

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.

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

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).

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

- 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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

Knutsford Methodist Church

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	194,846	1,328	196,174
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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>
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	<i>214,691</i>	<i>10,927</i>	<i>225,618</i>
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

4 Income from charitable activities

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

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

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

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	266,734	303,573
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
	2024 £	2023 £
Restricted expenditure	15,012	71,819
Unrestricted expenditure	251,722	231,754
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	266,734	303,573
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

9 Analysis of governance costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Accountancy services (incl. VAT)	2,100	2,004
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,100	2,004
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,000	9,810
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	-	1,427	(1,324)	103
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,110	6,635
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	19,318	1,510	(15,012)	-	5,816
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Previous reporting period

	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
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	46,104	45,033	(71,819)	-	19,318
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

Name of Fund

Benevolent Fund
(Internal
Organisation)

Description

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 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
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(34,430)	3,780
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

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.