

## **Heswall Methodist Church – Annual Report, Sept.2024 – August 2025**

In times of despondency over the decline of the church, both nationally and with our own church, it is pleasing to report so many positive things in our recent church year.

Our minister, Reverend Phyl Fanning, has continued to support us well into his 'retirement' and has agreed to continue until Aug.2027. He has had to support a number of different churches in the circuit in recent times but can now focus on ourselves and the congregations of Irby and Greasby. He is hoping he can steer us through a phase of change considering with us whether we can embrace a future of one church with multiple congregations.

We have welcomed Paula Dewhirst who is a Lay Pastor, still in her training phase, who is being mentored by Phyl and, as a team, they hope to be able to improve the outreach of our pastoral care. We have a strong team of pastoral visitors continuing their excellent work, and we hope now to be able to focus more on the needs of our members who cannot now attend church due to age or infirmity.

Our worship, has continued to be enhanced by good preaching and the services of our team of organists. Our main organist, Clive Grey, has served us with quality and humility. Our morning congregations have continued to hold up, averaging around 40, and swelled during joint services with Irby and Greasby. Our annual parade service in September is well supported and maintains our links with the young people and their leaders, particularly with the scout group. This links with the Harvest Festival and produces a wonderful response of gifts for Wirral Foodbank.

We continue to benefit from a well-maintained property and a warm and comfortable worship environment, enhanced by our recently installed a/v system improving both sound and screens, along with a good proportion of our members being prepared to help out.

Weekly outreach continues to be focussed on the Beacon Coffee Shop and Church Mice. The Beacon continues to raise many thousands of pounds for charities each year as well as providing a friendly environment for church members and many from outside, often lonely, to meet with each other in the supportive environment produced by our volunteers. Church Mice for preschool children had another good year with thirty-plus on the register and continuing to engage with families who are not part of our worshipping community. The Christingle service in December continued that engagement and was well supported.

We again engaged with almost 200 children from the Year 2 and Year 6 pupils of three local primary schools in The Hope Journey. In these a number of church members run rotating workshops about Remembering and Meeting the Characters of the Christmas Story. This is supported and resourced by the circuit children's team and has been a fixture for over ten years.

Despite gloomy predictions from bygone years and a steadily ageing congregation, we continue to be able to function well as a church community and to provide a degree of outreach to the local community.

The Church Stewards

THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

HESWALL METHODIST CHURCH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2025

Wirral Methodist Churches Circuit	Circuit No.	18/09
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1130586

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

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

**Minister:**

Revd. Phyl N Fanning

**Church Stewards:**

Christine B Anderson

Andrew J T Boswell

Stephen J Pillow

**Treasurer:**

Michael D D Howlett

89 Telegraph Road, Heswall, Wirral CH60 0AE.

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
		£	£	£		£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		51,540	51,540		53,165
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		2,037	2,037		5,376
a4	Lettings		28,034	28,034		25,079
a5	Other receipts			4,435	4,435	
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		81,612	4,435	86,047 (a7)	83,620

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		51,166	51,166		48,735
b3	Donations					
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		36,030	36,030		38,991
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		14,755	14,755		11,648
b6	Church Administration		1,339	1,339		1,107
b7	Other payments		10,888	112	11,000	78
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		114,178	112	114,290 (b9)	100,560

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(32,567)	4,323	(28,243)	(16,940)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		89,016	2,742	91,757 (c6)	100,258
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	56,449	7,065	63,514	83,318
c4	Transfers and adjustments		7,739		7,739 (c7)	8,439
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	64,188	7,065	71,253 (c8)	91,757 (c6)

SECTION D					
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS					
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		£		£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year				
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		7,957		4,530
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		7,957		4,530
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)			

# HESWALL METHODIST CHURCH

## SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

### SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

	INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Transfers to General Fund	Opening balances	Closing balances	
e1	Beacon Coffee Shop	31,342	24,857	6,485	(6,862)	2,659	2,282	
e2	Church Mice	569	157	412	(412)			
e3	Orion Club	1,646	881	765	(465)	1,381	1,680	
e4								
e5								
e6						christingle adj.		
e7						52		
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	33,557	25,895	7,662	(7,739)	4,092 (e11)	3,963 (e12)	
e9	trans	86,047 (a7)	114,290 (b9)	(28,243)	7,739 (c7)	91,757 (c6)	71,253 (c8)	
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	119,604	140,185	(20,581)		95,849 (x)	75,216 (y)	
		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS					

Continue on a separate sheet  
if necessary and bring the  
totals forward

### SECTION F

#### STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

##### CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2025

		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand		
f2	Bank Current Account	7,636	16,261
f3	Bank Deposit Account		
f4	Central Finance Board	51,416	22,229
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	32,705	32,763
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	91,757 (c6)	71,253 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	4,092 (e11)	3,963 (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	95,849 (x)	75,216 (y)

### SECTION G

#### OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	£2.76M £0.74M	£2.85M £0.76M
g3	Other Assets	£0.58M	£0.60M
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities	£145K	£149K

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of Church . **HESWALL METHODIST CHURCH**

## Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

19th September 2025

Signature of treasurer ..... *SIGNED BY MDDH*

Name and address of treasurer ..... **MDD Howlett, 'Barnwell' 17 Long Meadow, Gayton, Wirral**

..... Post Code. **CH60 8QQ**

### Presentation to the Church trustees

Signature of the Chair of the meeting ..... SIGNED BY REV P N FANNING

Name of the Chair of the meeting ... **Rev P N Fanning** 16.10.25

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

**HESWALL METHODIST CHURCH**

**Charity Number . 1130586**

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the **Heswall Methodist Church** for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages 2 to 3. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

\* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church ..... **HESWALL METHODIST CHURCH**

**Independent Examiner’s Statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below\*) which give me cause for concern in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I have/\* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) as at the year end date.

Signature of independent examiner ..... *SIGNED BY P M LUMB*

Name of independent examiner ..... **Dr PM Lumb**

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner .....

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address: **22 Farmstead Way, Gt Sutton, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire**

..... Post Code .....

Date .... **26/09/2025**

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Name of independent examiner ..... **Dr PM Lumb**

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner .....

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address: **22 Farmstead Way, Gt Sutton, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire**

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