and consider they have complied with the "public benefit requirement" as defined by the Charities Act 2011 in the year ended 31st August 2025 and that our range of programmes will continue to deliver this in the current year.

Acknowledgements

The trustees acknowledge the direction, leadership and example of all who ministered to us during the last year: Alan and Sincere, other visiting and retired ministers, worship leaders and authorised Local Preachers.

We pay tribute to the professionalism and commitment of our staff team.

We also acknowledge the contribution of our many volunteers, without which the mission and ministry of the church could not be sustained.

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for the year ended 31st August 2025

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

Law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the period and of its financial position at the end of the period. In preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view, the trustees should follow best practice and:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 26/02/2026 and signed on their behalf by

Reverend Alan Bradley
Minister

Independent examiner's report
to the trustees of
Knutsford Methodist Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025 which are set out on pages 15 to 30.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity'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 charity'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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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.

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.

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA

Slade & Cooper Limited, Chartered Certified Accountants
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street
Manchester, M4 6JG
Date: 09/03/2026

Knutsford Methodist Church
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 August 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	295,550	3,297	298,847	196,174
Other trading activities	4	42,353	-	42,353	33,766
Investments	5	8,644	-	8,644	6,659
Other Income	6	2,768	-	2,768	3,585
Total income		349,315	3,297	352,612	240,184
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	282,823	2,886	285,709	266,734
Total expenditure		282,823	2,886	285,709	266,734
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	11	66,492	411	66,903	(26,550)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		66,492	411	66,903	(26,550)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		3,044,321	5,816	3,050,137	3,076,687
Total funds carried forward		3,110,813	6,227	3,117,040	3,050,137

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	2,877,168	2,880,271
Total fixed assets		2,877,168	2,880,271
Current assets			
Debtors	15	17,160	33,471
Cash at bank and in hand	16	234,884	140,505
Total current assets		252,044	173,976
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	17	(12,172)	(4,110)
Net current assets		239,872	169,866
Net assets		3,117,040	3,050,137
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	18	6,227	5,816
Unrestricted income funds	19	3,110,813	3,044,321
Total charity funds		3,117,040	3,050,137

The notes on pages 18 to 30 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 26/02/ 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Reverend Alan Bradley (Minister)

David Tomkins (Trustee)

Knutsford Methodist Church
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ending 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash provided by/ (used in) operating activities	21	85,735	(34,430)
<i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>			
Interest		8,644	6,659
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	-
Cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities		8,644	6,659
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		94,379	(27,771)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		140,505	168,276
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		234,884	140,505

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity, Knutsford Methodist Church meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

No key judgments were made by the trustees which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met and when it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

d Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

e Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

f Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

g Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Freehold building	Based on insurance valuation and not depreciat
Office fixtures and fittings	10 years
Equipment	3 years

h Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

i Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

j Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

k Funds held as agent

As the charity has no control over the funds which they received as an agent, they do not form any part of the balance sheet or statement of financial activities. The movement of the funds is presented in the note only.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

I Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution workplace pension scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 12. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is an unincorporated charity, registered as a charity in England & Wales.

3 Income from donations and offerings

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £
Offerings	143,877	-	143,877
Donations	18,439	3,297	21,736
Legacy	101,773	-	101,773
Gift Aid	31,461	-	31,461
Total	295,550	3,297	298,847

Previous reporting period

	<i>Unrestricted £</i>	<i>Restricted £</i>	<i>Total 2024 £</i>
<i>Offerings</i>	<i>138,101</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>138,101</i>
<i>Donations</i>	<i>24,420</i>	<i>1,328</i>	<i>25,748</i>
<i>Gift Aid</i>	<i>32,325</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>32,325</i>
Total	194,846	1,328	196,174

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £
Lettings Income	41,032	-	41,032
Refreshments	56	-	56
Other fees	1,265	-	1,265
Total	42,353	-	42,353

Previous reporting period

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Lettings Income	32,309	-	32,309
Refreshments	67	-	67
Other fees	1,390	-	1,390
Total	33,766	-	33,766

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from bank deposits	8,644	-	8,644	6,659
	8,644	-	8,644	6,659
<i>Total by fund 31 August 2024</i>	6,477	182	6,659	

All of the charity's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts.

6 Other Income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
Other Income	2,768	-	2,768	3,585
	2,768	-	2,768	3,585
<i>Total by fund 31 August 2024</i>	3,585	-	3,585	

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

7 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs (see note 12)	41,822	34,232
Circuit Assessment	155,004	143,000
Premises Costs	64,742	51,850
Depreciation	3,103	4,727
Administration costs	16,830	28,825
Grants Payable (see note 9)	2,000	2,000
Governance costs (see note 8)	2,208	2,100
	285,709	266,734
	2025 £	2024 £
Restricted expenditure	2,886	15,012
Unrestricted expenditure	282,823	251,722
	285,709	266,734

8 Analysis of governance costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Accountancy services (incl. VAT)	2,208	2,100
	2,208	2,100

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

9 Grant making activities

Name of institution	2025 £	2024 £
Methodist Church World Mission	1,000	1,000
Methodist Church Mission in Britain	500	500
Support Fund for Presbyters/Deacons	250	250
Leaders of Worship/Preachers Trust	250	250
	2,000	2,000

All grants have been made to institutions to provide further resources to their mission and ministry.

10 Funds received as agent

Name of Party	Balance held at 1 September 2024	Amounts received	Amounts paid out	Balance held at 31 August 2025
Action for Children	-	474	(474)	-
Christian Aid	-	92	(92)	-
Community Garden	-	700	(700)	-
East Cheshire hospice	92	660	(752)	-
Friendship café	-	509	(509)	-
JMA	-	70	(70)	-
May Day committee	-	582	(582)	-
MHA	-	290	(290)	-
Mission in Britain	11	-	(11)	-
Oasis Gorton	-	425	(425)	-
Staff leaving gifts	-	515	(515)	-
Tearfund	-	545	(545)	-
Welcome Church	-	64	(64)	-
Wood St Mission	-	60	(60)	-
Total	103	4,986	(5,089)	-

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

Previous reporting period

Name of Party	Balance at 1 September 2023	Amounts received	Amounts paid out	Balance at 31 August 2024
Action for Children	-	20	(20)	-
All we can harvest	-	40	(40)	-
East Cheshire hospice	-	92	-	92
Hope Central	-	277	(277)	-
JMA	-	76	(76)	-
Knutsford in Bloom	-	554	(554)	-
May Day committee	-	100	(100)	-
Mission in Britain	-	11	-	11
World mission	-	257	(257)	-
Total	-	1,427	(1,324)	103

11 Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation	3,103	4,727
IE's remuneration - accountancy fees (excl. VAT)	1,325	1,260
Independent examiner's fees (excl. VAT)	515	490

12 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	28,969	24,674
Pension costs	1,551	942
Costs of Layworkers and Pioneer Pastor, Zac's House	11,302	8,616
	41,822	34,232

No employee has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2024: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 2 (2024: 2).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £18,291 (2024: £15,486).

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

13 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Amanda Vickers, a trustee who is also an employee (2024: Amanda Vickers), received total remuneration of £18,291 in the year (2024: £12,170).

No (2024:No) members of the council received travel and subsistence expenses during the year of £Nil (2024:£Nil).

Aggregate donations without conditions from related parties were £25,374 (2024: £36,686).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year (2024: nil).

The following trustees also served as trustees of the Alderley Edge & Knutsford Methodist Circuit (Charity number: 1127258):

Revd Alan Bradley	Dorothy Richards	Peter Freeman
Bryan Peak	Elizabeth Hall	Peter Richards
Chris Barratt	Jenny Bailey	Revd Sincere Makunde
Denise Archer	Liz McGrath	

The costs of the Circuit, which essentially comprise the District Assessment, Ministers' Stipends and associated employment costs and the costs of the Manses they occupy are allocated between the various churches in the Circuit, linked to their respective membership figures. This is referred to as the Circuit Assessment and for KMC in 2024/25 was £155,004 (2023/24 was £143,000).

The Circuit Budget and the associated Assessments are determined by the trustees of the Circuit, which include representation from each church in the Circuit and currently exceed 30 in number.

The 11 KMC trustees take part in the decision making process of the Circuit but are not in a position to exert a disproportionate influence on its decisions.

Staff Remuneration

Members of staff are authorised by CPD to be members of the Council.

Their remuneration is set by the Church Council through its consideration and approval of annual budgets with any annual increase usually following national guidelines issued for the remuneration of ministers and lay workers.

Members of staff do not take part in any discussions or vote in Council meetings on the terms and conditions of their employment.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

14 Fixed assets: tangible assets

Cost	Building	Furniture £	Equipment £	Total £
At 1 September 2024	2,870,187	31,031	8,355	2,909,573
At 31 August 2025	2,870,187	31,031	8,355	2,909,573
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2024	-	20,947	8,355	29,302
Charge for the year	-	3,103	-	3,103
At 31 August 2025	-	24,050	8,355	32,405
Net book value				
At 31 August 2025	2,870,187	6,981	-	2,877,168
At 31 August 2024	2,870,187	10,084	-	2,880,271

15 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	-	2,751
Other debtors	-	12,414
Prepayments and accrued income	17,160	18,306
	17,160	33,471

16 Cash at bank and in hand

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank and on hand	234,884	140,505
	234,884	140,505

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals	11,985	4,015
Taxation and social security costs	187	95
	12,172	4,110

18 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Friendship Café	3,937	3,199	(2,628)	-	4,508
Benevolent Fund	1,879	98	(258)	-	1,719
Total	5,816	3,297	(2,886)	-	6,227

Previous reporting period

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Northwich Initiative (Zac's House)	12,424	182	(12,606)	-	-
Friendship Café	5,015	1,228	(2,306)	-	3,937
Benevolent Fund	1,879	100	(100)	-	1,879
Total	19,318	1,510	(15,012)	-	5,816

The transfer in to Zac's House is in respect of an internal grant given from KMC to Zac's.

Name of Fund	Description
Benevolent Fund (Internal Organisation)	Payments are made to alleviate crisis situations faced by individuals, both members and non-members of the church, who have a demonstrated need.
Zac's House	Zac's House is a church plant in Northwich, Cheshire.
Friendship Café	Regular meetings run by the church for dementia sufferers and their primary carers.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

19 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 August 2025 £
General fund	3,010,039	345,753	(282,823)	-	3,072,969
The Welcome Church	34,282	3,562	-	-	37,844
	<u>3,044,321</u>	<u>349,315</u>	<u>(282,823)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,110,813</u>
Previous reporting period	<i>Balance at 1 September 2023 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers £</i>	<i>As at 31 August 2024 £</i>
General fund	3,026,475	235,286	(251,722)	-	3,010,039
The Welcome	30,894	3,388	-	-	34,282
	<u>3,057,369</u>	<u>238,674</u>	<u>(251,722)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,044,321</u>

Name of

unrestricted fund Description, nature and purposes of the fund

General fund	The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds and restricted funds
The Welcome Church	Included in Trustees Report.

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	2,877,168	-	-	2,877,168
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	195,801	37,844	6,227	239,872
	<u>3,072,969</u>	<u>37,844</u>	<u>6,227</u>	<u>3,117,040</u>
Previous reporting period	<i>General fund £</i>	<i>Designated funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	2,880,271	-	-	2,880,271
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	129,768	34,282	5,816	169,866
	<u>3,010,039</u>	<u>34,282</u>	<u>5,816</u>	<u>3,050,137</u>

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

21 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	66,903	(26,550)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	3,103	4,727
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(8,644)	(6,659)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	16,311	(3,423)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	8,062	(2,525)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	85,735	(34,430)

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 (continued)

22 Prior year Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	194,846	1,328	196,174	225,618
Charitable activities	-	-	-	33,500
Other	33,766	-	33,766	33,609
Investments	6,477	182	6,659	4,568
Other Income	3,585	-	3,585	4,260
Total income	238,674	1,510	240,184	301,555
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	251,722	15,012	266,734	303,573
Total expenditure	251,722	15,012	266,734	303,573
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	(13,048)	(13,502)	(26,550)	(2,018)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year	(13,048)	(13,502)	(26,550)	(2,018)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	3,057,369	19,318	3,076,687	3,078,705
Total funds carried forward	3,044,321	5,816	3,050,137	3,076,687

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Accounts

Charity Number: 1130195

KNUTSFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31st August 2024

Knutsford Methodist Church
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31st August 2024

Charity no. 1130195

Registered office and operational address Princess St., Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6BY

Trustees Those who served during the year and up to the date of this report were:

Amanda Vickers	Staff
Anne Fearn	From April 2024
Bryan Peak	Treasurer
Carol Bradley	
Carol Roberts	From April 2024
Chris Barratt	
Chris Robertson	Co-opted from October 2023
David Tomkins	
Dawn Freeman	
Dorothy Richards	Senior Steward
Elizabeth Hall	Circuit representative
Elizabeth Waters	
Gail Crawford	Until April 2024
Gill Royle	
Hannah Hill	Staff (from September 2024)
Hugh Chapman	
Jackie Robertson	
Jackie Tomkins	
Jenny Bailey	
Joanne Taylor	
John Mills	
Linda Bowler	
Liz McGrath	Staff
Nigel Langham	
Peter Freeman	Staff (until October 2024)
Revd Alan Bradley	Chair
Revd Sincere Makunde	From September 2023
Stuart Crawford	Secretary (from October 2023)
Vicky Royle	Until April 2024
Will Waters	

Also Trustees of Alderley Edge and Knutsford Methodist Circuit

Bryan Peak
Chris Barratt
Dorothy Richards
Elizabeth Hall
Jenny Bailey
Liz McGrath
Revd Alan Bradley
Revd Sincere Makunde

Knutsford Methodist Church
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31st August 2024

Personnel

Revd Alan Bradley	Minister and Superintendent of the Alderley Edge and Knutsford Circuit
Revd Sincere Makunde	Probationary Minister (from September 2023)
Peter Freeman	Children & Families Worker (until October 2024)
Hannah Hill	Circuit Children & Schools Worker (from September 2024)
Liz McGrath	Church and Community Pastoral Worker
Amanda Vickers	Administrator and Assistant Treasurer
Sid Walker	Caretaker (until May 2024)
Adam Sheridan	Maintenance Officer (from September 2024)

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Drummond House, 1 Redheughs Avenue, Edinburgh EH12 9JN

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, 9 Bonhill St, London EC2A 4PE

Independent Examiner

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA, Slade & Cooper Limited, Beehive Mill, Jersey Street, Manchester, M4 6JG

Website

www.kmc.org.uk

Knutsford Methodist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st August 2024

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2024.

Reference and administrative information set out previously form part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's constitution, and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Summary

Knutsford Methodist Church (**KMC**) is a Christian church of some 250 members, embedded in the busy town of Knutsford. It opened its doors on Princess Street in 1864 (although was in the town many years prior to that) and, since then, has been a place of worship for the town, a place of welcome to all and a centre for support to the local community.

A registered charity, it is part of the Methodist Church in Britain and one of 5 churches and communities in its Alderley Edge & Knutsford Circuit. In turn this is now part of a newly created North West of England District

MISSION

'To grow and share in the love of God'

Our vision is: *to be a caring community that God shapes and moulds to reflect the life of Jesus, to make a profound difference to the lives and wider community of the people in and around Knutsford.*

At KMC we recognise that all of life is to be lived in response to God's grace and love in Christ.

Our mission is to extend the invitation to:

- Worship God
- Find Community
- Encounter Jesus
- Make a Difference

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worshipping God

Regular structured acts of worship comprised:

Knutsford Methodist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st August 2024

Our main all age Sunday service at 10 am, streamed online through the KMC YouTube channel.

A mid-week Communion.

Cameo held monthly.

Oasis also monthly.

Attendance at the Sunday morning service remained at an average of 100. Investment in livestreaming technology enables those who are shielding, finding it difficult to attend or living elsewhere to watch the service remotely (between 20 and 50 watch online either at the time or at a later date).

Significantly higher numbers attended the full range of services we offered at the major festivals of Easter and Christmas, including services for local uniformed organisations at Christmas.

We continued to offer a mix of traditional and contemporary music and, through our Ministers, visiting and local preachers, delivered Bible-based teaching, seeking to create spaces and opportunities where all ages can worship and pray together in ways that are inclusive, relevant and spiritually uplifting.

The mid- week lunchtime Communion service, an opportunity for those working in and visiting the town centre, was attended by 20 worshippers on average.

Much valued was Cameo, a monthly service of hymns, friendship and fellowship, aimed at senior citizens and those who find it difficult to attend our main service, with attendance in the range 25/35.

Oasis, a meditative service on Sunday evenings with prayers for healing and wholeness, had an average attendance of 20.

We continued to support our community by helping mark special life events: baptisms & dedications, funerals, marriages.

We offered a range of corporate prayer opportunities, including a new meeting prior to the main morning service.

In addition to our formal membership, there were many others who attended our services and events last year and see KMC as “their church”.

Finding community

House groups provided the context for much pastoral care and personal growth. We currently have 11 groups with a membership in the region of 130, around half the overall church membership. They are open to anyone and attendees included some from other

Knutsford Methodist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st August 2024

churches or with no church background, who find this connection with KMC valuable and are welcomed and valued by the church in return.

This year many of the groups followed an 'Everyone an Evangelist' course, studied the book of Genesis during 'Bible month' and then commenced a study of the book of Romans in autumn, linked to a preaching series. Groups are though free to select their own material.

For many, their house group is at the heart of what it means to belong to KMC, finding there a source of study and learning, fellowship and spiritual growth. Our ongoing objective is to grow the groups and we actively encourage those new to the church to join a group.

Monthly coffee mornings for the wider church have been organised by a number of the groups, with visitors very much welcome. The groups usually chose a charity as a focus, helping raise both awareness and funds.

We hosted an inspiring Zimbabwean fellowship weekend in summer, with a visit from the Dumisa men's choir and members from the Northern region of the Zimbabwean Church.

'Life groups' included Monday Club (meeting monthly, open to ladies) and 'Men's breakfasts', both of which are open to those not currently church members. Over the past year 'Men's Breakfasts' has significantly expanded its range of activities to include regular walks in Tatton and meals in a local restaurant, as well as offering advice through a WhatsApp group on practical issues referred to it.

Renew Wellbeing Café provided a weekly drop-in space, "where it is okay not to be okay" and people can experience peace, welcome and friendship. We have received referrals from the local social prescriber for the town's medical practices, seeking support for patients with mental health struggles.

We offered an extensive structure of pastoral support to the elderly, housebound, those in full time care and others in our community, including growing work and ministry within local care homes. Much of this work is directed by our Pastoral Worker who keeps in touch with those bereaved and sends greetings on significant anniversaries.

Bereavement care is indeed a vital part of our pastoral ministry. Much appreciated was the annual bereavement service when those who lost loved ones came to light candles in remembrance and hope.

A special highlight and initiative this year was the RHS Tatton Garden Show in July 2024, with KMC partnering with the national Methodist Church centrally, which sponsored a garden under the banner 'This garden isn't finished without you'. As well as offering a visible Christian presence at this busy and high profile show, the garden presented overlapping themes of diversity, environmental care and flourishing together in community.

It was an outstanding success, winning a RHS Gold Medal, Best Show Garden and the Environmental Innovation Award.

Knutsford Methodist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st August 2024

Perhaps more importantly, many people visited the garden and were engaged in conversation by a range of volunteers, including 30 from KMC. They were able to share their faith and help people notice that God is present and with them.

Now relocated to our neighbouring Mobberley Church, the garden will have sequestered by 2030 all the carbon used in its construction. It is offered as a wellbeing garden, as we work alongside Knutsford Medical Partnership to offer a calming and reflective space.

Encountering Jesus

We believe all children and young people matter and they are valued and welcomed by KMC, encouraging their full participation in the life of the church. Our aims are to help them to grow in their love and worship of God, to nurture and enable all to learn about the way of faith in Jesus and to share the good news of God's love with them.

Our ministries included KidZone on Sunday mornings alongside the main service, the much valued Open the Book presentations (Bible teaching through drama in local primary schools) and helping deliver the RE syllabus in schools. Especially popular was "Jolly Tots", a weekly term time group where some 30 parents and carers with their pre-school children met informally in a safe environment. Through this, members, usually with no prior connection with KMC, can form new networks and relationships. With strong demand, we had to introduce a waiting list for a time as we reflected on the practicality of accommodating increased numbers.

In Autumn 2023 we launched a dedicated youth group "Rock Solid", for those in school years 5-9, meeting fortnightly and which is steadily growing.

A church weekend was held in March 2024 with the theme "Imagining the Cross"; it was open to all, with a range of activities, including a faith supper, worship and teaching, workshops and a Songs of Praise evening.

The town continued to host a monthly Makers' Market and we responded with an open doors policy, offering a warm welcome to those visiting through refreshments, conversation, a sanctuary, prayer as required and access to all its facilities.

We ran an Alpha course from September 2023, exploring the basics of the Christian faith, offered as a resource also to the Circuit and wider community and attended by a number of members of the Hope Central community who now meet at St Cross Church.

A comprehensive brochure detailing the church's programmes and the activities taking place in the Community Centre, under the banner "A centre for the whole community" was prepared and distributed, especially to the residents of new housing developments in the town.

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Making a difference

Our church and community centre is situated right in the heart of this lively market town, opening directly on to one of the town's main shopping streets. The building has been extensively modified internally over the last 20 years to provide a flexible space for the church and wider community and has become a hub for a wide range of community groups, over 30 of which regularly use the building.

This is combined with it remaining at its heart a safe place, a warm space, a sacred space for reflection and prayer.

Although we serve a mainly affluent area, there are pockets of deprivation, including real food poverty. KMC members continued to play their part in addressing these needs, offering their individual gifts and support to 2 local charities: 'Hope Central' (a Christian charity operating a busy food bank, debt counselling through CAP and other services) and 'The Welcome' (a busy community centre). We have inherited the role of the former Welcome Methodist Church in ministering to the social and spiritual needs of the people of the Longridge and Shaw Heath areas of Knutsford and continue to evaluate how we might best deliver this.

"Friendship Café" is offered weekly as a place where those with dementia are cared for and recognised as a valued part of the community and where carers find mutual support and encouragement. It provides a variety of appropriate activities, including singing, exercises, reminiscence, crafts and trips out. Transport is provided if needed. This has proved a much appreciated and valued social outreach

KMC and its members support other organisations and charities addressing social and faith issues which align with our own objectives, by facilitating fundraising collections for them and by direct grants.

Organisations supported last year, whether financially, in practical help or through raising awareness, included:

- Hope Central (a food bank, also offering debt counselling through Christians against Poverty and other services in Knutsford and NE Cheshire).
- Tearfund (partnering with churches in the world's poorest countries to tackle poverty and injustice).
- Wood Street Mission (improving the life chances of children and families living in poverty in the Manchester area).
- All We Can (Methodist international development and relief organisation).
- Methodist Women in Britain (its mission summarised as "For women, for justice, for Christ").
- Action for Children (protecting and supporting children and young people).
- East Cheshire Hospice.
- JMA (enabling children to learn about and support the mission of the Methodist Church).
- Mission in Britain (Methodist Charity helping people in our communities and beyond).
- Crisis (UK homeless charity).

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- Oasis Gorton (helping people in the community in critical and difficult situations to rebuild and re-engage).

We have signed up to be a "Welcome Church", joining an organisation which encourages churches to welcome and support refugees and asylum seekers. A number of church members have for some time been helping with English classes for refugees and supporting them in other ways.

We continued the process of becoming an Eco Church, moving us towards a more environmentally sensitive way of living with a reduced carbon footprint, under the guidance of a Social Responsibility Team. This year we obtained the Bronze Award and are now working towards the Silver. As a visible reminder of our responsibility of stewardship of God's creation, we have created and nurtured a small Eco church garden.

We relinquished stewardship of Zac's Kingdom Community (**Zac's**), a pioneering initiative we launched 5 years ago in the nearby town of Northwich, at the end of August 2023, but were only able to distribute its residual funds in the financial year under report.

The Community will continue its valuable work, renamed Hope Community Church and now under the oversight of Hoole Baptist Church.

Members of KMC continued to give generously to many local, national and international causes, financially and through service. A prime example was Hope Through Action, which helps young people in South Africa develop their potential, with a number of church members appointed as trustees. The church supports and encourages all its members in these personal commitments.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the consolidated level we recorded a fall in income of £61k compared with the previous year and an operating deficit of £26k but these results were distorted by the situation with Zac's. Breaking down the results into their constituent parts gives a more complete picture:

Restricted funds:

(Zac's Kingdom Community, The Friendship Café & Benevolent Fund)

Closing net assets £6k

The main feature was passing over the residual funds of Zac's, amounting to £12k, to the successor Hope Community Church and to the Northwich Methodist Circuit, in the proportions represented by the previous giving by Zac's members and Methodist Church grants respectively.

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Designated funds:

(The Welcome)

Closing net assets £34k

The previous donation of £5k pa from the Circuit to the Welcome Charity, which passed through these funds, has now ceased. Financial activity was therefore very modest and year-end funds grew slightly.

We continue to consider how to best use the accumulated funds to further our ministry to the Longridge community.

Unrestricted funds:

(Core Knutsford operations)

Closing net assets £130k

Operating deficit 2023/24 £13k

Key to our forward planning is committed giving by church members and this was virtually unchanged on the previous year. Other forms of giving are important but less predictable and, including them, there was a fall of £20k year on year. Our other main source of income, rents from letting out rooms, however remained strong and well above budget.

Expenditure grew by £20k year on year. The main increase was in our largest item of expenditure, the Circuit Assessment (from £120k to £143k) whilst overall premises expenditure of £52k included significant repairs. The latter were in our medium term plan but had to be brought forward. They included replastering the East Wall of the Sanctuary (supported by a 50% insurance contribution) and repointing flagstones outside church which had become a hazard. All work required from the last Quinquennial Property Inspection has now been completed or is on track.

Other costs were held overall within budget.

The deficit on our core operations was a significant adverse swing on the previous year but expected and budgeted. We had benefitted in 2022/23 from a subsidy from Circuit reserves holding down the Assessment. The deficit was comfortably absorbed by the unrestricted reserves we held.

Future finance plans:

We have committed £45k over 4 years from September 2024 (in addition to substantial contributions from Circuit and District) to the new full time Circuit Children and Schools Worker.

Subsequent to the year end, we received a significant legacy of £79k from the estate of a former church member (and with a further sum to come) . Although this is unrestricted, we do not intend at this stage to simply merge it in with our existing funds but identify the funds separately, whilst we consider how best to invest this generous gift in our mission and ministry.

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Reserves policy

Reserves are held to cushion us from the primary risks of falls in giving income and unexpected property repair costs (as covered more fully later).

The trustees' policy is to hold between 3 and 6 months' budgeted operating expenditure in unrestricted liquid reserves (defined as net current assets and excluding designated funds).

At the year-end we held unrestricted reserves of £130k, equating to 6 months of routine expenditure, at the top end of our policy range. Reserves are primarily invested with the Central Board of Finance of the Methodist Church.

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

KMC's governing documents are the Methodist Church Act 1976 and the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. Its Council has authority over all the church's ministry and met on 3 occasions during the year, supported by various committees. Members of the Council are the Managing Trustees of the charity but have no beneficial interest.

Appointment to Council is primarily by election by the church members at the annual General Church Meeting (serving for a maximum period of 6 years), together with a number of ex-officio members. During the year 12 trustees were also trustees of the Circuit, which is responsible inter alia for ministers' stipends and housing, funding these by raising assessments on its constituent churches.

Trustees are supported in their understanding of the role and responsibilities, in particular on first appointment, using guidance issued by the Methodist Church nationally. Any conflicts of interest are properly declared in Council meetings in line with our formal policy.

Chairing the Council is Revd Alan Bradley, in his role as Superintendent of the Circuit with particular responsibility for KMC. In September 2024 Alan was appointed as one of the Deputy Chairs in the new North West of England District and Mission Area Lead in the Manchester region for a 3 year term. We wish him every success in this exciting and demanding post which he will share on a 50/50 basis with his continuing role as Circuit Superintendent.

We also extend our best wishes to Revd Neal Stanton, leader of the former Zac's Kingdom Community and to Jo Wallwork, his administrative support as they develop the new Hope Community Church.

We were particularly delighted to welcome Revd Sincere Makunde at the beginning of this September as Probationary Minister to support Alan, particularly at KMC and Plumley. An inspiring service was held at KMC, led by the District Chair and supported by many of Sincere's friends and colleagues who had travelled considerable distances to be present.

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Peter Freeman retired as Children's and Schools Worker in October 2024 after 10 years of leadership in this key role and the Trustees express their deep thanks for his service. He will continue to support KMC and the Circuit as a local Preacher and in other ways. We welcome as his replacement Hannah Hill, who started her Circuit-based ministry in this post at the beginning of September.

Working with the Ministers are elected Church Stewards, drawn from lay members of the church, split between a Leadership team (elected at the Annual Church Meeting), focused on the overall direction and management of the church and a Worship team resourcing services and events.

Members of staff are authorised by CPD to be members of the Council but take no part in any discussion on the terms of their employment. Administrative staff are employed directly by KMC whilst other staff (defined as 'lay workers') are employed by the Circuit, with their costs charged directly to KMC or indirectly via the assessment process, depending on their role.

We record our thanks to Sid Walker, who retired as caretaker in May 2024, for his 11 years of service in this busy role. We were delighted to welcome his successor, Adam Sheridan at the beginning of September, with a reshaped and retitled maintenance role.

We continue to be blessed by our team of gifted and committed paid members of staff.

Risk management

The trustees recognise that it is neither possible nor appropriate to seek to eliminate risk entirely. Risk-taking is inherent within the task of communicating and living out the Gospel and we are prepared to embrace risks which aim to advance KMC's core purposes, whilst minimising those that might have a negative impact.

Flowing from this the trustees have approved a range of policies, reviewed regularly.

In particular the trustees take their responsibility for safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults very seriously and the Safeguarding Officer is a trustee and reports to each meeting of the Council. Our comprehensive policy, compliant with national guidelines, is audited and adopted annually and includes the provision for regular training of staff and volunteers.

The Methodist Church has adopted a "Strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity" as a justice seeking church working towards inclusion and we have fully embraced this. A Domestic Abuse Charter issued by the Methodist Church was also adopted.

Users of the building are required to undertake risk assessments and an updated Health & Safety policy was adopted during the year.

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KMC complies with the General Data Protection Regulations, adopting the standard Data Protection and Privacy policies developed by the Methodist Church.

Insurable risks are covered by a comprehensive insurance policy.

Financial risks lie in 2 main areas:

Over 85% of our income is represented by the voluntary giving of church members, which is clearly a strength. However individual circumstances will vary over time and we are very conscious of the increasing age of our membership.

To mitigate this, we periodically issue appeals to members to maintain their giving in real terms, whilst we seek to grow the membership, especially through programmes designed to attract younger families.

A 150 year old building can produce unexpected repair and maintenance costs – or they may be planned but have to be brought forward (as occurred this year).

In mitigation we are required to commission a formal and very thorough professional inspection every 5 years. From this we schedule required maintenance, according to its urgency. With major items of expenditure or where there would be real pressure on our operating budgets, we have the option of issuing a specific appeal to our members for additional donations. This has been very successful when undertaken in recent years.

Although our largest item of expenditure - the annual Assessment - is decided at Circuit level and we could face increases beyond what we consider to be reasonable, we see this as more a theoretical risk. We have a very full representation on Circuit decision-making bodies and, as part of the budget setting process, discuss and agree with other churches in the Circuit what should be an equitable distribution between us of Circuit costs.

Plans for the future

We will continue to offer a wide range of services and styles of worship, open to new ideas to help individuals of all ages and backgrounds to worship God in meaningful ways. A Worship Workshop in January will help us maintain a fresh approach.

Additionally a newly formed group will look specifically at how we can be more inclusive and undertake an equality impact assessment for worship.

Another group will prayerfully seek to discern how we can faithfully use the generous legacy we have recently received, together with the funds designated as "The Welcome" and make recommendations for discussion by Council.

We plan to run an Alpha course in January 2025, coinciding with the national relaunch of the Alpha youth programme.

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A 'Church Weekend' will be held in March 2025 with a range of activities on offer.

Under the leadership of the new full time Circuit Children's and Schools worker, we will seek to expand all our existing ministries to children, both within and outside the church environment.

Succession planning remains an ongoing challenge but we will seek to develop a more structured and proactive approach.

The trustees have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission and consider they have complied with the "public benefit requirement" as defined by the Charities Act 2011 in the year ended 31st August 2024 and that our range of programmes will continue to deliver this in the current year.

Acknowledgements

The trustees acknowledge the direction, leadership and example of all who ministered to us during the last year: Alan and Sincere, visiting ministers, worship leaders and authorised Local Preachers.

We pay tribute to the professionalism and commitment of our staff team.

We also acknowledge the contribution of our many volunteers, without which the mission and ministry of the church could not be sustained.

Reverend Alan Bradley
Minister
Date: 27/02/2025

Independent examiner's report
to the trustees of
Knutsford Methodist Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2024 which are set out on pages 15 to 30.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity'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 charity'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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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.

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.

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA

Slade & Cooper Limited, Chartered Certified Accountants
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street
Manchester, M4 6JG
Date: 06/03/2025

Knutsford Methodist Church
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	194,846	1,328	196,174	225,618
Charitable activities	4	-	-	-	33,500
Other trading activities	5	33,766	-	33,766	33,609
Investments	6	6,477	182	6,659	4,568
Other Income	7	3,585	-	3,585	4,260
Total income		238,674	1,510	240,184	301,555
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	8	251,722	15,012	266,734	303,573
Total expenditure		251,722	15,012	266,734	303,573
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	12	(13,048)	(13,502)	(26,550)	(2,018)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		(13,048)	(13,502)	(26,550)	(2,018)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		3,057,369	19,318	3,076,687	3,078,705
Total funds carried forward		3,044,321	5,816	3,050,137	3,076,687

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Note	£	2024	£	£	2023	£
Fixed assets							
Tangible assets	15		2,880,271			2,884,998	
Total fixed assets			2,880,271			2,884,998	
Current assets							
Debtors	16	33,471			30,048		
Cash at bank and in hand	17	140,505			168,276		
Total current assets		173,976			198,324		
Liabilities							
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	18	(4,110)			(6,635)		
Net current assets			169,866			191,689	
Net assets			3,050,137			3,076,687	
Funds of the charity:							
Restricted income funds	19		5,816			19,318	
Unrestricted income funds	20		3,044,321			3,057,369	
Total charity funds			3,050,137			3,076,687	

The notes on pages 18 to 30 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 27/ 02/ 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Reverend Alan Bradley (Minister)

David Tomkins (Trustee)

Knutsford Methodist Church
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ending 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	22	(34,430)	3,780
<i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>			
Interest		6,659	4,568
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	-
Cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		6,659	4,568
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(27,771)	8,348
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		168,276	159,928
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		140,505	168,276

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity, Knutsford Methodist Church meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

No key judgments were made by the trustees which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met and when it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

d Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

e Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

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Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

f Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

g Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Freehold building	Based on insurance valuation and not depreciated
Office fixtures and fittings	10 years
Equipment	3 years

h Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

i Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

j Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

k Funds held as agent

As the charity has no control over the funds which they received as an agent, they do not form any part of the balance sheet or statement of financial activities. The movement of the funds is presented in the note only.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

I Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution workplace pension scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 13. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is an unincorporated charity, registered as a charity in England & Wales.

3 Income from donations and offerings

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £
Offerings	138,101	-	138,101
Donations	24,420	1,328	25,748
Gift Aid	32,325	-	32,325
Total	194,846	1,328	196,174

Previous reporting period

	<i>Unrestricted £</i>	<i>Restricted £</i>	<i>Total 2023 £</i>
<i>Offerings</i>	<i>145,065</i>	<i>4,605</i>	<i>149,670</i>
<i>Donations</i>	<i>36,232</i>	<i>5,101</i>	<i>41,333</i>
<i>Gift Aid</i>	<i>33,394</i>	<i>1,221</i>	<i>34,615</i>
Total	214,691	10,927	225,618

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Grant Income	-	-	-	33,500
Total	-	-	-	33,500
<i>Total by fund 31 August 2023</i>	-	33,500	33,500	

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £
Lettings Income	32,309	-	32,309
Refreshments	67	-	67
Other fees	1,390	-	1,390
Total	33,766	-	33,766

Previous reporting period

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Lettings Income	32,398	-	32,398
Refreshments	151	-	151
Other fees	1,060	-	1,060
Total	33,609	-	33,609

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from bank deposits	6,477	182	6,659	4,568
	6,477	182	6,659	4,568
<i>Total by fund 31 August 2023</i>	<i>3,962</i>	<i>606</i>	<i>4,568</i>	

All of the charity's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts.

7 Other Income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
Other Income	3,585	-	3,585	4,260
	3,585	-	3,585	4,260
<i>Total by fund 31 August 2023</i>	<i>4,260</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>4,260</i>	

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

8 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs (see note 13)	34,232	94,916
Circuit Assessment	143,000	120,000
Premises Costs	51,850	39,987
Depreciation	4,727	4,758
Administration costs	28,825	32,098
Grants Payable (see note 10)	2,000	9,810
Governance costs (see note 9)	2,100	2,004
	266,734	303,573
	2024 £	2023 £
Restricted expenditure	15,012	71,819
Unrestricted expenditure	251,722	231,754
	266,734	303,573

9 Analysis of governance costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Accountancy services (incl. VAT)	2,100	2,004
	2,100	2,004

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

10 Grant making activities

Name of institution	2024 £	2023 £
Methodist Church World Mission	1,000	1,500
Methodist Church Mission in Britain	500	1,500
Methodist Church Property Fund	-	1,000
Support Fund for Presbyters/Deacons	250	560
Leaders of Worship/Preachers Trust	250	250
The Welcome Charity	-	5,000
	2,000	9,810

All grants have been made to institutions to provide further resources to their mission and ministry.

11 Funds received as agent

Name of Party	Balance held at 1 September 2023	Amounts received	Amounts paid out	Balance held at 31 August 2024
Action for Children	-	20	(20)	-
All we can harvest	-	40	(40)	-
Christian Aid	-	-	-	-
East Cheshire hospice	-	92	-	92
Easter offering	-	-	-	-
Friendship café	-	-	-	-
Hope Central	-	277	(277)	-
JMA	-	76	(76)	-
Knutsford in Bloom	-	554	(554)	-
May Day committee	-	100	(100)	-
Mission in Britain	-	11	-	11
World mission	-	257	(257)	-
Total	-	1,427	(1,324)	103

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Previous reporting period

Name of Party	<i>Balance at 1 September 2022</i>	Amounts received	Amounts paid out	<i>Balance at 31 August 2023</i>
Action for Children	-	321	(321)	-
Christian Aid	-	14	(14)	-
East Cheshire hospice	-	578	(578)	-
Easter offering	-	8	(8)	-
Friendship café	-	96	(96)	-
Hope Central	-	846	(846)	-
JMA	-	62	(62)	-
Total	-	1,925	(1,925)	-

12 Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation	4,727	4,758
IE's remuneration - accountancy fees (excl. VAT)	1,260	1,190
Independent examiner's fees (excl. VAT)	490	480

13 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	24,674	33,680
Pension costs	942	1,613
Redundancy	-	668
Costs of Layworkers and Pioneer Pastor, Zac's House	8,616	58,955
	34,232	94,916

No employee has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2023: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 2 (2023: 4).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £15,486 (2023: £20,758).

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

14 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Amanda Vickers, a trustee who is also an employee (2023: Amanda Vickers and Jo Wallwork), received total remuneration of £12,170 in the year (2023: £20,758).

No (2023:2) members of the council received travel and subsistence expenses during the year of £Nil (2023:£1,952).

Aggregate donations without conditions from related parties were £36,686 (2023: £36,205).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year (2023: nil).

The following trustees also served as trustees of the Alderley Edge & Knutsford Methodist Circuit (Charity number: 1127258):

Revd Alan Bradley	Elizabeth Hall
Bryan Peak	Jenny Bailey
Chris Barratt	Liz McGrath
Dorothy Richards	Revd Sincere Makunde

The costs of the Circuit, which essentially comprise the District Assessment, Ministers' Stipends and associated employment costs and the costs of the Manses they occupy are allocated between the various churches in the Circuit, linked to their respective membership figures. This is referred to as the Circuit Assessment and for KMC in 2023/24 was £143,000 (2022/23 was £120,000).

The Circuit Budget and the associated Assessments are determined by the trustees of the Circuit, which include representation from each church in the Circuit and currently exceed 30 in number.

The 8 KMC trustees take part in the decision making process of the Circuit but are not in a position to exert a disproportionate influence on its decisions.

Staff Remuneration

Members of staff are authorised by CPD to be members of the Council.

Their remuneration is set by the Church Council through its consideration and approval of annual budgets with any annual increase usually following national guidelines issued for the remuneration of ministers and lay workers.

Members of staff do not take part in any discussions or vote in Council meetings on the terms and conditions of their employment.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

15 Fixed assets: tangible assets

Cost	Building	Furniture £	Equipment £	Total £
At 1 September 2023	2,870,187	31,031	8,355	2,909,573
At 31 August 2024	2,870,187	31,031	8,355	2,909,573
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2023	-	17,844	6,731	24,575
Charge for the year	-	3,103	1,624	4,727
At 31 August 2024	-	20,947	8,355	29,302
Net book value				
At 31 August 2024	2,870,187	10,084	-	2,880,271
At 31 August 2023	2,870,187	13,187	1,624	2,884,998

16 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	2,751	-
Other debtors	12,414	12,453
Prepayments and accrued income	18,306	17,595
	33,471	30,048

17 Cash at bank and in hand

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank and on hand	140,505	168,276
	140,505	168,276

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals	4,015	6,471
Taxation and social security costs	95	164
	4,110	6,635

19 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Northwich Initiative (Zac's House)	12,424	182	(12,606)	-	-
Friendship Café	5,015	1,228	(2,306)	-	3,937
Benevolent Fund	1,879	100	(100)	-	1,879
Total	19,318	1,510	(15,012)	-	5,816
Previous reporting period	<i>Balance at 1 September 2022 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 August 2023 £</i>
Northwich Initiative (Zac's House)	40,151	40,432	(68,159)	-	12,424
Friendship Café	3,652	4,601	(3,238)	-	5,015
Benevolent Fund	2,301	-	(422)	-	1,879
Total	46,104	45,033	(71,819)	-	19,318

The transfer in to Zac's House is in respect of an internal grant given from KMC to Zac's.

Name of Fund	Description
Benevolent Fund (Internal Organisation)	Payments are made to alleviate crisis situations faced by individuals, both members and non-members of the church, who have a demonstrated need.
Zac's House	Zac's House is a church plant in Northwich, Cheshire.
Friendship Café	Regular meetings run by the church for dementia sufferers and their primary carers.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

20 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 August 2024 £
General fund	3,026,475	235,286	(251,722)	-	3,010,039
The Welcome Church	30,894	3,388	-	-	34,282
	<u>3,057,369</u>	<u>238,674</u>	<u>(251,722)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,044,321</u>
Previous reporting period	<i>Balance at 1 September 2022 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers £</i>	<i>As at 31 August 2023 £</i>
General fund	3,004,498	248,731	(226,754)	-	3,026,475
The Welcome	28,103	7,791	(5,000)	-	30,894
	<u>3,032,601</u>	<u>256,522</u>	<u>(231,754)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,057,369</u>

Name of

unrestricted fund Description, nature and purposes of the fund

General fund The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds and restricted funds
The Welcome Church Included in Trustees Report.

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	2,880,271	-	-	2,880,271
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	129,768	34,282	5,816	169,866
	<u>3,010,039</u>	<u>34,282</u>	<u>5,816</u>	<u>3,050,137</u>
Previous reporting period	<i>General fund £</i>	<i>Designated funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	2,884,998	-	-	2,884,998
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	141,477	30,894	19,318	191,689
	<u>3,026,475</u>	<u>30,894</u>	<u>19,318</u>	<u>3,076,687</u>

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

22 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	(26,550)	(2,018)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	4,727	4,758
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(6,659)	(4,568)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(3,423)	1,239
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(2,525)	4,369
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(34,430)	3,780

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

23 Prior year Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	214,691	10,927	225,618	220,066
Charitable activities	-	33,500	33,500	27,500
Other	33,609	-	33,609	30,029
Investments	3,962	606	4,568	540
Other Income	4,260	-	4,260	5,415
Total income	256,522	45,033	301,555	283,550
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	231,754	71,819	303,573	331,548
Total expenditure	231,754	71,819	303,573	331,548
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	24,768	(26,786)	(2,018)	(47,998)
Transfer between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year	24,768	(26,786)	(2,018)	(47,998)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	3,032,601	46,104	3,078,705	3,126,703
Total funds carried forward	3,057,369	19,318	3,076,687	3,078,705

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Accounts

Charity Number: 1130195

KNUTSFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31st August 2023

Knutsford Methodist Church
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31st August 2023

Charity no. 1130195

Registered office and operational address Princess St., Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6BY

Trustees Those who served during the year and up to the date of this report were:

Steve Atkinson	Secretary (until August 2023)
Jenny Bailey	
Chris Barratt	
Linda Bowler	
Revd Alan Bradley	Chair
Hugh Chapman	From April 2023
Gail Crawford	
Stuart Crawford	
Dawn Freeman	
Peter Freeman	Staff
Elizabeth Hall	Circuit representative
Suzy Keen	Until April 2023
Nigel Langham	
Liz McGrath	
John Mills	From April 2023
Bryan Peak	Treasurer
Dorothy Richards	
Chris Robertson	Co-opted from October 2023
Jackie Robertson	
Gill Royle	
Vicky Royle	
Alan Simpson	Until March 2023
Revd Neal Stanton	Until September 2023
Joanne Taylor	
David Tomkins	
Jackie Tomkins	
Amanda Vickers	Staff
Joanne Wallwork	Until April 2023
Elizabeth Waters	
Henry Waters	Until April 2023
Will Waters	

Knutsford Methodist Church
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31st August 2023

Personnel

Revd Alan Bradley	Minister and Superintendent of the Alderley Edge and Knutsford Circuit
Revd Sincere Makunde	Probationary Minister (from September 2023)
Revd Neal Stanton	Authorised Minister, Knutsford Methodist Church and Pioneer Pastor, Zac's Kingdom Community (until September 2023)
Peter Freeman	Children & Families Worker
Liz McGrath	Pastoral Worker
Amanda Vickers	Administrator and Assistant Treasurer
Joanne Wallwork	Zac's Kingdom Community Administrator (until September 2023)
Sid Walker	Caretaker
Peter Webb	Caretaker (until March 2023)

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Drummond House, 1 Redheughs Avenue, Edinburgh EH12 9JN

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, 9 Bonhill St, London EC2A 4PE

Independent Examiner

Catherine Hall FCCA DChA, Slade & Cooper Limited, Beehive Mill, Jersey Street, Manchester, M4 6JG

Website

www.kmc.org.uk

Knutsford Methodist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st August 2023

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2023.

Reference and administrative information set out previously form part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's constitution, and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Summary

Knutsford Methodist Church (**KMC**) is a Christian church of some 260 members, embedded in the busy town of Knutsford. Over 150 years old, it offers a modern place of worship in a historic setting.

A registered charity, it is part of the Methodist Church in Britain and one of 5 churches and communities in its Alderley Edge & Knutsford Circuit.

MISSION

We are an active and inclusive Christian community seeking *to grow and share the love of God*. Through our presence and programmes we offer an invitation to:

- Worship God
- Encounter Jesus
- Find community
- Make a difference

Although we report on our performance at KMC under these four separate headings, in reality much of what we do has elements of all of these invitations embedded within them.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worshipping God

“A shared life with God”

Our regular structured acts of worship comprised:

Our main all age Sunday service at 10 am, streamed online through the KMC YouTube channel.

A mid-week Communion.

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for the year ended 31st August 2023

Cameo held monthly.

Oasis also monthly.

Attendance at the Sunday morning service was in the range 100/120 over the last year. Investment in livestreaming technology, initially driven by the Covid pandemic, enabled those who were still shielding, finding it difficult to attend or living elsewhere to watch the service remotely. Higher numbers attended the full range of services we offered at the major festivals of Christmas and Easter (for example 160 at the main service on Easter Day).

We continued to offer a mix of traditional and contemporary music and, through our Ministers, visiting and local preachers, delivered Bible-based teaching, seeking to create spaces and opportunities where all ages can worship and pray together in ways that are inclusive, relevant and spiritually uplifting.

The mid- week lunchtime Communion service was offered as part of our town centre ministry, attended by 20 worshippers on average.

For those sufficiently mobile, much valued was Cameo, a monthly service of hymns, friendship and fellowship, aimed at senior citizens and those who find it difficult to attend our main service, with attendance in the range 25/35.

Oasis, a meditative Communion service with prayers for healing and wholeness, also had an average attendance of 20.

We continued to support our community by helping mark special life events: baptisms, dedications, funerals, marriages.

In addition to our formal membership, there were many others who attended our services and events last year and see KMC as “their church”.

Encountering Jesus

“A place of unconditional love and transformation where we grow in faith”

We have a passion to share the gospel with the younger members of our community, building on the excellent relationships we enjoy with our local schools. One manifestation of the latter was a regular programme of Bible stories in local primary schools through drama called ‘Open the Book’. We also offered Harvest and Easter Experiences in the church building, attended by substantial numbers of local schoolchildren. Internally we hosted a meeting for all the churches in the Circuit reviewing our mission in schools and with children and families.

We continued to offer a programme of activities in church on Sundays for different age groups under the banner KIDZONE, offering a safe space of welcome and nurture, where children learn about the Bible and are introduced to the way of faith in Jesus.

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Peter, our Children and Families Worker, continued to provide strong direction and leadership to the team but his hours reduced in September 2023 as a prelude to retirement, following health issues from which he has thankfully recovered. Discussions are at an early stage to explore his replacement being a full time post, working across the Circuit.

In Autumn 2023 we launched a new youth group "Rock Solid", for those in school years 5-9, meeting fortnightly. We are grateful to Andrew & Turid Dinsmore for continuing to sustain our youth ministry and links with young people.

A church weekend was held under the banner "Enjoying God's presence" open to all, with a range of activities, including a faith supper, worship and teaching, workshops and a Songs of Praise evening.

The town hosts a Makers' Market monthly and KMC offers a warm welcome to those visiting with refreshments, conversation, a sanctuary and access to all its facilities.

We started an Alpha course in September 2023, exploring the basics of the Christian faith, offered as a resource also to the Circuit and wider community.

A comprehensive brochure detailing the church's programmes and the activities taking place in the Community Centre, under the banner "A centre for the whole community" has been prepared and is being distributed, especially to the residents of new housing developments in the town.

Finding community

"KMC is a place to belong"

House groups provided the context for much pastoral care and personal growth. We currently have 11 groups with a membership in the region of 125, approaching half the overall church membership. They are though open to anyone and attendees include some from other churches or with no church background, who find this connection with KMC valuable and are welcomed and valued by the church in return.

For many their house group is at the heart of what it means to belong to KMC, finding there a source of study and learning, fellowship and spiritual growth. Our ongoing objective is to grow the groups and we actively encourage those new to the church to join a group.

Although groups are free to select their own study subjects, many follow the church's preaching and teaching programme, often using bespoke material provided by our Minister. This included 'Bible Month', a central Methodist initiative, focused this year on the book of Revelation.

Church coffee mornings have been organised by a number of the groups, with visitors very much welcome. The groups usually chose a charity as a focus, helping raise both awareness and funds.

Knutsford Methodist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st August 2023

'Life groups' included Monday Club (meeting monthly, open to ladies) and Men's breakfast, both of which are open to those not currently church members.

Renew Wellbeing Café provides a weekly drop-in space, "where it is okay not to be okay" and people can experience peace, welcome and friendship. We have received referrals from the local social prescriber for the town's medical practices, seeking support for patients with mental health struggles.

We offered an extensive structure of pastoral support to the elderly, housebound, those in full time care and others in our community, including those in local care homes.

We have continued to offer pastoral care to members of Snelson Church, a Circuit church which closed in October 2022.

Although the church's demographic is skewed to the over 60s, we continue to proactively seek the views of those under 50, very conscious of the continuing impact of the pandemic on families and young people in areas such as education.

Bereavement care is a vital part of our pastoral ministry. Much appreciated was the annual bereavement service when those who lost loved ones came to light candles in remembrance and hope. Also appreciated is the work of Liz, our Pastoral Worker who keeps in touch with those bereaved and sends greetings on significant anniversaries. Liz has unfortunately been absent for a good part of the year and we pray for her continuing recovery and return to her valuable pastoral role, which covers the whole Circuit but is a particular support to the Minister of KMC.

Making a difference

"A servant heart for our neighbour and the world"

Our church and community centre is situated right in the heart of this lively market town, opening directly on to one of the town's main shopping streets and offering a seven day a week presence in the community.

The building has been extensively modified internally over the last 20 years to provide a flexible space for the church and wider community to use and has become a hub for various community groups. Over the past year these have included counselling and training services, exercise classes, craft activities, Rainbows, Guides and Rangers, drama and performing arts for both children and adults, training in Emergency life Support Skills, antenatal classes, Tai chi, choirs and u3a with a wide range of activities.

This is combined with it remaining at its heart a safe place, a warm space, a sacred space for reflection and prayer.

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for the year ended 31st August 2023

Although a 'wealthy' area, there are pockets of deprivation, including real food poverty. KMC members continued to play their part in addressing these needs, offering their individual gifts and support to 2 linked charities: 'Hope Central' (a Christian charity operating a busy food bank, debt counselling through CAP and other services) and 'The Welcome' (a busy community centre). We have inherited the role of the former Welcome Methodist Church in ministering to the social and spiritual needs of the people of the Longridge and Shaw Heath areas of Knutsford and continue to evaluate how we might best deliver this.

"Friendship Café" is offered weekly as a resource to those living with dementia and their carers. It provides a place where those with dementia are cared for and recognised as a valued part of the community and where carers find mutual support and encouragement. It provides a variety of appropriate activities, including singing, exercises, reminiscence, crafts and trips out. Transport is provided if needed to attend. This has proved a much appreciated and valued social outreach

Another important outreach is delivered through "Jolly Tots", a weekly term time group where parents and carers with pre-school children can meet informally in a safe environment. Through this, members, usually with no prior connection with KMC, can form new networks and relationships. With strong demand, we have had to introduce a waiting list as we reflect on the practicality of accommodating increased numbers.

KMC supports other organisations and charities addressing social and faith issues which align with our own objectives, by facilitating fundraising collections for them and by direct grants.

Support last year, whether financially, in practical help or through raising awareness, included:

- Hope Central (a food bank, also offering debt counselling through Christians against Poverty and other services in Knutsford and NE Cheshire).
- Tearfund (partnering with churches in the world's poorest countries to tackle poverty and injustice).
- The Welcome Charity (providing a range of services to the residents of Longridge and Shaw Heath in Knutsford).
- Wood Street Mission (improving the life chances of children and families living in poverty in the Manchester area).
- All We Can (Methodist international development and relief organisation).
- Methodist Women in Britain (its mission summarised as "For women, for justice, for Christ").
- Through Zac's, a range of partners in Uganda, including FACT (Future after child trauma).

This year we signed up to be a "Welcome Church", joining an organisation which encourages churches to welcome and support refugees and asylum seekers. A number of church members have for some time been helping with English classes for refugees and supporting them in other ways.

We continued the process of becoming an Eco Church, moving us towards a more environmentally sensitive way of living with a reduced carbon footprint, under the guidance of

Knutsford Methodist Church
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a Social Responsibility Team. This year we obtained the Bronze Award and are now working towards the Silver. As a visible reminder of our responsibility of stewardship of God's creation, we have created and nurtured a small Eco church garden.

A pioneering evangelistic initiative launched in 2018 under the responsibility of KMC was Zac's Kingdom Community, based in the nearby town of Northwich.

Zac's sustained an impressive range of outreach activities last year, with a notable initiative being 'Boxes of Hope', delivered to local families in need, working with Cheshire Food Hub and Fareshare. Under the leadership of Revd Neal Stanton, it continued to foster links with Uganda, encouraging a number of mission partners and charities there.

As we moved towards the conclusion of the project's initial 5 year term, it became clear to KMC trustees that the current governance structure and financing model (very reliant on grant funding) could not be sustained. In the autumn of 2022 the trustees affirmed the work being done but believed that KMC was not in the best position to nurture the project in future and came to the difficult decision that we would relinquish our role as trustees of the Community from 1st September 2023.

Until then we continued to support the Community and those it served, whilst the Community's leadership explored the way forward. Although premises previously leased in Northwich were vacated, we are pleased that the Community will continue its valuable work, renamed Hope Community Church and now under the oversight of Hoole Baptist Church.

Members of KMC give generously to many local, national and international causes, financially and through service. A prime example is Hope Through Action, helping young people in South Africa develop their potential, with a number of church members appointed as trustees. The church supports and encourages all its members in these personal commitments.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

There are 3 strands to the consolidated results shown in the Financial Statement – Restricted Funds (mainly Zac's Kingdom Community but including a small Benevolent Fund and the Friendship Café), Designated Funds (The Welcome) and Unrestricted Funds (essentially our core Knutsford operations).

Zac's Kingdom Community – restricted funds

From the perspective of KMC, this was the final year of operations. A fall in giving by the Community was offset by reduced operating expenditure to leave a deficit of £28k, in line with budget. A key discipline has always been the level of liquid funds, with an eventual closing balance of £12k. Church Council will decide how best to allocate this in line with the original mission objectives and status as restricted funds.

The Welcome – designated funds

Financial activity remained modest and funds held at the year-end grew slightly to £31k.

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We continue to work up our strategy for their use in its area of Knutsford.

Core Knutsford operations – *primarily unrestricted funds*

An operating surplus of £22k exceeded expectations as rental income recovered strongly and with the benefit of significant donations. Expenditure was broadly in line with budget to leave us with liquid reserves at the year-end a little above our policy range.

This was expected to be a year of recovery as our major item of expenditure, the Circuit Assessment (covering ministerial stipends, pensions and housing and the salaries of Circuit employees) was held down with a subsidy from Circuit reserves. In the current year that subsidy will not be available to the same extent as we return to our full Ministerial complement and we expect to incur a small deficit.

Reserves policy

The capacity of the trustees to either reduce expenditure or find new sources of income is very limited in the short term. Expenditure is managed to agreed budgets but unforeseen falls in income (which is primarily the voluntary giving of members) can occur whilst a 150 year old building can provide unexpected challenges. Reserves provide an appropriate margin of safety and enhance security of employment.

The trustees' policy is to hold between 3 and 6 months' budgeted operating expenditure in unrestricted liquid reserves (excluding designated funds).

At the year-end we held unrestricted funds of £141k, equating to just over 6 months of expenditure, slightly above our policy range. Reserves are primarily invested with the Central Board of Finance of the Methodist Church.

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

KMC's governing documents are the Methodist Church Act 1976 and the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. Its Council has authority over all the church's ministry and met on 4 occasions during the year, supported by various committees. Members of the Council are the Managing Trustees of the charity but have no beneficial interest.

Appointment to Council is primarily by election by the church members at the annual General Church Meeting (serving for a maximum period of 6 years), together with a number of ex-officio members. During the year 11 trustees were also trustees of the Circuit, which is responsible *inter alia* for ministers' stipends and housing, funding these by raising assessments on its constituent churches.

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Trustees are supported in their understanding of the role and responsibilities, in particular on first appointment, using guidance issued by the Methodist Church nationally. Any conflicts of interest are properly declared in Council meetings in line with our formal policy.

Chairing the Council is Revd Alan Bradley, appointed as Superintendent of the Circuit, with particular responsibility for KMC, on 1st September 2020. Supporting Alan, primarily with other churches in the Circuit, is Revd Nick Thompson who joined the Circuit ministry team on 1 September 2022. Additional support with other churches was provided by Rev Rod Hill, a part-time supernumerary Minister until his retirement from this post in September 2023.

We were particularly delighted to welcome Revd Sincere Makunde at the beginning of this September as Probationary Minister to support Alan, particularly at KMC and Plumley. An inspiring service was held at KMC, led by the District Chair and supported by many of Sincere's friends and colleagues who had travelled considerable distances to be present.

Up to the end of August 2023, Revd Neal Stanton served KMC in the specialist role of leading Zac's Community in Northwich. The trustees pay tribute to the excellent work done under his leadership and extend our best wishes to him and to Jo Wallwork, his administrative support, as they develop Hope Community Church.

The trustees express their thanks to Steve Atkinson who faithfully served the Council in the key role as its Secretary for 14 years until August 2023.

Working with the Minister are elected Church Stewards, drawn from lay members of the church, split between a Leadership team of 8 (elected at the annual church meeting), covering the overall direction and management of the church and a team resourcing worship services and events.

We also have a team of gifted and committed paid members of staff. They are authorised by CPD to be members of the Council but take no part in any discussion on the terms of their employment. Administrative staff are employed directly by KMC whilst other staff (defined as 'lay workers') are employed by the Circuit, with their costs charged directly to KMC or indirectly via the assessment process, depending on their role.

We record our thanks to Peter Webb who retired as caretaker in March 2023, although still offering back up support on occasions.

Risk management

The trustees recognise that it is neither possible nor appropriate to seek to eliminate risk entirely. Risk-taking is inherent within the task of communicating and living out the Gospel and we are prepared to embrace risks which aim to advance KMC's core purposes, whilst minimising those that might have a negative impact.

Flowing from this the trustees have approved a range of policies, reviewed regularly.

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In particular the trustees take their responsibility for safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults very seriously and the Safeguarding Officer is a trustee and reports to each meeting of the Council. Our comprehensive policy, compliant with national guidelines, is reviewed and adopted annually and includes the provision for regular training of staff and volunteers.

Users of the building are required to undertake risk assessments and an updated Health & Safety policy was adopted during the year. A Domestic Abuse Charter issued by the Methodist Church was also adopted.

KMC complies with the General Data Protection Regulations, adopting the standard Data Protection and Privacy policies developed by the Methodist Church.

Insurable risks are covered by a comprehensive insurance policy.

Longer term risks include the increasing age of the church membership and the potential for significant building repair and maintenance costs. To mitigate the former, we seek to grow the church membership, especially through programmes designed to attract younger families. With the latter the building is subject to a formal independent inspection every 5 years. An updated Report was recently received and a schedule of required maintenance is being prepared. All items recorded on the previous Inspection report have been actioned.

Plans for the future

In practice, many of KMC's initiatives and priorities can be grouped under more than one of our four themes, so some of the categorisation below is not intended to be overly narrow or prescriptive. In the next 12 months we will concentrate on:

Encounter Jesus

We will seek to encourage, support and equip each member of KMC to be more confident in sharing their faith. This will be done through a themed approach to main Sunday services in Q1 2024 and supplemented by material for use within the house groups, based on the Everyone an Evangelist and Talking Jesus course

We will, (as a Circuit), seek to recruit a Children and Families worker to develop our work in these critical areas. Funding is already secured to allow this recruitment to progress early next year.

We will offer the possibility of a 2024 Alpha programme, later in the year, based on the successful programme in Q3/Q4 2023.

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Find Community

Build on the initiative recently started with the Rock Solid youth evenings to provide young people with an opportunity to meet, socialise, have fun and explore their faith in a safe and supportive environment

We will explore ways of extending the capacity of the highly successful Jolly Tots mornings to allow young mums currently on the waiting list to join in.

We will continue to make a priority of supporting House Groups/House Group leaders, providing shared material/resources and looking to increase the percentage of KMC members who are part of a house group by 10%. Additionally, we will actively work on our desire to be an invitational Church by making it easy for newcomers to find/join an appropriate group.

Make a difference

We will actively support, (financially and by direct involvement), the work of Hope Central as it seeks to help those in our community in greatest need.

We will welcome and extend our practical support to refugees temporarily/permanently placed within our local community.

Worshipping God

We will continue to offer a wide range of services and styles of worship, (Sunday and mid-week), to help individuals of all ages and backgrounds, worship God in meaningful ways.

We will consciously seek to develop fresh expressions of worship and be willing to experiment with new ideas, particularly to help/reach those who find that traditional patterns of worship do not work for them.

The trustees have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission and consider they have complied with the “public benefit requirement” as defined by the Charities Act 2011 in the year ended 31st August 2023 and that our range of programmes will continue to deliver this in the current year.

Acknowledgements

The trustees acknowledge the direction and leadership and example of all who ministered to us during the last year: Alan and his Minister colleagues, visiting ministers, worship leaders and authorised Local Preachers.

We pay tribute to the professionalism and commitment of our staff team.

We also acknowledge the contribution of our many volunteers, without which the mission and ministry of the church could not be sustained.

Knutsford Methodist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st August 2023

Reverend Alan Bradley
Minister
Date.....27/02/2024...

Independent examiner's report
to the trustees of
Knutsford Methodist Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2023 which are set out on pages 15 to 30.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity'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 charity'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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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.

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.

Catherine Hall FCCA DChA

Slade & Cooper Limited, Chartered Certified Accountants
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street
Manchester, M4 6JG
Date.12/03/2024.....

Knutsford Methodist Church
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	214,691	10,927	225,618	220,066
Charitable activities	4	-	33,500	33,500	27,500
Other trading activities	5	33,609	-	33,609	30,029
Investments	6	3,962	606	4,568	540
Other Income	7	4,260	-	4,260	5,415
Total income		256,522	45,033	301,555	283,550
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	8	231,754	71,819	303,573	331,548
Total expenditure		231,754	71,819	303,573	331,548
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	12	24,768	(26,786)	(2,018)	(47,998)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		24,768	(26,786)	(2,018)	(47,998)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		3,032,601	46,104	3,078,705	3,126,703
Total funds carried forward		3,057,369	19,318	3,076,687	3,078,705

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Note	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	15		2,884,998		2,889,756
Total fixed assets			2,884,998		2,889,756
Current assets					
Debtors	16	30,048		31,287	
Cash at bank and in hand	17	168,276		159,928	
Total current assets		198,324		191,215	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	18	(6,635)		(2,266)	
Net current assets			191,689		188,949
Net assets			3,076,687		3,078,705
Funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	19		19,318		46,104
Unrestricted income funds	20		3,057,369		3,032,601
Total charity funds			3,076,687		3,078,705

The notes on pages 18 to 30 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 27/ 02/ 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Reverend Alan Bradley (Minister)

David Tomkins (Trustee)

Knutsford Methodist Church
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ending 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	22	3,780	(43,254)
<i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>			
Interest		4,568	540
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(4,937)
Cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		4,568	(4,397)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		8,348	(47,651)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		159,928	207,579
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		168,276	159,928

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity, Knutsford Methodist Church meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

No key judgments were made by the trustees which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met and when it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

d Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

e Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

f Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

g Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Freehold building	Based on insurance valuation and not depreciated
Office fixtures and fittings	10 years
Equipment	3 years

h Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

i Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

j Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

k Funds held as agent

As the charity has no control over the funds which they received as an agent, they do not form any part of the balance sheet or statement of financial activities. The movement of the funds is presented in the note only.

l Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution workplace pension scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 13. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is an unincorporated charity, registered as a charity in England & Wales.

3 Income from donations and offerings

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Offerings	145,065	4,605	149,670
Donations	36,232	5,101	41,333
Gift Aid	33,394	1,221	34,615
Total	214,691	10,927	225,618

Previous reporting period

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
Offerings	144,239	9,760	153,999
Donations	28,653	2,416	31,069
Gift Aid	33,198	1,800	34,998
Total	206,090	13,976	220,066

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Grant Income	-	33,500	33,500	27,500
Total	-	33,500	33,500	27,500
<i>Total by fund 31 August 2022</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>27,500</i>	<i>27,500</i>	

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £
Lettings Income	32,398	-	32,398
Refreshments	151	-	151
Other fees	1,060	-	1,060
Total	33,609	-	33,609

Previous reporting period

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
Lettings Income	28,808	-	28,808
Refreshments	181	-	181
Other fees	1,040	-	1,040
Total	30,029	-	30,029

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from bank deposits	3,962	606	4,568	540
	3,962	606	4,568	540
<i>Total by fund 31 August 2022</i>	<i>425</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>540</i>	

All of the charity's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts. .

7 Other Income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Other Income	4,260	-	4,260	5,415
	4,260	-	4,260	5,415
<i>Total by fund 31 August 2022</i>	<i>5,415</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>5,415</i>	

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

8 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Staff costs (see note 13)	94,916	93,963
Circuit Assessment	120,000	134,842
Premises Costs	39,987	53,508
Depreciation	4,758	5,683
Administration costs	32,098	27,062
Grants Payable (see note 10)	9,810	14,620
Governance costs (see note 9)	2,004	1,870
	303,573	331,548
	2023 £	2022 £
Restricted expenditure	71,819	75,087
Unrestricted expenditure	231,754	256,461
	303,573	331,548

9 Analysis of governance costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Accountancy services (incl. VAT)	2,004	1,860
	2,004	1,860

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

10 Grant making activities

Name of institution	2023 £	2022 £
Methodist Church World Mission	1,500	3,000
Methodist Church Mission in Britain	1,500	3,000
Methodist Church Property Fund	1,000	2,000
Support Fund for Presbyters/Deacons	560	1,120
Leaders of Worship/Preachers Trust	250	500
The Welcome Charity	5,000	5,000
	9,810	14,620

All grants have been made to institutions to provide further resources to their mission and ministry.

11 Funds received as agent

Name of Party	Balance held at 1 September 2022	Amounts received	Amounts paid out	Balance held at 31 August 2023
Action for Children	-	321	(321)	-
Christian Aid	-	14	(14)	-
East Cheshire hospice	-	578	(578)	-
Easter offering	-	8	(8)	-
Friendship café	-	96	(96)	-
Hope Central	-	846	(846)	-
JMA	-	62	(62)	-
Total	-	1,925	(1,925)	-

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

Previous reporting period

Name of Party	Balance at 1 September 2021	Amounts received	Amounts paid out	Balance at 31 August 2022
Hampers of Hope	-	53	(53)	-
Mission in Britain	-	77	(77)	-
Tearfund	-	262	(262)	-
Total	-	392	(392)	-

12 Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation	4,758	5,683
IE's remuneration - accountancy fees (excl. VAT)	1,190	1,100
Independent examiner's fees (excl. VAT)	480	450

13 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	33,680	31,946
Pension costs	1,613	1,467
Redundancy	668	-
Costs of Layworkers and Pioneer Pastor, Zac's House	58,955	60,550
	94,916	93,963

No employee has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2022: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 4 (2022: 4).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £20,758 (2022: £17,935).

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

14 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Amanda Vickers and Jo Wallwork, trustees who are also employees, received total remuneration of £20,758 in the year (2022: £17,935).

Two (2022:4) members of the council received travel and subsistence expenses during the year of £1,952 (2022:£2,284).

Aggregate donations without conditions from related parties were £36,205 (2022: £41,629).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year (2022: nil).

The following trustees also served as trustees of the Alderley Edge & Knutsford Methodist Circuit (Charity number: 1127258):

S Atkinson	J Bailey	Bryan Peak
E Hall	Revd A Bradley	P Freeman
P Richards	Revd N Stanton	C Barratt
H Waters		D Richards

The costs of the Circuit, which essentially comprise the District Assessment, Ministers' Stipends and associated employment costs and the costs of the Manses they occupy are allocated between the various churches in the Circuit, linked to their respective membership figures. This is referred to as the Circuit Assessment and for KMC in 2022/23 was £120,000 (2021/22 was £134,842).

The Circuit Budget and the associated Assessments are determined by the trustees of the Circuit, which include representation from each church in the Circuit and currently exceed 30 in number.

The 11 KMC trustees take part in the decision making process of the Circuit but are not in a position to exert a disproportionate influence on its decisions.

As authorised by Methodist CPD, the following layworkers are trustees of KMC:

Peter Freeman

In addition to the layworkers, Revd Neal Stanton is a trustee of KMC, derived from his status as an Authorised Minister. Although KMC bears their cost as they are placed at this church, they are not its employees but rather of the Circuit. In aggregate they received remuneration of £48,469 (including redundancy of £3,533) in the year (2022: £46,484) and reimbursement of expenses of £1,952 (2022: £2,113), funded by KMC. They are not in a position to influence the level of this remuneration.

Staff Remuneration

Members of staff are authorised by CPD to be members of the Council.

Their remuneration is set by the Church Council through its consideration and approval of annual budgets with any annual increase usually following national guidelines issued for the remuneration of ministers and lay workers.

Members of staff do not take part in any discussions or vote in Council meetings on the terms and conditions of their employment.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

15 Fixed assets: tangible assets

Cost	Building	Furniture £	Equipment £	Total £
At 1 September 2022	2,870,187	31,031	8,355	2,909,573
Additions	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2023	2,870,187	31,031	8,355	2,909,573
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2022	-	14,742	5,075	19,817
Charge for the year	-	3,102	1,656	4,758
At 31 August 2023	-	17,844	6,731	24,575
Net book value				
At 31 August 2023	2,870,187	13,187	1,624	2,884,998
At 31 August 2022	2,870,187	16,289	3,280	2,889,756

16 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Other debtors	12,453	12,717
Prepayments and accrued income	17,595	18,570
	30,048	31,287

17 Cash at bank and in hand

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank and on hand	168,276	159,928
	168,276	159,928

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Accruals	6,471	2,088
Taxation and social security costs	164	178
	6,635	2,266

19 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Northwich Initiative (Zac's House)	40,151	40,432	(68,159)	-	12,424
Friendship Café	3,652	4,601	(3,238)	-	5,015
Benevolent Fund	2,301	-	(422)	-	1,879
Total	46,104	45,033	(71,819)	-	19,318

Previous reporting period

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Northwich Initiative (Zac's House)	67,261	40,375	(72,485)	5,000	40,151
Friendship Café	4,738	1,216	(2,302)	-	3,652
Benevolent Fund	2,601	-	(300)	-	2,301
Tuesday Fellowship	567	-	-	(567)	-
Total	75,167	41,591	(75,087)	4,433	46,104

The transfer in to Zac's House is in respect of an internal grant given from KMC to Zac's.

Name of Fund

Description

Benevolent Fund
(Internal
Organisation)

Payments are made to alleviate crisis situations faced by individuals, both members and non-members of the church, who have a demonstrated need.

Zac's House
Friendship Café

Zac's House is a church plant in Northwich, Cheshire.
Regular meetings ran by the church for dementia sufferers and their primary

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

20 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 August 2023 £
General fund	3,004,498	248,731	(226,754)	-	3,026,475
The Welcome Church	28,103	7,791	(5,000)	-	30,894
	<u>3,032,601</u>	<u>256,522</u>	<u>(231,754)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,057,369</u>
Previous reporting period	<i>Balance at 1 September 2021 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers £</i>	<i>As at 31 August 2022 £</i>
General fund	3,025,731	234,645	(251,445)	(4,433)	3,004,498
The Welcome	25,805	7,314	(5,016)	-	28,103
	<u>3,051,536</u>	<u>241,959</u>	<u>(256,461)</u>	<u>(4,433)</u>	<u>3,032,601</u>

Name of unrestricted fund Description, nature and purposes of the fund

General fund The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds and restricted funds
The Welcome Church Included in Trustees Report.

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	2,884,998	-	-	2,884,998
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	141,477	30,894	19,318	191,689
	<u>3,026,475</u>	<u>30,894</u>	<u>19,318</u>	<u>3,076,687</u>
Previous reporting period	<i>General fund £</i>	<i>Designated funds £</i>	<i>Restricted funds £</i>	<i>Total £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	2,889,756	-	-	2,889,756
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	114,742	28,103	46,104	188,949
	<u>3,004,498</u>	<u>28,103</u>	<u>46,104</u>	<u>3,078,705</u>

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 (continued)

22 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	(2,018)	(47,998)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	4,758	5,683
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(4,568)	(540)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	1,239	398
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	4,369	(797)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	3,780	(43,254)

Knutsford Methodist Church
Statement of Financial Activities
for the prior year ended 31 August 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies		206,090	13,976	220,066	283,488
Charitable activities		-	27,500	27,500	82,212
Other trading activities		30,029	-	30,029	5,597
Investments		425	115	540	196
Other Income		5,415	-	5,415	529
Total income		241,959	41,591	283,550	372,022
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		256,461	75,087	331,548	315,920
Total expenditure		256,461	75,087	331,548	315,920
Net income / (expenditure) for the year		(14,502)	(33,496)	(47,998)	56,102
Transfer between funds		(4,433)	4,433	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		(18,935)	(29,063)	(47,998)	56,102
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		3,051,536	75,167	3,126,703	3,070,601
Total funds carried forward		3,032,601	46,104	3,078,705	3,126,703

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Accounts

Charity Number: 1130195

KNUTSFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31st August 2022

Knutsford Methodist Church
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31st August 2022

Charity no. 1130195

Registered office and operational address Princess St., Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6BY

Trustees Those who served during the year and up to the date of this report were:

Steve Atkinson	Secretary
Jenny Bailey	
Chris Barratt	
Linda Bowler	(from June 2022)
Revd Alan Bradley	Chair
Gail Crawford	(from June 2022)
Stuart Crawford	
Dawn Freeman	(from January 2022)
Peter Freeman	Staff
Elizabeth Hall	Circuit representative
Suzy Keen	
Nigel Langham	
Revd Scott Manning	(until November 2021)
Liz McGrath	(from February 2022)
Bryan Peak	Treasurer
Dorothy Richards	
Peter Richards	(until May 2022)
Chris Robertson	(until May 2022)
Jackie Robertson	(from June 2022)
Gill Royle	
Vicky Royle	
Alan Simpson	
Revd Neal Stanton	
Simon Tavernor	(until June 2022)
Joanne Taylor	
David Tomkins	
Jackie Tomkins	
Amanda Vickers	Staff
Joanne Wallwork	Staff
Elizabeth Waters	
Henry Waters	
Will Waters	

Knutsford Methodist Church
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31st August 2022

Personnel

Revd Alan Bradley	Minister and Superintendent of the Alderley Edge and Knutsford Circuit
Revd Scott Manning	Associate Minister, Knutsford Methodist Church and Minister of Mobberley Methodist Church (until November 2021)
Revd Neal Stanton	Authorised Minister, Knutsford Methodist Church and Pioneer Pastor, Zac's Kingdom Community
Peter Freeman	Children & Families Worker
Liz McGrath	Pastoral Worker (from February 2022)
Amanda Vickers	Administrator and Assistant Treasurer
Joanne Wallwork	Zac's Kingdom Community Administrator
Brad Goddon-Smith	Youth and Community Worker (until September 2021)
Rosie Goddon-Smith	Youth and Community Worker (until September 2021)
Sid Walker	Caretaker
Peter Webb	Caretaker

Bankers Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Drummond House, 1 Redheughs Avenue, Edinburgh EH12 9JN

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, 9 Bonhill St, London EC2A 4PE

Independent Examiner

Catherine Hall FCCA DChA, Slade & Cooper Limited, Beehive Mill, Jersey Street, Manchester, M4 6JG

Website www.kmc.org.uk

Knutsford Methodist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st August 2022

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2022.

Reference and administrative information set out previously form part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's constitution, and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Summary

Knutsford Methodist Church (**KMC**) is a Christian church of some 260 members, embedded in the busy town of Knutsford and also currently serving the nearby town of Northwich through a pioneering project, Zac's Kingdom Community (Zac's).

A registered charity, it is part of the Methodist Church in Britain and one of 6 churches and communities in its Alderley Edge & Knutsford Circuit.

The challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic eased over the last year but continued to influence the pattern of our regular services, how people access these and how generally we operate.

MISSION

The calling of the Methodist Church in Britain is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. It does this through:

- Worship
- Learning and Caring
- Service
- Evangelism

We report on our performance at KMC over the past year under these four headings, responding to our vision **to be Christians who passionately share the love of God.**

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship

120 worshippers on average attended our Sunday morning service over the last year, slightly below pre-Covid levels. Investment in livestreaming technology enabled a further 20/25 to watch the service remotely, with up to a further 70 views later. Services at the major festivals of Christmas and Easter continued to be well attended. We offered both traditional and contemporary music and, drawing on a range of gifted preachers delivering Bible-based teaching, we sought to provide a variety of services which were widely accessible and relevant to the issues of today.

Knutsford Methodist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st August 2022

A mid- week lunchtime Communion service was also offered as part of our town centre ministry.

Oasis, a service of healing and wholeness, took place monthly.

In addition to those who are formal members, there were many others who attended our services and events last year and see KMC as "their church".

Learning and Caring

We offered an extensive structure of pastoral support to the elderly, housebound, those in full time care and others in our community, including those in local care homes. For those sufficiently mobile, much valued was Cameo, a monthly service of hymns, friendship and fellowship, aimed at senior citizens and those who find it difficult to attend a morning service.

'Life groups' included Monday Club (meeting monthly, open to ladies) and Men's breakfast, both of which are open to those not currently church members.

As elsewhere, the church's demographic is skewed to the over 60s. We are seeking to address this with our Minister hosting meetings last year for those under 50 to hear their views and explore what it means to be church.

The pandemic clearly had a major impact on families and young people and underscores our passion to share the gospel with the younger members of our community. Under the strong leadership of our Children and Families' Worker, we continued to enjoy excellent relationships with our local schools. One manifestation of this was a regular programme of Bible stories in 3 primary schools (increasing to 4 this year) through drama called 'Open the Book'. We also offered Harvest and Easter Experiences in the church building, attended by substantial numbers of local schoolchildren. This year we have resumed running courses for parents of Knutsford Academy students in response to demand.

After providing teaching and worship material for children online during the pandemic, we recreated the programme of activities in church for different age groups under the banner KIDZONE, offering a safe space of welcome and nurture and introducing the way of faith in Jesus. Attendance has not yet returned to pre-Covid levels but we will continue to invest in these programmes, to run alongside our outreach in schools.

The planned departure of our youth workers, Brad & Rosie, at the start of the last year was challenging but we are very grateful to church members Andrew & Turid Dinsmore for sustaining our youth ministry, hosting a weekly group.

House groups provided the context for much personal growth. We currently have 11 groups with a total membership of 130, approaching half the overall church membership in and including some whose only connection with KMC is through their house group. For many

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their house group is at the heart of what it means to belong to KMC, finding there a source of learning and mutual pastoral care. Our plan is to grow the groups and we actively encourage those new to the church to join a group.

Bereavement care is a vital part of our pastoral ministry. Much appreciated was the annual bereavement service when those who lost loved ones came to light candles in remembrance and hope. Also appreciated is the Pastoral Worker who keeps in touch with those bereaved and sends greetings on significant anniversaries.

A church weekend was held, entitled "Gifts and Graces", encouraging members in their personal growth and service and will be repeated in the current year.

We started the process of becoming an Eco Church, moving us towards a more environmentally sensitive way of living, under the guidance of a Social Responsibility Group. As a visible reminder of our responsibility of stewardship of God's creation, we created this year a small Eco church garden.

Service

Our town centre location, opening directly on to one of the town's main shopping streets, is important, helping us to engage with public events and provide the public with a sanctuary, a solemn space, a warm space and the opportunity for private prayer.

KMC is well-placed as a meeting and networking hub and part of our ministry and service to the community is making available rooms to external organisations.

Although a 'wealthy' area, there are pockets of deprivation, including real food poverty. KMC members continued to play their part in addressing these needs, offering their individual gifts and support to 2 linked charities: 'Hope Central' (operating a busy food bank and other services) and 'The Welcome'. The Welcome Methodist Church used to minister to the many social and spiritual needs in its catchment area but has now ceased to meet and KMC has taken on this ministry. We continue to re-evaluate our responsibilities as a church to minister to this community.

The challenge of dementia within the community is significant and growing. Our "Friendship Café", for those with dementia and their carers, continued as a much appreciated social outreach, manned by church volunteers and recently received a Community Award from Knutsford Town Council.

Through "Jolly Tots" we offered a weekly group for parents and guardians with pre-school children, providing a forum for developing new relationships and enhancing existing ones. There is clearly a strong demand for this ministry and we are currently close to the limit of numbers we can accommodate.

A new development has been "Renew@KMC", introduced in August 2022, in response to the need for people to spend time together after prolonged isolation during lockdowns and shielding. This provides a weekly drop-in space, where anyone and everyone can belong

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and feel at home. This is now receiving referrals from the local social prescriber for the town's medical practices, seeking support for patients with mental health struggles.

KMC supports other organisations and charities addressing social and faith issues which align with our own objectives, by facilitating fundraising collections for them and by direct grants. In the current year we are enhancing this by selecting 2 specific charities, one UK and one overseas, to provide more focused prayer and financial and practical support. Hope Central has now been identified as our UK charity and we will develop our relationship with it in the current year.

Our support last year included:

- Embassy Village (addressing homelessness in Greater Manchester)
- Hope Central (relief of food poverty and other practical support in NE Cheshire)
- Methodist Church Mission in Britain
- SIM (Christians serving in mission around the world; for us a specific focus on developing dental facilities in Liberia)
- Tearfund (partnering with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries to tackle poverty and injustice)
- The Welcome Charity (providing a range of services to the residents of Longridge and Shaw Heath in Knutsford)
- Wood Street Mission (improving the life chances of children and families living in poverty in the Manchester area)

Members of KMC give generously to many local, national and international causes, financially and through service. A prime example is Hope Through Action, helping young people in South Africa develop their potential, with a number of church members appointed as trustees. The church supports and encourages all its members in these personal commitments.

Evangelism

As a believer in "every member ministry", we see evangelism as a natural activity of church members personally in their own networks, as they seek to model a Christian lifestyle.

Corporately we will offer an Alpha course in the current year, having had to suspend these during the pandemic.

A major activity sponsored by KMC under this heading is:

Zac's Kingdom Community

Initially presented as a 5 year project, this is a pioneering initiative started in 2018 in the nearby town of Northwich, which has a significant proportion of its population living in areas in the top 20% of the UK's Index of Multiple Deprivation. Crossing Methodist boundaries, the project was effectively a partnership between our Circuit and the Mid Cheshire Circuit but with governance and overall responsibility resting with KMC.

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The Methodist Church centrally provided grants for an initial 3 year period, sufficient to cover operating costs in this period. Revd Neal Stanton, an experienced Pioneer Pastor, was appointed to lead the project.

Premises are leased in the main shopping street, providing a community hub with a drop-in wellbeing café - Hope52. Some services are held in the Northwich Methodist Outreach Centre, but overall an innovative approach has been adopted, using a range of locations and offering also live broadcasts through social media. "Membership" of Zac's is a more fluid concept than that of KMC in Knutsford, flowing from participating in any of its varied activities.

On the principle that international church informs local mission, Neal has led teams on several visits to Uganda, encouraging mission partners and charities there, notably FACT (Future after child trauma).

Zac's was inevitably challenged by the Covid-19 lockdown but sustained an impressive range of outreach activities last year, including a mentoring service to students at a local high school. A notable initiative was 'Boxes of Hope', delivered to local families in need, working with Cheshire Food Hub and Fareshare.

The vision was to create a self-sustaining community but recognising that, certainly for the initial 5 years, it would be reliant on external grant income. Although the Methodist Church centrally had indicated that it could be approached for support beyond the initial 3 years, the financial impact of Covid then caused it to suspend any such applications. Increased funding from the 2 Methodist Districts and Circuits involved has not been a full replacement but sustained the project in year 4 (2021/22) and will provide sufficient funds for Year 5.

In the autumn KMC trustees held a special Council to debate the future as we moved towards the conclusion of the initial 5 year term, recognising that the current structure and financing model could not be sustained beyond this. We affirmed the work being done to take the love of God to the people of Northwich and the wider community but believed that KMC was not in the best position to nurture the work going forward, nor had the capacity to resource the leadership needed. We came to the difficult decision that from 1st September 2023 we would relinquish our role as trustees of the Community. For the remainder of the current financial year we would maintain our support and financial commitment to the Community and those it serves, whilst exploring with others the potential for finding a new future for Zac's.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our consolidated financial results for the year covered 3 separate areas of activity:

Zac's Kingdom Community – restricted funds

Year 4 of the project recorded a deficit of £27k, slightly less than budget. The bulk of costs are fixed, in the form of stipend, salary and rent although expenditure fell compared with the previous year when youth workers were employed. With central support from the Methodist

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Church no longer available, grant income fell by £50k whilst some growth was seen in the regular giving of community members. Closing funds were higher than expected at £40k.

Although a similar deficit is expected in the year to the end of August 2023, the position of Zac's is secure until then, beyond which KMC's responsibilities will cease.

The Welcome – *designated funds*

Financial activity remained modest, with a £5k donation from the Circuit passed through to the Welcome Charity, together with regular giving/donations from longstanding supporters. Funds held at the year-end grew to £28k.

We continue to work up our strategy for their use in its area of Knutsford.

Core Knutsford operations – *primarily unrestricted funds*

Major costs such as the Circuit Assessment and salaries were as expected but premises costs were significantly higher, a combination of unforeseen repairs and increased energy costs (although we were able to achieve a reasonable fix of these).

We were encouraged that church members sustained their regular and committed giving with some growth seen. Rental income recovered strongly after the lockdown and donations remained a significant source of income. Overall we achieved a lower than budgeted deficit of £21k.

In the current year we will be challenged by rising inflation across our cost base, whilst the Quinquennial Inspection of the building may well throw up the need for remedial works. However we have been able to budget for a small surplus, due mainly to a reduced Circuit Assessment, reflecting the lower number of Ministers in post.

Reserves policy

The capacity of the trustees to reduce expenditure and/or find new sources of income is limited in the short term. Expenditure is managed to agreed budgets, although a 150-year-old building can provide unexpected challenges and unforeseen falls in income can occur. Reserves provide a margin of safety and enhance security of employment.

The current policy is to hold between 3 and 6 months' budgeted expenditure in unrestricted liquid reserves (excluding designated funds). These are primarily invested with the Central Board of Finance of the Methodist Church. At the year-end we held unrestricted funds of £115k, equating to nearly 6 months of expenditure, well within our policy range.

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

KMC's governing documents are the Methodist Church Act 1976 and the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. Its Council has authority over all the church's ministry and met on 4 occasions during the year, supported by various committees.

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Members of the Council are the Managing Trustees of the charity but have no beneficial interest.

Appointment to Council is primarily by election by the church members at the annual General Church Meeting (serving for a maximum period of 6 years), together with a number of ex-officio members. During the year 11 trustees were also trustees of the Circuit, which is responsible *inter alia* for ministers' stipends and housing, funding these by raising assessments on its constituent churches.

Trustees are supported in their understanding of the role and responsibilities, in particular on first appointment, using guidance issued by the Methodist Church nationally. Any conflicts of interest are properly declared in Council meetings in line with our formal policy.

Following decisions by the Methodist Church Conference, Knutsford Methodist Church Council this year debated carefully and prayerfully whether to consent to the KMC building being registered for the solemnization of marriages of same-sex couples and approved this by a clear majority, indicating the churches desire to be an inclusive and welcoming space for all people. Prior to this, one of the Circuit Ministers, Rev Scott Manning had signalled his opposition to the national decision and resigned as a Minister in the Methodist Church. A relatively small number of members left KMC but the majority of members continue to love and care for one another and work together, while recognising the theological differences within our church community.

Chairing the Council is Revd Alan Bradley, appointed as Superintendent of the Circuit, with particular responsibility for KMC, on 1st September 2020. In his 2nd year in post, he again faced the challenge brought about by Covid-19 to established ways of "being church". At the start of the year he was supported in the Circuit by Revd Scott Manning and Revd Sue Swires but the resignation of Scott and retirement of Sue at the end of the year inevitably placed him under considerable pressure. Helping absorb the pressures were our team of appointed local preachers, a Circuit Worship team and "Services by local arrangement", organised and led by KMC members.

The situation was also eased by the experienced Revd Nick Thompson joining the Circuit ministry team on 1 September 2022, whilst additional support is being provided by Rev Rod Hill, a part-time supernumerary Minister. The intention is also to seek an additional probationer Minister to return the Circuit nearer to its normal complement from 1st September 2023 although this is not guaranteed.

Revd Neal Stanton serves KMC primarily in the specialist role of building and leading Zac's in Northwich.

Working with the Minister are elected Church Stewards, drawn from lay members of the church, split between a Leadership team (elected at the annual church meeting) covering the overall direction and management of the church and a team resourcing worship services and events.

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We also have a team of gifted and committed paid members of staff. They are authorised by CPD to be members of the Council but take no part in any discussion on the terms of their employment. Administrative staff are employed directly by KMC whilst other staff (defined as 'lay workers') are employed by the Circuit, with their costs charged directly to KMC or indirectly via the assessment process, depending on their role.

We record our thanks to Brad and Rosie, previously on a short term contract as Youth and Community workers, who left us at the start of the year.

During the year the staff team was augmented by Liz McGrath as Pastoral Worker, providing support in particular to our Minister. Her costs are shared across the Circuit through the assessment.

Risk management

The trustees recognise that it is neither possible nor appropriate to seek to eliminate risk entirely. Risk-taking is inherent within the task of communicating and living out the Gospel and we are prepared to embrace risks which aim to advance KMC's core purposes, whilst minimising those that might have a negative impact.

Flowing from this the trustees have approved a range of policies, reviewed regularly.

In particular the trustees take their responsibility for safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults very seriously and the Safeguarding Officer is a trustee. Our comprehensive policy, compliant with national guidelines, is reviewed and adopted annually. A Domestic Abuse Charter issued by the Methodist Church has also been adopted.

KMC complies with the General Data Protection Regulations, adopting the standard Data Protection and Privacy policies developed by the Methodist Church.

Insurable risks are covered by a comprehensive insurance policy.

Longer term risks include the increasing age of the church membership and the potential for significant building repair and maintenance costs. To mitigate the former, we seek to grow the church membership, especially through programmes designed to attract younger families. With the latter the building is subject to a formal independent inspection every 5 years. All items recorded on the last Inspection report have been actioned.

Plans for the future

Determining the way forward for Zac's Kingdom Community as we move towards relinquishing our governance responsibilities will be a key focus this year.

We will strive to be a more invitational church – inviting people to worship, to find community, to encounter Jesus' love, to make a difference.

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An Alpha course will be launched in the New Year.

Having identified Hope Central as our linked local charity, we will identify a suitable overseas partner.

We will seek to build on our relationship with local schools and take advantage of the many opportunities opening up. We will resume parenting classes.

We will invest further in the Renew@KMC initiative in view of the clear demand in the community.

We will refresh governance training for the trustees.

The trustees have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission and consider they have complied with the “public benefit requirement” as defined by the Charities Act 2011 in the year ended 31st August 2022 and that our range of programmes will continue to deliver this in the current year.

Acknowledgements

The trustees acknowledge the leadership of all who ministered to us during the last year: our appointed Ministers, visiting ministers, worship leaders and authorised Local Preachers. We pay tribute to the professionalism and commitment of our staff team. We also acknowledge the contribution of all those who volunteer in any role, without which the mission and ministry of the church could not be sustained.

Reverend Alan Bradley
Minister
Date.....15/03/2023

Independent examiner's report
to the trustees of
Knutsford Methodist Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2022 which are set out on pages 13 to 28.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity'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 charity'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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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.

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.

Catherine Hall FCCA DChA

Slade & Cooper Limited, Chartered Certified Accountants
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street
Manchester, M4 6JG
Date.....11/04/2023.....

Knutsford Methodist Church
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 August 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	206,090	13,976	220,066	283,488
Charitable activities	4	-	27,500	27,500	82,212
Other trading activities	5	30,029	-	30,029	5,597
Investments	6	425	115	540	196
Other Income	7	5,415	-	5,415	529
Total income		241,959	41,591	283,550	372,022
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	8	256,461	75,087	331,548	315,920
Total expenditure		256,461	75,087	331,548	315,920
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	12	(14,502)	(33,496)	(47,998)	56,102
Transfer between funds		(4,433)	4,433	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		(18,935)	(29,063)	(47,998)	56,102
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		3,051,536	75,167	3,126,703	3,070,601
Total funds carried forward		3,032,601	46,104	3,078,705	3,126,703

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2022

	Note	£	2022	£	£	2021	£
Fixed assets							
Tangible assets	15			2,889,756			2,890,502
Total fixed assets				2,889,756			2,890,502
Current assets							
Debtors	16	31,287			31,685		
Cash at bank and in hand	17	159,928			207,579		
Total current assets				191,215			239,264
Liabilities							
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	18	(2,266)			(3,063)		
Net current assets				188,949			236,201
Net assets				3,078,705			3,126,703
Funds of the charity:							
Restricted income funds	19			46,104			75,167
Unrestricted income funds	20			3,032,601			3,051,536
Total charity funds				3,078,705			3,126,703

The notes on pages 16 to 28 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 15/04/2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Reverend Alan Bradley (Minister)

David Tomkins (Trustee)

Knutsford Methodist Church
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ending 31 August 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	22	(43,254)	53,904
<i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>			
Interest		540	196
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,937)	-
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(4,397)	196
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(47,651)	54,100
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		207,579	153,479
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		159,928	207,579

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity, Knutsford Methodist Church meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

No key judgments were made by the trustees which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met and when it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

d Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

e Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

f Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

g Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Freehold building	Based on insurance valuation and not depreciated
Office fixtures and fittings	10 years
Equipment	3 years

h Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

i Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

j Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

k Funds held as agent

As the charity has no control over the funds which they received as an agent, they do not form any part of the balance sheet or statement of financial activities. The movement of the funds is presented in the note only.

l Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution workplace pension scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 13. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is an unincorporated charity, registered as a charity in England & Wales.

3 Income from donations and offerings

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
Offerings	144,239	9,760	153,999
Donations	28,653	2,416	31,069
Gift Aid	33,198	1,800	34,998
Total	206,090	13,976	220,066

Previous reporting period

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
Offerings	133,014	8,800	141,814
Donations	97,232	3,540	100,772
Gift Aid	38,441	2,461	40,902
Total	268,687	14,801	283,488

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Grant Income	-	27,500	27,500	82,212
Total	-	27,500	27,500	82,212
<i>Total by fund 31 August 2021</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>82,212</i>	<i>82,212</i>	

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £
Lettings Income	28,808	-	28,808
Refreshments	181	-	181
Other fees	1,040	-	1,040
Total	30,029	-	30,029

Previous reporting period

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
Lettings Income	4,931	-	4,931
Refreshments	-	-	-
Other fees	390	276	666
Total	5,321	276	5,597

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income from bank deposits	425	115	540	196
	425	115	540	196
<i>Total by fund 31 August 2021</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>196</i>	

All of the charity's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts. .

7 Other Income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Other Income	5,415	-	5,415	529
	5,415	-	5,415	529
<i>Total by fund 31 August 2021</i>	<i>529</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>529</i>	

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

8 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Staff costs (see note 13)	93,963	95,582
Circuit Assessment	134,842	129,061
Premises Costs	53,508	34,831
Depreciation	5,683	4,242
Administration costs	27,062	39,520
Grants Payable (see note 10)	14,620	10,824
Governance costs (see note 9)	1,870	1,860
	331,548	315,920
	2022 £	2021 £
Restricted expenditure	75,087	82,049
Unrestricted expenditure	256,461	233,871
	331,548	315,920

9 Analysis of governance costs

	2022 £	2021 £
Accountancy services (incl. VAT)	1,860	1,860
	1,860	1,860

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

10 Grant making activities

Name of institution	2022 £	2021 £
Methodist Church World Mission	3,000	1,500
Methodist Church Mission in Britain	3,000	1,500
Methodist Church Property Fund	2,000	1,000
Support Fund for Presbyters/Deacons	1,120	560
Leaders of Worship/Preachers Trust	500	250
The Welcome Charity	5,000	5,000
District Partnership fund	-	1,014
	14,620	10,824

All grants have been made to institutions to provide further resources to their mission and ministry.

11 Funds received as agent

Name of Party	Balance held at 1 September 2021	Amounts received	Amounts paid out	Balance held at 31 August 2022
Hampers of Hope	-	53	(53)	-
Mission in Britain	-	77	(77)	-
Tearfund	-	262	(262)	-
Total	-	392	(392)	-

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

Previous reporting period

Name of Party	Balance held at 1 September 2019	Amounts received	Amounts paid out	Balance held at 31 August 2020
Action for Children	-	50	(50)	-
Christian Aid	-	50	(50)	-
Hampers of Hope	-	100	(100)	-
JMA	-	5	(5)	-
Total	-	205	(205)	-

12 Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Depreciation	5,683	4,245
IE's remuneration - accountancy fees (excl. VAT)	1,100	1,100
Independent examiner's fees (excl. VAT)	450	450

13 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	31,946	30,765
Pension costs	1,467	1,406
Costs of Layworkers and Pioneer Pastor, Zac's House	60,550	63,411
	93,963	95,582

No employee has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2021: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 4 (2021: 4).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £17,935 (2021: £16,824).

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

14 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Amanda Vickers and Jo Wallwork, trustees who are also employees, received total remuneration of £17,935 in the year (2021: £16,824).

4 (2021:2) members of the council received travel and subsistence expenses during the year of £2,284 (2021:£1,150).

Aggregate donations without conditions from related parties were £41,629 (2021: £42,449).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year (2021: nil).

The following trustees also served as trustees of the Alderley Edge & Knutsford Methodist Circuit (Charity number: 1127258):

S Atkinson	J Bailey	Bryan Peak
E Hall	Revd A Bradley	P Freeman
P Richards	Revd S Manning	C Robertson
H Waters	Revd N Stanton	

The costs of the Circuit, which essentially comprise the District Assessment, Ministers' Stipends and associated employment costs and the costs of the Manses they occupy are allocated between the various churches in the Circuit, linked to their respective membership figures. This is referred to as the Circuit Assessment and for KMC in 2021/22 was £134,842 (2020/21 £129,061).

The Circuit Budget and the associated Assessments are determined by the trustees of the Circuit, which include representation from each church in the Circuit and currently exceed 30 in number.

The 11 KMC trustees take part in the decision making process of the Circuit but are not in a position to exert a disproportionate influence on its decisions.

As authorised by Methodist CPD, the following layworkers are trustees of KMC:

Peter Freeman

In addition to the layworkers, Revd Neal Stanton is a trustee of KMC, derived from his status as an Authorised Minister. Although KMC bears their cost as they are placed at this church, they are not its employees but rather of the Circuit. In aggregate they received remuneration of £46,484 in the year (2021: £51,797) and reimbursement of expenses of £2,113 (2021: £1,475), funded by KMC. They are not in a position to influence the level of this remuneration.

Staff Remuneration

Members of staff are authorised by CPD to be members of the Council.

Their remuneration is set by the Church Council through its consideration and approval of annual budgets with any annual increase usually following national guidelines issued for the remuneration of ministers and lay workers.

Members of staff do not take part in any discussions or vote in Council meetings on the terms and conditions of their employment.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

15 Fixed assets: tangible assets

Cost	Building	Furniture £	Equipment £	Total £
At 1 September 2021	2,870,187	31,031	3,418	2,904,636
Additions	-	-	4,937	4,937
Adjustments	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2022	2,870,187	31,031	8,355	2,909,573
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2021	-	11,639	2,495	14,134
Charge for the year	-	3,103	2,580	5,683
At 31 August 2022	-	14,742	5,075	19,817
Net book value				
At 31 August 2022	2,870,187	16,289	3,280	2,889,756
At 31 August 2021	2,870,187	19,392	923	2,890,502

16 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	-	830
Other debtors	12,717	12,160
Prepayments and accrued income	18,570	18,695
	31,287	31,685

17 Cash at bank and in hand

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash at bank and on hand	159,928	207,579
	159,928	207,579

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Accruals	2,088	2,846
Taxation and social security costs	178	217
	2,266	3,063

19 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
Northwich Initiative (Zac's House)	67,261	40,375	(72,485)	5,000	40,151
Friendship Café	4,738	1,216	(2,302)	-	3,652
Benevolent Fund	2,601	-	(300)	-	2,301
Tuesday Fellowship	567	-	-	(567)	-
Total	75,167	41,591	(75,087)	4,433	46,104

The transfer in to Zac's House is in respect of an internal grant given from KMC to Zac's.

Previous reporting period

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Northwich Initiative (Zac's House)	52,281	96,843	(81,863)	-	67,261
Friendship Café	4,399	525	(186)	-	4,738
Benevolent Fund	2,601	-	-	-	2,601
Tuesday Fellowship	567	-	-	-	567
Total	59,848	97,368	(82,049)	-	75,167

Name of Fund

Benevolent Fund
(Internal
Organisation)
Refurbishment
Project
Zac's House
Friendship Café

Description

Payments are made to alleviate crisis situations faced by individuals, both members and non-members of the church, who have a demonstrated need.

This includes the refurbishment of the church toilet facilities and the Youth room.

Zac's House is a church plant in Northwich, Cheshire.

Regular meetings ran by the church for dementia sufferers and their primary carers.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

20 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 August 2022 £
General fund	3,025,731	234,645	(251,445)	(4,433)	3,004,498
The Welcome Church	25,805	7,314	(5,016)	-	28,103
	<u>3,051,536</u>	<u>241,959</u>	<u>(256,461)</u>	<u>(4,433)</u>	<u>3,032,601</u>

Previous reporting period

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 August 2021 £
General fund	3,010,753	243,765	(228,787)	-	3,025,731
The Welcome	-	30,889	(5,084)	-	25,805
	<u>3,010,753</u>	<u>274,654</u>	<u>(233,871)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,051,536</u>

Name of unrestricted fund Description, nature and purposes of the fund

General fund The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds and restricted funds
The Welcome Church Included in Trustees Report.

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	2,889,756	-	-	2,889,756
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	114,742	28,103	46,104	188,949
	<u>3,004,498</u>	<u>28,103</u>	<u>46,104</u>	<u>3,078,705</u>

Previous reporting period

	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	2,889,580	-	922	2,890,502
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	136,151	25,805	74,245	236,201
	<u>3,025,731</u>	<u>25,805</u>	<u>75,167</u>	<u>3,126,703</u>

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

22 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	(47,998)	56,102
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	5,683	4,245
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(540)	(196)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	398	(906)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(797)	(5,341)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(43,254)	53,904

Knutsford Methodist Church
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies		268,687	14,801	283,488	196,307
Charitable activities		-	82,212	82,212	78,060
Other trading activities		5,321	276	5,597	13,096
Investments		117	79	196	932
Other Income		529	-	529	34,882
Total income		274,654	97,368	372,022	323,277
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		233,871	82,049	315,920	326,549
Total expenditure		233,871	82,049	315,920	326,549
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		40,783	15,319	56,102	(3,272)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		40,783	15,319	56,102	(3,272)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		3,010,753	59,848	3,070,601	3,073,873
Total funds carried forward		3,051,536	75,167	3,126,703	3,070,601

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Accounts

Charity Number: 1130195

KNUTSFORD METHODIST CHURCH

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31st August 2021

Knutsford Methodist Church
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31st August 2021

Charity no. 1130195

Registered office and operational address Princess St., Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6BY

Trustees Those who served during the year and up to the date of this report were:

Steve Atkinson	Secretary
Jenny Bailey	
Chris Barratt	
Revd Alan Bradley	Chair (from 1 September 2020)
Stuart Crawford	(from February 2021)
Peter Freeman	Staff
Elizabeth Hall	Circuit representative
Caroline Hebblethwaite	Staff (from November 2021; until November 21)
Suzy Keen	
Nigel Langham	
Revd Scott Manning	(from October 2020; until November 2021)
Peter Maxwell	(until February 2021)
Bryan Peak	Treasurer
Dorothy Richards	
Peter Richards	
Chris Robertson	
Gill Royle	
Vicky Royle	
Alan Simpson	(from May 2021)
Revd Neal Stanton	
Simon Tavernor	(from February 2021)
Joanne Taylor	
David Tomkins	
Jackie Tomkins	(from May 2021)
Amanda Vickers	Staff
Joanne Wallwork	Staff
Elizabeth Waters	
Henry Waters	
Will Waters	(from October 2020)
Brenda Wilkinson	(until May 2021)

Knutsford Methodist Church
Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31st August 2021

Personnel

Revd Alan Bradley	Minister and Superintendent of the Alderley Edge and Knutsford Circuit (from 1 September 2020)
Revd Scott Manning	Associate Minister, Knutsford Methodist Church and Minister of Mobberley Methodist Church (until November 2021)
Revd Neal Stanton	Authorised Minister, Knutsford Methodist Church and Pioneer Pastor, Zac's Kingdom Community
Peter Freeman	Children & Families Worker
Caroline Hebblethwaite	Pastoral Worker (from November 2021)
Amanda Vickers	Administrator and Assistant Treasurer
Joanne Wallwork	Zac's Kingdom Community Administrator
Brad Goddon-Smith	Youth and Community Worker (until September 2021)
Rosie Goddon-Smith	Youth and Community Worker (until September 2021)
Sid Walker	Caretaker
Peter Webb	Caretaker

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Drummond House, 1 Redheughs Avenue,
Edinburgh EH12 9JN

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, 9 Bonhill St,
London EC2A 4PE

Independent Examiner

Catherine Hall FCCA DChA, Slade & Cooper Limited,
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street, Manchester, M4 6JG

Website

www.kmc.org.uk

Knutsford Methodist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st August 2021

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31st August 2021.

Reference and administrative information set out previously form part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's constitution, and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Knutsford Methodist Church (**KMC**) operates within the overall purposes of the **Methodist Church**, which are essentially the advancement of the Christian faith and associated charitable purposes. These are described more fully on the Methodist Church website.

The Trustees have defined the ongoing **Mission** of KMC as to worship God, share the love of Jesus and experience the power of the Holy Spirit at work. We seek:

- **in our worship to give praise and thanksgiving to God in a form that is relevant today.**
- **in our relationships to show that all people are valued.**
- **in our witness to be relevant in what we say, sensitive to how and when we share but bold in our presentation of the gospel.**
- **in our service to respond to human need and spiritual hunger.**
- **in our personal development to pray, study the word of God and grow through knowledge and service in His love.**

The current **Vision** of KMC is **to be Christians who passionately share the love of God.**

This was developed as a "2020s Vision", focused into 6 areas:

Reaching out, Equipping, Nurturing, Encouraging a world view, Worship, Supporting another Church

Refreshing the vision was deferred whilst the Trustees' focus has been on the challenges posed by Covid-19 but, as we emerge from lockdown, we now have a special opportunity to reflect on the life of the church and renew our vision.

Governance and leadership

KMC is an unincorporated charity, registered on 17th June 2009 in England and Wales.

Its constitution derives from the Methodist Church Act 1976 and statutes determined by the Methodist Conference published in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church. It is part of the Alderley Edge & Knutsford Circuit (the Circuit) of 7 churches and communities within the Manchester and Stockport District.

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KMC's Council has authority over the whole area of the ministry of the church. Members of the Church Council are the Managing Trustees of the charity but have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Appointment to Council is primarily by election by the members of the church at the annual General Church Meeting. Certain other members are ex-officio and there are also representatives of the church stewards and of the Circuit. The Circuit is responsible *inter alia* for ministers' stipends and housing, funding these by raising assessments on its churches. Some KMC trustees are also trustees of the Circuit, either ex officio or by election. Any conflicts of interest are properly declared.

A range of guidance is produced by the Methodist Church centrally to support trustees in their understanding of the role, particularly on first appointment.

Council met on 6 occasions during the year, all online.

Day to day control of KMC is exercised by the Minister, supported by the staff team. He is also Superintendent of the Circuit.

Revd Alan Bradley took up his appointment as our Minister on 1st September 2020, faced with the unprecedented challenge in his first year of the church being mainly in lockdown, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Trustees have been very grateful for his clear and sensitive leadership during this period and now look forward to working under his guidance in a less restrictive operating environment.

Revd Neal Stanton, an Authorised Minister and Pioneer Pastor, continues to be focused on building Zac's Kingdom Community in Northwich (Zac's), an initiative of KMC in 2018.

In the Circuit are 2 further full-time ordained ministers, Revd Scott Manning and Revd Sue Swires. Their primary responsibilities lie elsewhere but Scott in particular has had a meaningful role at KMC, both leading services and pastorally. At the end of the church year, we were saddened to hear that Scott had requested permission to resign as a Minister in the Methodist Church. The Circuit has benefitted greatly from Scott's ministry, he and his family will be sorely missed and he goes with our blessings to a new post with an independent church.

With Revd Sue Swires due to retire in 2022, KMC and the Circuit face a significant challenge in rebuilding the ordained ministry team and the re-structuring necessary in the interim. This is being actively addressed.

Apart from the ordained ministers, KMC is also blessed by the ministry of appointed local preachers, together with the Circuit Worship team.

Also working with the Minister are the elected Church Stewards, representing the lay members of the church. Stewards are split between those in a Leadership team covering the

Knutsford Methodist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st August 2021

overall direction and management of the church and others focused on the resourcing of worship services and events.

Members of staff are authorised by CPD to be members of the Council. They do not take part in any discussion on the terms of their employment and, as with all Council members, receive no remuneration by virtue of their role as trustee. Administrative staff are employed directly by KMC whilst other staff (defined as 'lay workers') are employed by the Circuit but with their costs funded by KMC.

The staff team was supplemented at the start of the year with Brad and Rosie Goddon-Smith, who joined us on a short term contract as Youth and Community workers. They have now returned to Cliff College and will be sorely missed by our youth and young adults.

Achievements and performance

Covid-19: Continuing impact

Our hopes that the lockdown and restrictions would be eased early in the year were not realised. Limited re-opening of the building was possible in autumn but soon had to be reversed.

Impact of the continuing closure:

- We could not hold worship services in person or provide outreach facilities such as the Friendship Café and Jolly Tots.
- We were unable to offer rooms for hire to community organisations or provide a quiet space for prayer and reflection.
- House groups could not meet in members' homes, restricting the mutual pastoral care offered in that way.
- Reduction in the church's income, particularly from the inability to let out rooms and the lack of service offertories.

Our responses:

- We have had to learn new ways of "being church", embarking on greater use of social media for pastoral care and prayer, continuing to develop our online worship experience and reshaping our services, including a new weekly mid-day Communion service. We have extended the use of Zoom for fellowship, teaching and various meetings and committees of the church.
- We have found new ways of showing acts of kindness and solidarity with those who have been socially isolating and developed a stronger system of pastoral care through the "buddy system", with 120 of the older and more vulnerable church members allocated to a group of 21 volunteers. We acknowledge the work of Gill

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Foster, acting as a co-ordination point in this and pastoral work generally, during the gap in the employment of a pastoral worker.

- We made an appeal to members to address the financial impact of the Covid lockdown through donations.
- We have started a new church year with restrictions essentially removed, although continuing to take a cautious view, given that many of our members are elderly. The overwhelming feedback from members has been that, despite the challenges, grief and losses over the year, God has been with us and that they have grown in their faith.

Illustrations of our activities and their impact are shown below. The trustees confirm they have complied with the “public benefit requirement” as defined in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011.

Reaching Out *to meet both the practical and the spiritual needs of our community*

Our central town location makes KMC an ideal venue for many local organisations and we are delighted that our facilities are again being used. These include offering free refreshments, prayer support and a listening ministry, including but not limited to the busy monthly Makers Markets. Letting of rooms to external organisations has resumed, with the church resuming its role as an important meeting and networking hub for the community.

We are rebuilding the structure of pastoral support to the elderly, housebound, those in full time care and others in our community, including those in local care homes.

The challenge of dementia within the community is significant and growing. Our Friendship Café, for those with dementia and their carers, established 3 years ago, has resumed. This is a much appreciated social outreach, manned by KMC volunteers.

Although a ‘wealthy’ area, there are pockets of deprivation, including real food poverty. KMC has played its part in recent years in addressing these needs, with members continuing to support the charity Hope Central through the lockdown by the collection and delivery of food donations. Also significant is members’ longstanding and faithful support of the work of the Welcome Charity, both financially and through volunteering. The charity was set up alongside the existing Welcome Methodist Church established in 1996. Initially this was an independent church but it was recently absorbed within KMC. We are now re-evaluating our responsibilities for ministering to the many social needs in the area of Knutsford it has served.

We have been delighted to re-start Jolly Tots, a weekly group for parents and guardians with pre-school children, providing a forum for developing new relationships and enhancing existing ones.

Equipping *ourselves and others to serve God*

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for the year ended 31st August 2021

KMC has a vibrant and far-reaching vision to share the gospel with the children and young people of Knutsford and the surrounding area.

We enjoy excellent relationships with our local schools, including a regular programme of Bible stories in primary schools through drama called 'Open the Book' (delivered by online material during the lockdown). We have also been able to offer again a "Harvest Experience", attended by 180 local schoolchildren and will resume the full programme of visits as the year progresses.

We hope also to resume running 'Care for the Family' courses, supporting parents build a strong and secure relationship with their children, as it is clear these were well received and are again in demand.

During the year we agreed to start the process of becoming an EcoChurch, a disciplined process moving towards a more environmentally sensitive way of living. A newly formed Social Responsibility Group will progress this further, encouraging members to broaden and deepen their re-cycling routines.

Nurturing *one another through the use of fellowship groups*

We currently have 12 house groups with a total membership of 120, representing a significant proportion of the church membership. In addition there is a growing number of groups within the Zac's Community. We actively encourage those new to the church to join a group.

For many their house group is at the heart of what it means to belong to KMC, finding there a source of learning, growth and mutual pastoral care. Most leaders were able to sustain their group through the lockdown by meeting online and their group has been an anchor for many members.

Other groups re-commencing include Monday Club (meeting monthly, open to ladies) and Men's breakfast (an informal setting for members and their guests to meet and discuss a 'thought for the day').

Encouraging a world view *of our mission*

KMC supports other organisations and charities addressing social and faith issues, both in the UK and overseas, which align with our own objectives, including financial support through specific collections.

The restriction on holding services in the church building for much of the year severely constrained our ability to facilitate and encourage financial support of external charities in this way. Those that were supported included:

- Action for Children (helping disadvantaged children across the UK)
- Christian Aid (aiming to end poverty and injustice worldwide)

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- Hope Central (relief of food poverty and other practical support in NE Cheshire)
- JMA & Methodist Church World Mission (supporting individuals and projects around the world)

Members of KMC have their own long-standing commitments to various local, national and international charities and the church seeks to support them in this work. An example is Hope Through Action (South Africa), undertaking valuable work in the Western Cape of South Africa, providing sports and educational facilities to vulnerable children and young people. Over the last ten years, this charity has invested nearly £7m in building three sports centres and two schools. Half of the trustees of this charity are KMC members.

Worship *developing our worship and teaching to reflect how people in today's society learn and communicate*

Pre-pandemic our approach was to offer a range of services, varying in style and format to make them widely accessible and relevant to the world in which we live today. The lockdown necessitated a more focused programme delivered online. Our analysis showed this was viewed by not less than the number previously attending services in person and with the potential to reach a much wider audience. A key ongoing debate is the extent to which we can offer an online worship experience, to reach that wider audience and for the benefit of those unable to access services in person. Livestreaming of services is now being planned but has significant resourcing implications, in both equipment and manpower.

We are now re-building our structure of services in person, the core being a combined Sunday morning service seeking to bring all ages together. Attendance is slowly recovering, although it is clear a residual anxiety remains about meeting together. We have also re-started Cameo, a monthly worship followed by afternoon tea, aimed at senior citizens and those who find it difficult to attend a morning service and this has been well attended.

Following on from providing online teaching and worship material for children, we are now recreating the programme of activities in church under the banner KIDZONE through the strong leadership of our Children and Families' worker. This runs alongside taking the church into schools where possible.

In a difficult year, we continued an active, mainly online youth ministry through the inspiring work of Brad & Rosie. With their departure a group of dedicated volunteers will sustain relationships and run the programme.

Bereavement care is a vital part of our ministry and much appreciated is an annual bereavement service for those who lost loved ones.

Our current membership is 273, although we are part way through a comprehensive review of our data records to ensure these remain valid and up to date. During the last year we sadly lost 6 members who died. In addition to those who are formal members, there are many others who attend our services and events and are seen by us as friends of KMC. Equally they see KMC as "their church".

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Supporting another Church

Zac's Kingdom Community

Essentially a church plant by KMC in the nearby town of Northwich, this is a pioneering project crossing Methodist Circuit and District boundaries.

The vision is to establish a creative, modern **Kingdom Community**, seeking to reach and serve those who do not know Jesus, in ways which will be relevant and appropriate to them.

The goal is that this becomes a thriving, innovative, relevant and self-sustaining community.

Grants were secured, primarily from the Methodist Church centrally, to fund operating costs for the first 3 years. Revd Neal Stanton, an experienced Pioneer Pastor, was appointed in 2018 to lead the project, supported initially by a team from KMC and under his energetic leadership the first 3 years have seen rapid and exciting progress.

After developing innovative online worship experiences during the lockdown, including a daily live broadcast, the Community has been able to resume services in person, in a variety of venues. Home groups and courses provide discipleship opportunities to members, whilst an impressive range of outreach activities has been sustained and developed through the pandemic. Of particular note have been Boxes of Hope, delivering to and connecting with local families in need, working with Cheshire Food Hub and Fareshare and also partnering with experienced mentors to support people looking to run their own small business.

Premises are leased in a prominent high street location, providing offices, meeting space and a drop-in wellbeing cafe.

Neal strongly believes in international mission informing local church and, building on his personal contacts, has developed relationships between Zac's and mission partners in Uganda, notably FACT (Future after child trauma). Tangible results in Uganda have included the building of new toilet facilities and water supplies and support of teachers in developing education skills and practices. Also significant has been the transformational influence on members taking part in the Uganda trips.

With it clearly dependent on external grant funding beyond the initial 3 years, the project faced a significant financial challenge with the freezing by the Methodist Church centrally of applications for new funding, brought on by the impact of Covid. An alternative funding strategy was prepared, through the 2 Circuits and Districts involved and this is progressing well. Giving from the Zac's community members is also growing and set to grow further.

The financial position of Zac's is secure in the current year (Year 4 of the project) and potentially through the following year.

Implicit in a venture such as this is the taking of risks with new programmes and activities and being prepared to fail, within the goal of seeking to reach as many people as possible with God's love and message of hope. Clear evidence is emerging of lives transformed.

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Planting a new community also involves some financial risk to KMC but equally it offers opportunities for our members to serve God in new and exciting ways. KMC trustees have confirmed their financial commitment to the project both in the current and following year.

This is a significant and exciting expansion of the ministry and mission of KMC, which remains one church but now on two sites.

Financial Review

The financial statements which follow this Report comply with current statutory requirements, the charity's constitution, and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Our consolidated financial results for the year covered 3 separate areas of activity:

Zac's Kingdom Community

This was Year 3 of the project, the final year we were scheduled to receive funding from the Methodist Church centrally. In the knowledge of this, extensive discussions took place within the 2 Districts and 2 Circuits sponsoring the initiative, resulting in new and increased commitments, some of which came through in Year 3 to help build a more robust platform for the future. Giving by members was also steadily building. As a result we generated a surplus of £15k against the budgeted deficit of £25k. Operating expenditure, which was contained well within budget, included a share of new investment in youth workers.

Carried forward into the current year was £67k and, although budgeting a sizeable operating deficit of £34k to reduce funds to £33k, we are confident that we have sufficient funds to cover costs this year and possibly also the following year. KMC has committed its own support for both years.

All funds held are restricted to this project.

The Welcome

During the year KMC inherited funds previously held separately in the name of The Welcome Church. Financial activity during the year remained modest, comprising a £5k donation from the Circuit to be passed through to the Welcome Charity, together with donations and regular giving from a group of committed individuals. With a surplus of £4k, funds held at the year-end grew to £25k, all of which is earmarked for ministry and outreach activity in the area of Knutsford previously served by the Welcome Church.

Our strategy is being built for the proper utilisation of these funds.

Core Knutsford operations

We started the year with funds of £118k, close to our reserve policy maximum but faced a budgeted operating deficit of £57k, the combination of a Covid related reduction in our normal income and a short term investment in youth workers.

In the knowledge that such a deficit would take us very close to our minimum level of reserves, we launched an appeal to members, which generated an encouraging £49k including Gift Aid. Additionally we received an unexpected and generous donation of £17k.

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These converted the forecast deficit to a surplus of £15k, lifting our reserves at the year-end to £136k, approaching the equivalent of 7 months budgeted expenditure and above our policy maximum.

The response to the appeal helped offset the continuing shortfall in rental income and collections at services due to the lockdown.

However the appeal was always intended to be in 2 parts , the second with a target of a 15% increase in the regular giving of members, the foundation of our financial structure. Planning for this further appeal has yet to take place, although we have included an element of additional giving in the current year's budget. We have to emphasise there are rather more uncertainties in our forward forecasts than usual, including the cost of certain external property repairs and a call by the Church centrally to make an additional contribution to offset pension fund deficits. The current year's budget is of an operating deficit of £35k, despite assuming some uplift in regular giving.

At the moment we are forecasting holding £105k, the equivalent of 5 months of unrestricted reserves, at the end of August 2022 but this may have to be revised significantly as we progress through the year.

The trustees confirm we are a going concern. There are some material uncertainties, in the area of giving income and also the future financing of Zac's, but options are available to us, as we continue to maintain a closing watching brief over our finances.

Reserves policy

The capacity of the trustees to either reduce expenditure or find new sources of income is, in the short term, very limited. Whilst expenditure is managed to agreed budgets, unexpected falls in income, primarily the voluntary giving of members, can and do occur. Reserves are required therefore to provide an appropriate margin of safety and provide security of employment. They are also required to meet the challenge of maintaining and renewing a 150-year-old building.

The trustees' policy is to maintain as a minimum the equivalent of 3 months' budgeted operating expenditure (approximately £60k) in unrestricted liquid reserves. However we do not wish to keep reserves in excess of 6 months (circa £120k), other than in the short term, and will invest further in our mission and ministry programmes to utilise surplus funds.

Surplus cash is invested with the Central Board of Finance of the Methodist Church.

Grants received for Zac's House are restricted and do not form part of our reserves' calculations.

Funds inherited from the former Welcome Church are treated as designated, earmarked for our work in the area historically covered by that church. They are not included within reserve policy calculations.

Knutsford Methodist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st August 2021

Risk management

Church Council has approved a range of policies, reviewed regularly, including Safeguarding (working with children and vulnerable adults), Health & Safety and Data Protection & Privacy.

In particular the trustees take their responsibility for safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults very seriously and have a Safeguarding Officer in post who attends all Council meetings.

KMC complies with the General Data Protection Regulations, adopting the standard Data Protection and Privacy policies developed by the Methodist Church.

Insurable risks are covered by a comprehensive insurance policy.

Longer term risks include the increasing age of the church membership and the potential for significant building repair and maintenance costs. To mitigate the former, we seek to grow the church membership, especially through programmes designed to attract younger families. With the latter the building is subject to a formal independent inspection every 5 years. All items recorded on the last Inspection report have been actioned.

Plans for the future

As we emerge from lockdown, we believe we have a unique opportunity to reflect on the life of KMC and re-commit to be led by the Holy Spirit, to share the love of God and grow together as a healthy church, following in the way of life that we see in the person of Jesus Christ. We have begun that reflection on what is our identity in Christ and how we may encourage greater connection within KMC to the way of discipleship.

As we return fully to the church building and have the opportunities to meet together in house groups, for worship and importantly in service of the wider community, a number of challenges face KMC and make it right to reflect on what we should be doing and what we need to cease. We will develop a Leadership Team to prayerfully discern the way forward and to work with the Minister in overseeing the whole life of the church. We are planning an awayday for the team in February to reflect on and renew our vision.

Separating the currently combined role of stewards into separate leadership stewards and worship stewards will help focus the roles and lessen the load and this is in progress.

Alongside this work, we are planning an appeal to church members, possibly in Spring 2022, asking them to review their regular giving, to provide the resources to fully re-build the church's activities to pre-pandemic levels and enable future growth.

Knutsford Methodist Church
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31st August 2021

We will respond pastorally to the loss and grief in the church and wider community, paying attention in particular to spiritual and mental wellbeing. As part of this we are planning to run a course on mental wellbeing in January 2022.

Post pandemic we need also to rebuild a number of teams and committees, in particular the resourcing of our ministry to children, youth and families.

From Knutsford we will support the work of a renewed leadership team at Zac's in Northwich.

We will look to opportunities we have to grow the mission of the church in relation to the Longridge estate, new housing developments in Knutsford and our work with local schools.

The trustees will meet in January 2022 to come to a view on whether or not to implement the policies outlined in the report "God in Love unites us", primarily related to the definition of marriage.

We will ensure our objectives in 2021/22 continue to deliver those public benefits previously identified in this report.

Acknowledgements

The trustees, on behalf of the whole church, acknowledge the support and commitment of all who ministered to us during the last year: our appointed Ministers, visiting ministers, worship leaders and authorised Local Preachers.

The trustees thank the current and former members of our staff team and pay tribute to their professionalism and commitment, with particular reference to their work and care recently in making the building safe for re-opening. We also acknowledge the contribution of many volunteers, without whom the mission and ministry of the church could not be sustained, making specific mention of the technicians and worship band who have enabled our online worship.

Reverend Alan Bradley
Minister
Date..... 15/02/2022

Independent examiner's report
to the trustees of
Knutsford Methodist Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021 which are set out on pages 15 to 29.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity'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 charity'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

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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.

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.

Catherine Hall FCCA DChA

Slade & Cooper Limited, Chartered Certified Accountants
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street
Manchester, M4 6JG
Date.. 18/02/2022

Knutsford Methodist Church
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	268,687	14,801	283,488	196,307
Charitable activities	4	-	82,212	82,212	78,060
Other trading activities	5	5,321	276	5,597	13,096
Investments	6	117	79	196	932
Other Income	7	529	-	529	34,882
Total income		274,654	97,368	372,022	323,277
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	8	233,871	82,049	315,920	326,549
Total expenditure		233,871	82,049	315,920	326,549
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	12	40,783	15,319	56,102	(3,272)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		40,783	15,319	56,102	(3,272)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		3,010,753	59,848	3,070,601	3,073,873
Total funds carried forward		3,051,536	75,167	3,126,703	3,070,601

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	2,890,502	2,894,747
Total fixed assets		2,890,502	2,894,747
Current assets			
Debtors	16	31,685	30,779
Cash at bank and in hand	17	207,579	153,479
Total current assets		239,264	184,258
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	18	(3,063)	(8,404)
Net current assets		236,201	175,854
Net assets		3,126,703	3,070,601
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	19	75,167	59,848
Unrestricted income funds	20	3,051,536	3,010,753
Total charity funds		3,126,703	3,070,601

The notes on pages 18 to 29 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 15/02/2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Reverend Alan Bradley (Minister)

David Tomkins (Trustee)

Knutsford Methodist Church
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ending 31 August 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	22	53,904	(2,559)
<i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>			
Interest		196	932
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	-
Cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		196	932
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		54,100	(1,627)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		153,479	155,106
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		207,579	153,479

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), second edition - October 2019 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity, Knutsford Methodist Church meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

No key judgments were made by the trustees which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met and when it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

d Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

e Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

f Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

g Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Freehold building	Based on insurance valuation
Office fixtures and equipment	10 years

h Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

i Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

j Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

k Funds held as agent

As the charity has no control over the funds which they received as an agent, they do not form any part of the balance sheet or statement of financial activities. The movement of the funds is presented in the note only.

l Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution workplace pension scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 13. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is an unincorporated charity, registered as a charity in England & Wales.

3 Income from donations and offerings

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
Offerings	133,014	8,800	141,814
Donations	97,232	3,540	100,772
Gift Aid	38,441	2,461	40,902
Total	268,687	14,801	283,488

Previous reporting period

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2020 £
Offerings	132,114	4,310	136,424
Donations	30,759	1,220	31,979
Gift Aid	26,909	995	27,904
Total	189,782	6,525	196,307

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Grant Income	-	82,212	82,212	78,060
Total	-	82,212	82,212	78,060
<i>Total by fund 31 August 2020</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>78,060</i>	<i>78,060</i>	

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £
Lettings Income	4,931	-	4,931
Refreshments	-	-	-
Other fees	390	276	666
Total	5,321	276	5,597

Previous reporting period

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2020 £
Lettings Income	12,100	-	12,100
Refreshments	325	-	325
Other fees	385	286	671
Total	12,810	286	13,096

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income from bank deposits	117	79	196	932
	117	79	196	932
<i>Total by fund 31 August 2020</i>	<i>567</i>	<i>365</i>	<i>932</i>	

All of the charity's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts. .

7 Other Income

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
Other Income	529	-	529	34,882
	529	-	529	34,882
<i>Total by fund 31 August 2020</i>	<i>1,781</i>	<i>33,101</i>	<i>34,882</i>	

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

8 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Staff costs (see note 13)	95,582	92,278
Circuit Assessment	129,061	118,684
Premises Costs	34,831	84,675
Depreciation	4,242	4,231
Administration costs	39,520	23,890
Grants Payable (see note 10)	10,824	1,151
Governance costs (see note 9)	1,860	1,640
	315,920	326,549
	2021 £	2020 £
Restricted expenditure	82,049	107,420
Unrestricted expenditure	233,871	219,129
	315,920	326,549

9 Analysis of governance costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Accountancy services (incl. VAT)	1,860	1,640
	1,860	1,640

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

10 Grant making activities

Name of institution	2021 £	2020 £
Methodist Church World Mission	1,500	-
Methodist Church Mission in Britain	1,500	-
Methodist Church Property Fund	1,000	-
Support Fund for Presbyters/Deacons	560	-
Leaders of Worship/Preachers Trust	250	-
The Welcome Charity	5,000	-
District Partnership fund	1,014	1,151
	10,824	1,151

All grants have been made to institutions to provide further resources to their mission and ministry.

11 Funds received as agent

Name of Party	Balance held at 1 September 2020	Amounts received	Amounts paid out	Balance held at 31 August 2021
Action for Children	-	50	(50)	-
Christian Aid	-	50	(50)	-
Hampers of Hope	-	100	(100)	-
JMA	-	5	(5)	-
Total	-	205	(205)	-

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

Previous reporting period

Name of Party	Balance held at 1 September 2019	Amounts received	Amounts paid out	Balance held at 31 August 2020
Action for Children	-	91	(91)	-
All We Can	-	638	(638)	-
Hampers of Hope	-	120	(120)	-
JMA	-	84	(84)	-
Leprosy Mission	-	113	(113)	-
Mission in Britain	-	150	(150)	-
Uganda Toilet	-	1,687	(1,687)	-
Total	-	2,883	(2,883)	-

12 Net income for the year

This is stated after charging:	2021 £	2020 £
Depreciation	4,245	4,231
IE's remuneration - accountancy fees (excl. VAT)	1,100	1,100
Independent examiner's fees (excl. VAT)	450	525

13 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	30,765	30,513
Pension costs	1,406	1,349
Costs of Layworkers and Pioneer Pastor, Zac's House	63,411	60,416
	95,582	92,278

No employee has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2020: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 4 (2020: 4).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £16,824 (2020: £16,634).

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

14 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

Amanda Vickers and Jo Wallwork, trustees who are also employees, received total remuneration of £16,824 in the year (2020: £16,634).

2 (2020:3) members of the council received travel and subsistence expenses during the year of £1,150 (2020:£1,481).

Aggregate donations without conditions from related parties were £42,449 (2020: £27,841).

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year (2020: nil).

The following trustees also served as trustees of the Alderley Edge & Knutsford Methodist Circuit (Charity number: 1127258):

S Atkinson	J Bailey	Bryan Peak
E Hall	Revd A Bradley	P Freeman
P Richards	Revd S Manning	C Robertson
H Waters	Revd N Stanton	

The costs of the Circuit, which essentially comprise the District Assessment, Ministers' Stipends and associated employment costs and the costs of the Manses they occupy are allocated between the various churches in the Circuit, linked to their respective membership figures. This is referred to as the Circuit Assessment and for KMC in 2020/21 was £129,061 (2019/20 £118,684).

The Circuit Budget and the associated Assessments are determined by the trustees of the Circuit, which include representation from each church in the Circuit and currently exceed 30 in number.

The 11 KMC trustees take part in the decision making process of the Circuit but are not in a position to exert a disproportionate influence on its decisions.

As authorised by Methodist CPD, the following layworkers are trustees of KMC:

Peter Freeman

In addition to the layworkers, Revd Neal Stanton is a trustee of KMC, derived from his status as an Authorised Minister. Although KMC bears their cost as they are placed at this church, they are not its employees but rather of the Circuit. In aggregate they received remuneration of £51,797 in the year (2020 £58,918) and reimbursement of expenses of £1,475 (2020: £1,197), funded by KMC. They are not in a position to influence the level of this remuneration.

Staff Remuneration

Members of staff are authorised by CPD to be members of the Council.

Their remuneration is set by the Church Council through its consideration and approval of annual budgets with any annual increase usually following national guidelines issued for the remuneration of ministers and lay workers.

Members of staff do not take part in any discussions or vote in Council meetings on the terms and conditions of their employment.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

15 Fixed assets: tangible assets

Cost	Building	Furniture £	Equipment £	Total £
At 1 September 2020	2,870,187	31,031	3,418	2,904,636
Additions	-	-	-	-
Adjustments	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2021	2,870,187	31,031	3,418	2,904,636
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2020	-	8,536	1,353	9,889
Charge for the year	-	3,103	1,142	4,245
At 31 August 2021	-	11,639	2,495	14,134
Net book value				
At 31 August 2021	2,870,187	19,392	923	2,890,502
At 31 August 2020	2,870,187	22,495	2,065	2,894,747

16 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	830	891
Other debtors	12,160	10,423
Prepayments and accrued income	18,695	19,465
	31,685	30,779

17 Cash at bank and in hand

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash at bank and on hand	207,579	153,479
	207,579	153,479

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Accruals	2,846	8,236
Taxation and social security costs	217	168
	<u>3,063</u>	<u>8,404</u>

19 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
Northwich Initiative (Zac's House)	52,281	96,843	(81,863)	-	67,261
Friendship Café	4,399	525	(186)	-	4,738
Benevolent Fund	2,601	-	-	-	2,601
Tuesday Fellowship	567	-	-	-	567
	<u>59,848</u>	<u>97,368</u>	<u>(82,049)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,167</u>

Previous reporting period

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Northwich Initiative (Zac's House)	39,910	84,730	(72,359)	-	52,281
Refurbishment	-	32,209	(33,867)	1,658	-
Friendship Café	4,730	706	(1,037)	-	4,399
Benevolent Fund	2,633	-	(32)	-	2,601
Tuesday Fellowship	-	692	(125)	-	567
	<u>47,273</u>	<u>118,337</u>	<u>(107,420)</u>	<u>1,658</u>	<u>59,848</u>

Name of Fund

Description

Benevolent Fund (Internal Organisation)	Payments are made to alleviate crisis situations faced by individuals, both members and non-members of the church, who have a demonstrated need.
Refurbishment Project	This includes the refurbishment of the church toilet facilities and the Youth room.
Zac's House	Zac's House is a church plant in Northwich, Cheshire.
Friendship Café	Regular meetings ran by the church for dementia sufferers and their primary carers.

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

20 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 August 2021 £
General fund	3,010,753	243,765	(228,787)	-	3,025,731
The Welcome Church	-	30,889	(5,084)	-	25,805
	<u>3,010,753</u>	<u>274,654</u>	<u>(233,871)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,051,536</u>

Previous reporting period

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 August 2020 £
General fund	3,026,600	204,940	(219,129)	(1,658)	3,010,753
	<u>3,026,600</u>	<u>204,940</u>	<u>(219,129)</u>	<u>(1,658)</u>	<u>3,010,753</u>

Name of unrestricted fund Description, nature and purposes of the fund

General fund The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds and restricted funds
The Welcome Church Included in Trustees Report.

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	2,889,580	-	922	2,890,502
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	136,151	25,805	74,245	236,201
	<u>3,025,731</u>	<u>25,805</u>	<u>75,167</u>	<u>3,126,703</u>

Previous reporting period

	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	2,892,683	-	2,064	2,894,747
Other net current assets/(liabilities)	118,070	-	57,784	175,854
	<u>3,010,753</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,848</u>	<u>3,070,601</u>

Knutsford Methodist Church

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 (continued)

22 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	56,102	(3,272)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	4,245	4,231
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(196)	(932)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(906)	(309)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(5,341)	(2,277)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	53,904	(2,559)