

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1130630

Details

Other names	FOMC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-07-21
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Four Oaks Methodist Church 155 Lichfield Road Sutton Coldfield B74 2UU
Phone	0121 308 7425
Email	fouroakschurch@outlook.com
Website	www.fouroaksmethodist.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: To promote religious activities and the name and beliefs of Jesus Christ. To show a love and care for the surrounding community.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Birmingham City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£260,244	£204,181	-	-
2024-08-31	£204,395	£187,984	-	-
2023-08-31	£169,587	£174,300	-	-
2022-08-31	£161,950	£173,726	-	-
2021-08-31	£145,039	£124,332	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANGELA CONSTANTINE		
ANNETTE ASHFORD		
CAROLYN NICHOLL		
Carolyn Mary Humpherson		2013-05-21
Celiwe Deborah Majola		2021-09-01
DEACON MARILYN OLAYINKA SUSANNAH SLOWE		2017-09-01
DIANA BOSMAN		2016-10-06
David Bowater		2017-07-16
Glyn Constantine		2024-09-17
JANE SWEETMAN		2015-04-26
Janet Glass Darke		2014-05-31
Julie Ann Read		2019-05-19
Lynette Mary Jones		2020-09-01
MARION WATTS		2017-04-02
MR BILL HUMPHERSON		2013-05-21
MRS SUE STEWART		2012-11-29
PETER JOHN SVERRE JOHANSEN MBE		
Rachel Joy Williamson		2020-09-01
Rev Nicholas William Jones		2022-09-01
SUE VALERIE HAYDEN		
Susan Mary Janet Denning		2025-01-13
THOMAS FRANK WATTS		2017-04-02

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1130630

Accounts

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025
FOR
FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH**

J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) effective 1 January 2019 - (the Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Purposes and aims

Four Oaks Methodist Church stands proudly at the crossroads of Four Oaks Road and the Lichfield Road as a gateway welcoming everyone to Four Oaks.

Our vision/mission statement is that we seek to be a beacon for Christ - radiating the love of God through worship, word and witness.

Our objectives and aims can be summarised as follows:-

1. To promote religious activities and the name and beliefs of Jesus Christ.
2. To show a love and care for the surrounding community.
3. To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church.
4. Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, Local or other organisation of the Methodist Church.
5. Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.
6. Worshipping God through prayer, song and other acts of worship.
7. The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the Church and non-members alike.
8. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
9. The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
10. Hosting school visits to the Church to learn about Christianity.
11. Promoting Christianity through the staging of events and services.
12. Providing chaplaincy services to local schools, care homes and other institutions as appropriate and where able.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help. The review also helps us to ensure that our aim, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The focus of our work

The focus of our work continues primarily to be the advancement of the Christian faith in the Four Oaks community in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Grant making

Four Oaks Methodist Church makes small grants to various organisations and individuals who support and deliver the Church's objects.

Potential recipients of grants paid by Four Oaks Methodist Church are reviewed by the Trustees on a case-by-case basis depending upon the available resources of the Charity.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Amongst other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and, therefore, to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:-

1. The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
2. The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
3. The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
4. The selection and training of all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
5. Respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authorities in any investigation.
6. Seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
7. Seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
8. Seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our Church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
9. In all of these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Four Oaks Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, Government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Four Oaks Methodist Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

How our activities deliver public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging.

The Church recognises that it remains an ongoing struggle to increase or even stabilise church membership in a context of rapid national decline. Our focus this past year, now the Covid pandemic is in the past, has been to reengage with both the wider congregation and also the surrounding Four Oaks community by offering a range of activities for people of all ages and beliefs.

Our main activities and who we try to help are described below. The Charity's activities continue to focus on our aim to advance the Christian faith in the Four Oaks community in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church.

Review of the year

Four Oaks Methodist Church has continued to meet its objective to witness to the Four Oaks community through the many activities that are regularly held on Church premises.

The Church has responded to changing circumstances by embracing new technologies to maintain contact with the Church family and with the wider community. The Church website (<https://www.fouroaksmethodist.org.uk>) and its associated Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FourOaksMethodistChurch>) have been updated and contain links and information on our ongoing activities. A new WhatsApp group has been formed that contains daily meditations and selected Church notices. The weekly Church notices are now sent by e-mail to Church members and other individuals on request. All of these modern digital ways of communication allow us to share resources and links to worship services, worship at home notes, the weekly lectionary readings and the Methodist Prayer Handbook. We have also been able to start using some of the extensive AV facilities more for the benefit of the members and also those groups that utilise the premises

Four Oaks Methodist Church has a large and active membership and is one of the stronger churches in the Sutton Park Circuit. There are a number of house groups that meet regularly for bible study and fellowship. The Church has a strong pastoral team that is in regular contact with the wider Church family and delivers the monthly *Messenger*.

The Church continues to sponsor and support a full range of uniformed organisations including Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies, Girl Guides and Focus Explorer Scouts. There is also a popular Baby and Toddlers group.

There is a regular service held on a Wednesday morning which is well attended.

A considerable amount of outreach continues to take place with elderly people within our local community particularly aimed towards those who live alone and have few regular visitors. These activities include a monthly Luncheon Club, a Monday Fellowship meeting, Ladies' Friendship Club, and the Flower Guild. A popular monthly Men's Fellowship Group is centred around a series of interesting short biopics of attendees' backgrounds and life experiences.

The Church held a well-attended community event on 8 May 2025 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

In order to raise funds for the Organ Restoration Fund, the Church hosted two concerts during the year which raised £1,814 net of expenses; a *"Classical Gala Evening"* in October 2024 and *"Songs from the Shows"* in May 2025.

Four Oaks Methodist Church continues to support *"Love in a Box"* where shoeboxes are filled with small items for children of all ages living in poor areas locally and nationally. We continue to support local, national and international charities.

We have not forgotten those who do not have ready access to the internet and our pastoral team is in regular contact by phone with people who may be stuck at home alone. Practical help with shopping, collecting prescriptions and transport for visits to doctors and hospitals have all been freely given and copies of the weekly notice sheets are delivered by a group of volunteers.

We are mindful of the benefits of regular prayer and a dedicated prayer line (fomcprayerline@gmail.com) has been established for those in need of comfort and support.

The Church family supports Birmingham City Missions and Erdington Food Bank with donations of food, money and help from volunteers.

Following the reopening of the Church premises, many external organisations returned to meet at the Church including: -

- The Tudor Club
- Art for Life - a popular art class
- a number of choirs and dance groups
- "Moo" music and dancing for toddlers
- a Punjabi-speaking club and luncheon group
- the Sutton Coldfield Wind Orchestra
- a "Tiny Talk" baby signing group
- a number of counselling and support groups

The Church continues to seek out opportunities to serve the wider Four Oaks community whenever it can.

Staff changes

It is the tradition in the Methodist Church for Presbyters and Deacons to be appointed for an initial period of five years with the option for this to be extended by up to a further five years. Deacon Marilyn Slowe completed her initial five-year appointment on 31 August 2021 but accepted an invitation to extend her appointment for a further five years. Deacon Marilyn has had a really positive influence on the church with her friendly outgoing manner and many people have benefited from pastoral visits and her friendship. The Trustees are delighted that Deacon Marilyn will continue to bless us with her care and ministry.

The Methodist Connexion appointed Reverend Nick Jones as Circuit Superintendent of the Sutton Park Circuit on 1 September 2023 and gave him pastoral responsibility for Four Oaks with effect from 1 September 2024. The Trustees look forward to working with Reverend Nick Jones in the coming years as he leads the ministry and pastoral team at Four Oaks.

Eco-Church

The Methodist Connexion is committed to completely negating the amount of greenhouse gases that it produces to net zero by 2030. In order to achieve this objective, the Church set up a committee to look at how Four Oaks Methodist Church can become an Eco-Church. This will be a major challenge as the Church premises are a grade 2 listed building which restricts the nature of alterations that we can make to it. Nevertheless, during the year the Church achieved a *"Bronze Eco-Church Award"* for the work that it has done to date. The Church also held an outdoor community *"Eco Service"* and has raised money to twin toilets in developing countries.

This eco committee has already identified ways of managing and reducing our energy consumption and are investigating the replacement of our gas boilers with a more environmentally friendly solution.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Financial review

Financial position

o Income trends

Church income is primarily drawn from the Sunday collections, standing orders and the associated Gift Aid tax credit, supplemented by lettings income from Wesley Cottage and room rental fees paid by external users of our Church building.

Unrestricted Church income totalling £202,959 for the year ended 31 August 2025 (2024 - £169,509) increased by £33,450 or 19.7% compared to the year ended 31 August 2024 due mainly to a £22,255 refund of a Pension Fund Contribution made in November 2021 and a £5,537 increase in rental income.

Restricted Church income totalling £56,342 for the year ended 31 August 2025 (2024 - £33,889) increased by £22,453 due to two legacies received in the year of £26,652 and grants and donations received of £28,862 for the Organ Restoration Fund.

o Expenditure trends

The circuit assessment of £76,208 (2024 - £72,579) due to the Sutton Park Circuit continues to be our single largest item of unrestricted expenditure, amounting to 38% (2024 – 39%) of total unrestricted expenditure for the year ended 31 August 2025. A significant amount of the Circuit assessment is used to pay the District Assessment, stipends and costs related to ministers and deacons.

The total unrestricted expenditure of for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £202,662 (2024 - £184,080) which was an increase of £18,582 or 10% compared to the previous year. This increase in costs was due to higher expenditure on property maintenance and general inflationary increases in other cost areas. The cost of repairs and maintenance to the Church premises increased by £12,487 to £35,565 (2024 - £23,078) because of emergency repairs to the heating system and the routine repainting of the meeting rooms. The Church has continued to save money on its energy costs by its decision to move the Sunday worship services into the large hall during the winter months.

o Fund balances

As at 31 August 2025 the unrestricted net assets of Four Oaks Methodist Church, including designated funds, amounted to £60,678 (2024 - £68,290), giving approximately 4 months cover for normal expenditure (2024 - 4 months).

As at 31 August 2025 the restricted net assets of Four Oaks Methodist Church amounted to £121,235 (2024 - £64,369) which largely relates to the balance on the Redevelopment Fund of £40,477 and the Organ Restoration Fund of £73,079. The funds held in the Redevelopment Fund have been retained to be used for future capital expenditure at the Church. The Church started an Organ Restoration Fund in 2023 to finance the future cost of the refurbishment of the historic Church organ which is estimated will cost £90,000.

Endowment funds amounted to £42,043 as at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £41,172).

Investment policy and objectives

The Charity's Trustees will continue to explore and consider appropriate ways of investing reserves in such a way as to increase income without exposing the Charity to undue risks.

The Church has invested a total of £42,043 as at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £41,172) in funds managed by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes which aims to manage the funds and obtain good returns on these investments whilst making sure that the investments are in line with the moral and ethical teaching of the Methodist Church.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months (2024 – 4 months) average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the Church building and/or be able to continue funding, in the short-term, planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full expenses including the assessment due to the Circuit.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Going concern

The Coronavirus pandemic forced the closure of the Church premises for much of 2020 and the first half of 2021. Following the easing of Government restrictions, the Church premises were re-opened in June 2021 and worship services recommenced. The Church was therefore able to operate on a more normal basis during the year ended 31 August 2025.

The large increases in energy costs that began in 2022 are an ongoing concern. The Church continues to monitor the situation closely and has taken steps to actively manage its energy usage. Consequently, the Trustees are of the opinion that the Charity will be able to maintain its current activities for the foreseeable future. The Trustees have, therefore, considered that it is appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared on the going concern basis.

Future plans

The Church premises currently remain fully open for worship and external activities. However, we continue to closely monitor the Coronavirus situation and are aware of the need to abide and respond promptly to any changes in Government guidelines. In the meantime, the Church will continue to reach out and support the wider community through worship, prayer and practical support where needed.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Four Oaks Methodist Church is an unincorporated charity which achieved charitable status on 21 July 2009 (registered number 1130630).

Four Oaks Methodist Church is governed by a Deed of Union dated 1932 and by the Methodist Church Act 1976.

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

Trustees must be Members of the Methodist Church and are recruited to reflect the diversity of the Church's activities within the local community. Appointment as a trustee follows informal meetings with the current Trustees.

Organisational structure

The members of Four Oaks Methodist Church Council consist of the Charity's Trustees which comprise the Church office holders, Ministers and representatives appointed by the Church at the Annual Church Meeting.

The Charity is organised so that its Church Council meets regularly to manage its affairs and formulate policy. Day to day management of the Church is undertaken by the Church Leadership team along with the Ministers.

Induction and training of new Trustees

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the church, specifically the leaflet "The Role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church", is given to all new church Trustees as part of their induction as a trustee.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Key management remuneration

In the Trustees' opinion, the key management personnel of the Charity responsible for the direction, control, running and operation of the Charity on a day-to-day basis consists of the Church Council

Key management personnel – Church Council

In most instances, all Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the Charity or remuneration received by Trustees from the Charity are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Remuneration for staff is reviewed annually and normally increased based upon the position of the Charity's finances and the cost of living in general. The Church subscribes to the principles set out by The Living Wage Foundation.

Related parties

Four Oaks Methodist Church is part of the Sutton Coldfield Circuit which is part of the West Midlands District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The internal organisations linked to the church are the Monday Fellowship, the Flower Guild, the Ladies' Friendship Club, the Luncheon Club and Home Missions.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks that the Charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Income and expenditure are monitored and compared with the approved annual budget after at least every 3 months to detect trends as part of the risk management process and to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Fundraising

The majority of our income comes from voluntary donations from our membership and from other supporters. Through the fundraising efforts of our members and supporters we are generating the financial resources to enable us to provide our services.

The Church Council is deeply committed to building relationships and trust with our members and supporters and is committed to the strengthening of oversight and assurance concerning our fundraising efforts and in ensuring compliance and best practice in these areas.

We are particularly aware of the need to protect vulnerable individuals in any fundraising we undertake. Our vulnerable persons' policy sets out the standards we commit to meet.

We continue to be committed to addressing any expression of dissatisfaction on the part of our members and supporters to examining ways to improve the levels of our service to them.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1130630

Registered office

155 Lichfield Road
Sutton Coldfield
B74 2UU

Trustees and Key Lay Workers

Ministers

Reverend Nick Jones (appointed 1 September 2024)

Deacon Marilyn Slowe

Centre Manager and Lay Worker

Peter Cashmore

Church Treasurer

David Bowater

Church Stewards

Janet Darke (resigned 31 August 2025)

Lynette Jones

Julie Anne Read

Sue Stewart (appointed 1 September 2024)

Angela Constantine (appointed 1 September 2025)

Glyn Constantine (appointed 1 September 2025)

Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Anne Thompson (resigned 13 January 2025)

Sue Denning (appointed 13 January 2025)

Sutton Park Circuit representatives

Reverend Nick Jones

Deborah Majola

Church representatives (other members of the Church Council)

Annette Ashford (appointed 17 September 2024)

Madeline Ballantine (resigned 17 September 2024)

Diana Bosman

Angela Cliff (resigned 27 February 2024)

Sue Hayden

Bill Humpherson

Carolyn Humpherson

Peter Johansen

Carolyn Nicholl

Jane Sweetman

Rodney Thompson (resigned 13 January 2025)

Marion Watts

Tom Watts

Rachel Williamson

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (continued)

Independent examiner

P E Smith ACA
J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

Bankers

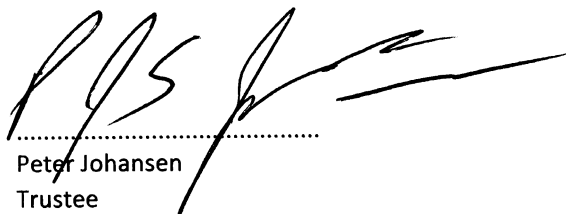
HSBC plc
67 South Parade
Sutton Coldfield
B72 1PA

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
Methodist Church House
25 Tavistock Place
London
WC1H 9SF

Investment manager

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JQ

Approved by order of the Church Council on 27th January 2026 and signed on the Church Council's behalf by:



.....
Peter Johansen
Trustee

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FOUR OAKS 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 11 to 25.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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.



Peter Smith ACA
J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 3BH

27 January 2026

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £
Income						
Offerings		56,171		289		56,460
Legacies				26,652		26,652
Donations and grants				28,862		28,862
Gift Aid		13,551		539		14,090
Interest and investment income		6,174			943	7,117
Income from investment properties		8,225				8,225
Internal organisations		11,280				11,280
Other charitable income	4	107,558				107,558
Total income		202,959	-	56,342	943	260,244
Expenditure						
Circuit assessment		76,208				76,208
Grants and donations		2,342				2,342
Property maintenance	7	35,565		1,270		36,835
Insurance, utilities etc.		30,817				30,817
Office expenses	8	9,365				9,365
Other expenditure	9	40,299		115	134	40,548
Internal organisations		8,066				8,066
Total charitable expenditure		202,662	-	1,385	134	204,181
Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	10				62	62
Gains/(losses) on investment properties						
Net (expenditure) /income		297	-	54,957	871	56,125
Transfers between funds	11	(1,909)		1,909		
Other gains/(losses)						
Net movement in funds		(1,612)	-	56,866	871	56,125
Total funds brought forward	18	62,290	6,000	64,369	41,172	173,831
Total funds carried forward	18	60,678	6,000	121,235	42,043	229,956

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £
Income						
Offerings		51,587				51,587
Donations and grants		9,088		27,965		37,053
Gift Aid		14,477		5,924		20,401
Interest and investment income		3,900			997	4,897
Income from investment properties		8,955				8,955
Internal organisations		6,578				6,578
Other charitable income	4	74,924				74,924
Total income		169,509	-	33,889	997	204,395
Expenditure						
Circuit assessment		72,579				72,579
Grants and donations		3,791				3,791
Property maintenance	7	23,078		3,724		26,802
Insurance, utilities etc.		28,591				28,591
Office expenses	8	7,165				7,165
Other expenditure	9	41,940		70	110	42,120
Internal organisations		6,936				6,936
Total charitable expenditure		184,080	-	3,794	110	187,984
Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	10				1,700	1,700
Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
Net (expenditure) /income		(14,571)	-	30,095	2,587	18,111
Transfers between funds	11	(606)		606		-
Other gains/(losses)						-
Net movement in funds		(15,177)	-	30,701	2,587	18,111
Total funds brought forward	18	77,467	6,000	33,668	38,585	155,720
Total funds carried forward	18	62,290	6,000	64,369	41,172	173,831

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets							
Church building and other property						-	-
Investment properties						-	-
Investments					42,043	42,043	41,172
Total Fixed Assets		-	-	-	42,043	42,043	41,172
Current Assets							
Debtors and prepayments	12	17,301		24,000		41,301	26,023
Loans by the Church						-	-
Investments with TMCP						-	-
Central Finance Board Deposits		22,784	6,000	97,235		126,019	73,799
Cash at Bank and in hand		35,777				35,777	46,417
Total Current Assets		75,862	6,000	121,235	-	203,097	146,239
Current Liabilities							
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	15	15,184				15,184	13,580
Grants' payable within 2025-26						-	-
Total Current Liabilities		15,184	-	-	-	15,184	13,580
Net Current Assets/(liabilities)		60,678	6,000	121,235	-	187,913	132,659
Long Term Liabilities							
(due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2025-26						-	-
Loans to the Church						-	-
Net Assets		60,678	6,000	121,235	42,043	229,956	173,831
Funds of the Church							
General Fund (Unrestricted)	16.1	60,678				60,678	62,290
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	16.2		6,000			6,000	6,000
Total Unrestricted Funds		60,678	6,000	-	-	66,678	68,290
Restricted Funds	17			121,235		121,235	64,369
Endowment Funds	17				42,043	42,043	41,172
Total Funds		60,678	6,000	121,235	42,043	229,956	173,831

Signed

David Bowater
Church Treasurer

27 January 2026

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Cash from operating activities		
New cash generated/(used) in operating activities	26,238	696
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	15,342	13,852
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	-
Purchase of intangible assets	-	-
Proceeds from the sale of investments	-	-
Purchase of investments	-	-
Other	-	-
Net cash provided by investing activities	15,342	13,852
Cash flows from financing activities		
New borrowings	-	-
Repayment of borrowings	-	-
Net cash used in financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	41,580	14,548
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	120,216	105,668
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	161,796	120,216
<u>Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities</u>		
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period		
(as per statement of financial activities)	56,125	18,111
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortisation charges	-	-
Profit on the sale of fixed assets	-	-
Loss on the sale of fixed assets	-	-
(Gains)/losses on investments	(871)	(2,587)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(15,342)	(13,852)
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(15,278)	(7,664)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	1,604	6,688
Net cash used in operating activities	26,238	696
<u>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</u>		
Cash in hand	35,777	46,417
Short term deposit (less than 3 months)	126,019	73,799
Total cash and cash equivalents	161,796	120,216

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

The financial statements of the Charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) "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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)", Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

ii Public benefit entity

Four Oaks Methodist Church (FOMC) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Church's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available on 31 August 2025, the Trustees believe that the Church is a going concern.

vi Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to FOMC. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other Charitable Income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. Further information on this matter is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report.

vii Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

viii Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the Church accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that such payment is probable.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

ix VAT

Since the Church is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers except for some qualifying expenditure where the input VAT can be recovered under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

x Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year and individually cost at least £1,000.

xi Investments

The investments of FOMC are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA and in Note 18 below.

Surplus cash funds are held on deposit with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

xii Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Church or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the Church. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiii Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanations of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

xiv Pensions costs and other post-retirement benefits

Contributions to the personal pension schemes of certain employees are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they relate. The assets of these personal pension schemes are held separately from those of the Charity in independently administered funds.

xv Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the Charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

xvi Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Financial assets, other than investments, and financial liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (after including/deducting transaction costs) and subsequently held at amortised cost less any impairment,

xvii Critical accounting judgements and estimates

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

The estimates and underlying assumption are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

2 Glossary of terms

CFB: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain and provides investment advice to those entities

Church: a group of members from fewer than 10 to more than 300

Circuit: a group of Methodist Churches near each other, typically between 10 and 30

CMTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund

Connexion: The Methodist Church in Great Britain which includes the Head Office at Methodist Church House, all Methodist Districts, Circuits and Churches in Great Britain

District: a group of contiguous Circuits, usually between 15 and 30

FOMC: Four Oaks Methodist Church ("the Church")

FRS: Financial Reporting Standard

NEST: National Employment Savings Trust

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice

TMCP: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds

3 Trustees

Payments to Trustees

It is Church policy to offer to reimburse members and Trustees for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. All expenditure is fully receipted and reimbursed at cost.

One of the Trustees is an employee of the Church (2024: one trustee) and received remuneration of £28,379 (2024: £26,146). Expenses have been reimbursed to 11 (2024: 11) Trustees who, in aggregate, have received the sum of £5,501 (2024: £5,415) during the year.

4 Other charitable income

The Church uses its premises for other activities which generate income for charitable purposes, including letting its premises out to both Church groups and the wider community. This generated income as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Room lettings	76,047	70,510
Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals	4,136	1,570
Concerts	1,909	2,564
Pension Fund refund	22,255	-
Miscellaneous income	3,211	280
Total Other Charitable Income	107,558	74,924

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

On 9 November 2021, the Church made a voluntary donation to the Connexion's Pension Reserve Fund of £20,500. Following the latest pension scheme valuation, the Connexion has decided to return the voluntary donations together with interest and the Church received a refund of £22,255 on 7 October 2024.

5 Salaries and associated costs

Gross salaries paid to two (2023-24: two) employees were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross pay	34,509	29,890
Employer's National Insurance contributions	3,097	2,353
Less: Employment Allowance	(3,097)	(2,353)
Employer's pension contributions to defined contribution schemes	1,726	1,494
Apprenticeship levy	172	143
Total staff costs	36,407	31,527
 Total weekly contractual hours for 2 staff	 42	 42

No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial; the holiday year ends on 31 August. All staff are paid at or above *The Living Wage*.

One of the two employees were engaged as Four Oaks Centre Manager and the other was engaged part-time as Secretary to the Church. The Presbyters and Deacons who served the Church during the year were engaged by the Methodist Church – Birmingham (Sutton Park) Circuit, not by Four Oaks Methodist Church.

6 Pensions

Under the Auto Enrolment regulations set out by the Pension Regulator, all employees of FOMC are auto-enrolled into an employer pension scheme, subject to eligibility. The Auto-Enrolment staging date for the Church was April 2021. The Church has chosen a defined contribution pension scheme administered through the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) and makes employer contributions at or above the levels required by law.

The pension arrangements for Presbyters and Deacons who served the Church during the year are provided through the Connexion and are funded by contributions made by the Birmingham (Sutton Park) Circuit. The pensions are provided through two schemes: The Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme ("MMPS") and The Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church ("PASLEMC"). Following an actuarial valuation, the two schemes had an estimated combined surplus of £45.7m as at 31 August 2024 and therefore the Connexion has agreed to return the voluntary contributions made by churches in 2022 to the Pension Reserve Fund. Subsequently, the Church received a refund of £22,255 on 7 October 2024.

7 Property maintenance

	2025	2024
	£	£
Maintenance of Church and Halls	31,920	10,967
Maintenance of Church Cottage	3,645	12,111
Property Maintenance (General Fund)	35,565	23,078
Hall Development Project (Restricted Fund)	1,270	3,724
Total Property Maintenance	36,835	26,802

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

8 Office expenses (General fund)

	2025	2024
	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery	480	999
Telephone and broadband	651	480
Staffing and expenses	6,873	4,304
Bank charges	521	542
Examiner's fees	840	840
Total charge to General Fund	9,365	7,165

9 Other expenditure

	2025	2024
	£	£
Church activities	2,907	1,801
Caretaker / Cleaning Costs	34,028	31,920
Concert expenses	-	936
Choir and music costs	3,364	7,283
Total charged to General Fund	40,299	41,940
Other (charged to Restricted Fund)	115	70
Other (charged to Endowment Funds)	134	110
Total	40,548	42,120

10 Investment management

During the year the Church paid £134 to TMCP as administration costs on the endowment funds held. (2024 - £110). The sum of £134 was levied at 0.2% on the value of the funds at the end of the year.

The sum of £62 (2024 - £1,700 gain) represents an unrealised gain in the invested funds of the Endowment Funds. More information can be found in Note 16 *Endowment Funds*.

11 Transfer between funds

The Church has a historic Needham and Beard organ that was installed in 1914 and is in need of a major overhaul that could cost up to an estimated £90,000. An Organ Refurbishment Fund was created in 2023 and a Gift Day Appeal was held in 2024 which raised £33,686, inclusive of the associated Gift Aid. Further donations and grants of £28,862 were received in 2025 which was transferred to the Organ Refurbishment Fund together with other specific donations and the £1,814 net proceed of funds raised through concerts.

£nil (2024 – £100) was transferred from the General Fund to the Benevolent Fund.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

12 Debtors and prepayments

All sums shown as debtors on 1 September 2024 were received during the following year. All sums paid in advance on 1 September 2024 were for activities that have been held during 2025. Similarly, it is expected that payments in advance on 1 September 2025 will be expensed in 2025-26.

Debtors were made up as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors		-
Prepayments and accrued income		
Gift Aid tax and VAT receivable	4,902	11,295
Circuit assessment paid in advance	6,350	6,351
Insurance paid in advance	5,595	6,147
PAYE refund due	254	-
Room lettings	-	2,230
Other debtors	200	-
Total (General Fund)	17,301	26,023
Organ Refurbishment Fund donations (Restricted Fund)	24,000	-
Total Debtors	41,301	26,023

13 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The funds that support the Church's Endowment Funds are held by TMCP in Investment Funds Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month. These are regarded as medium- and long-term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day-to-day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

14 Central Finance Board (CFB) and Cash at Bank

The Church has one current account at HSBC plc, an authorised institution. The sums held on those accounts are immediately available. In addition, the Church has one deposit account at CFB, a common deposit fund. Interest is earned on these accounts and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

15 Creditors and accrued expenses

	2025 £	2024 £
Creditors:		
Bank charges	5	-
Building repairs & maintenance	11,800	11,800
Utilities	1,714	570
Audit and examiner's fee	840	840
Total	14,359	13,210
Accruals:		
PAYE and pension contributions	-	-
Taxation and Social Security	-	-
Other accruals	825	370
	825	370
Total	15,184	13,580

Maturity analysis of basic financial instruments

	Accrued at 1 Sept 2024 £	Paid in year £	Accrual made In year £	Accrued at 31 Aug 2025 £
Trade creditors				
Bank charges	-	-	5	5
Building repairs and maintenance	11,800	-	-	11,800
Utilities	570	(570)	1,714	1,714
Audit and examiner's fee	840	(840)	840	840
PAYE and pension contributions	-	-	-	-
Taxation and Social Security	-	-	-	-
Other accruals	370	(370)	825	825
Total	13,580	(1,780)	3,384	15,184

It is expected that all sums accrued on 31 August 2025 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2026.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

16 Unrestricted Funds

16.1 General Fund – balance £62,678 on 31 August 2025 (2024: £62,290)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Church and which have not been designated for other purposes.

The general reserves policy of FOMC is to keep the undesignated general-purpose reserves at a level of no less than four months and no more than six months of our “normal” expenditure in any one year.

16.2 Other Designated Funds – balance £6,000 on 31 August 2025 (2024: £6,000)

Designated funds comprise a maintenance reserve to provide for the future maintenance needs of the Church.

**17 Restricted Funds – balance £121,235 on 31 August 2025 (2024: £64,369)
Endowment Funds – balance £42,043 on 31 August 2025 (2024: £41,172)**

The Church Redevelopment Project was a large-scale project to refurbish the Church premises to make them fit for purpose for the 21st century. The Church redeveloped all of its community rooms and believes that the new and much improved facilities will help to achieve its mission to be a beacon of Christ in the local area. The Redevelopment Project has now been completed and all costs discharged. The funds raised by the Redevelopment Appeal exceeded the costs incurred by the project and therefore, in agreement with the principal donors, the balance of the fund is to be retained as a Development Fund to be used for future capital expenditure at the Church. During 2025 a legacy of £21,120 was received and added to the Development Fund in line with the donor’s wishes. The balance on the Development Fund on 31 August 2025 was £40,477 (2024: £20,628).

The Church has established an Organ Refurbishment Fund to meet the future costs of refurbishing the Church organ. During the year a specific legacy of £5,532 was received which, together with other donations (including the associated gift aid) and grants of £29,401 was added to the Organ Refurbishment Fund together with the net proceeds of concerts held during the year of £1,813 (2024: £1,718). As at 31 August 2025 the balance on this fund was £73,079 (2024: £36,333).

The Capital Fund was established to provide income to support the upkeep of the Church’s buildings and facilities. Some of this fund is included in Central Finance Board deposits - £7,300, (2024: £7,300) and the remainder is in endowment funds - £19,570 (2024: £18,740).

C T Avery and Samuel A Wood Trusts were established by bequests to support the ongoing work of the Church. The balances of these funds are shown in note 18 below.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

18 Summary of movements on significant individual funds

Current year movement in funds

Fund	Balance at 1-Sep-2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ Losses £	Balance at 31-Aug-2025 £
General Fund	62,290	202,959	(202,662)	(1,909)	-	60,678
Property Maintenance (Designated)	6,000	-	-	-	-	6,000
Total unrestricted funds	68,290	202,959	(202,662)	(1,909)	-	66,678
Development Fund	20,628	21,119	(1,270)	-	-	40,477
Organ Refurbishment Fund	36,332	34,934	(95)	1,909	-	73,080
Capital Fund	7,300	-	-	-	-	7,300
Small Funds (<£500 each)	109	289	(20)	-	-	378
Total restricted funds	64,369	56,342	(1,385)	1,909	-	121,235
Capital Fund	18,741	870	(61)	-	20	19,570
C T Avery – Trust A	4,442	14	(14)	-	8	4,450
C T Avery – Trust B	1,777	6	(6)	-	3	1,780
Samuel A Wood Trust	16,212	53	(53)	-	31	16,243
Total endowment funds	41,172	943	(134)	-	62	42,043
Total Funds	173,831	260,244	(204,181)	-	62	229,956

Comparatives for movement in funds

Fund	Balance at 1-Sep-2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ Losses £	Balance at 31-Aug-2024 £
General Fund	77,467	169,509	(184,080)	(606)	-	62,290
Property Maintenance (Designated)	6,000	-	-	-	-	6,000
Total unrestricted funds	83,467	169,509	(184,080)	(606)	-	68,290
Development Fund	24,352	-	(3,724)	-	-	20,628
Organ Refurbishment Fund	1,975	33,851	-	506	-	36,332
Capital Fund	7,300	-	-	-	-	7,300
Small Funds (<£500 each)	41	38	(70)	100	-	109
Total restricted funds	33,668	33,889	(3,794)	606	-	64,369
Capital Fund	17,765	938	(51)	-	89	18,741
C T Avery – Trust A	4,123	12	(12)	-	319	4,442
C T Avery – Trust B	1,649	4	(4)	-	128	1,777
Samuel A Wood Trust	15,048	43	(43)	-	1,164	16,212
Total endowment funds	38,585	997	(110)	-	1,700	41,172
Total Funds	155,720	204,395	(187,984)	-	1,700	173,831

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combines position as follows

Fund	Balance at 1-Sep-2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ Losses £	Balance at 31-Aug-2025 £
General Fund	77,467	372,468	(386,742)	(2,515)	-	60,678
Property Maintenance (Designated)	6,000	-	-	-	-	6,000
Total unrestricted funds	83,467	372,468	(386,742)	(2,515)	-	66,678
Church Development Project	24,352	21,119	(4,994)	-	-	40,477
Organ Refurbishment Fund	1,975	68,765	(95)	2,415	-	73,080
Capital Fund	7,300	-	-	-	-	7,300
Small Funds (<£500 each)	41	327	(90)	100	-	378
Total restricted funds	33,668	90,231	(5,179)	2,515	-	121,235
Capital Fund	17,765	1,808	(112)	-	109	19,570
C T Avery – Trust A	4,123	26	(26)	-	327	4,450
C T Avery – Trust B	1,649	10	(10)	-	131	1,780
Samuel A Wood Trust	15,048	96	(96)	-	1,195	16,243
Total endowment funds	38,585	1,940	(244)	-	1,762	42,043
Total Funds	155,720	464,639	(392,165)	-	1,762	229,956

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

19 Connected organisations and related parties

All of the Church Trustees are members of the Church or Trustees of another Church in the Circuit.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, Circuits and Churches within the West Midlands District, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Association, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that FOMC has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over FOMC. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Payments totalling £416 (2024: £2,793) were made to J. Cashmore for work carried out on the Church Premises. J. Cashmore is the son of Peter Cashmore, one of the Trustees, and is therefore a related party. These payments were approved independently by the Church Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance and Property Committee.

There were no other related party transactions which are not otherwise disclosed in these accounts with the exception of donations received from Church members in connection with the Church Organ Refurbishment and Development Funds. These amounted to £56,053 during the year ended 31 August 2025 (2024 - £33,851).

20 Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, and Church) within the Methodist Church of Great Britain is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by the Stewards assisting with the services of the Church and serving on committees of the Church that deal with mission, property and finance. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

21 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year-end (2024 - £ nil).

22 Events after the reporting period

There were no events after the year end.

23 Operating Lease lessee-commitments

The Church had no commitments for leasing obligations at the year-end (2024 - £ nil).

24 Independent examiner

During the year the Church re-appointed JW Hinks as Independent Examiner. Their fee for the year is £840 including VAT (2024 - £840).

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1130630

Accounts

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024
FOR
FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH**

**J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH**

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

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FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) effective 1 January 2019 - (the Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Purposes and aims

Four Oaks Methodist Church stands proudly at the crossroads of Four Oaks Road and the Lichfield Road as a gateway welcoming everyone to Four Oaks.

Our vision/mission statement is that we seek to be a beacon for Christ - radiating the love of God through worship, word and witness.

Our objectives and aims can be summarised as follows:-

1. To promote religious activities and the name and beliefs of Jesus Christ.
2. To show a love and care for the surrounding community.
3. To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church.
4. Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, Local or other organisation of the Methodist Church.
5. Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.
6. Worshipping God through prayer, song and other acts of worship.
7. The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the Church and non-members alike.
8. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
9. The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
10. Hosting school visits to the Church to learn about Christianity.
11. Promoting Christianity through the staging of events and services.
12. Providing chaplaincy services to local schools, care homes and other institutions as appropriate and where able.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help. The review also helps us to ensure that our aim, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The focus of our work

The focus of our work continues primarily to be the advancement of the Christian faith in the Four Oaks community in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Grant making

Four Oaks Methodist Church makes small grants to various organisations and individuals who support and deliver the Church's objects.

Potential recipients of grants paid by Four Oaks Methodist Church are reviewed by the Trustees on a case-by-case basis depending upon the available resources of the Charity.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Amongst other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and, therefore, to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:-

1. The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
2. The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
3. The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
4. The selection and training of all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
5. Respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authorities in any investigation.
6. Seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
7. Seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
8. Seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our Church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
9. In all of these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Four Oaks Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, Government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Four Oaks Methodist Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

How our activities deliver public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging.

The Church recognises that it remains an ongoing struggle to increase or even stabilise church membership in a context of rapid national decline. Our focus this past year, now the Covid pandemic is in the past, has been to reengage with both the wider congregation and also the surrounding Four Oaks community by offering a range of activities for people of all ages and beliefs.

Our main activities and who we try to help are described below. The Charity's activities continue to focus on our aim to advance the Christian faith in the Four Oaks community in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church.

Review of the year

Four Oaks Methodist Church has continued to meet its objective to witness to the Four Oaks community through the many activities that are regularly held on Church premises.

The Church has responded to changing circumstances by embracing new technologies to maintain contact with the Church family and with the wider community. The Church website (<https://www.fouroaksmethodist.org.uk>) and its associated Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FourOaksMethodistChurch>) have been updated and contain links and information on our ongoing activities. A new WhatsApp groups have been formed that contains daily meditations and selected Church notices. The weekly Church notices are now sent by e-mail to Church members and other individuals on request. All of these modern digital ways of communication allow us to share resources and links to worship services, worship at home notes, the weekly lectionary readings and the Methodist Prayer Handbook. We have also been able to start using some of the extensive AV facilities more for the benefit of the members and also those groups that utilise the premises

Four Oaks Methodist Church has a large and active membership and is one of the stronger churches in the Sutton Park Circuit. There are a number of house groups that meet regularly for bible study and fellowship. The Church has a strong pastoral team that is in regular contact with the wider Church family and delivers the monthly *Messenger*.

The Church continues to sponsor and support a full range of uniformed organisations including Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies, Girl Guides and Focus Explorer Scouts. There is also a popular Baby and Toddlers group.

There is a regular service held on a Wednesday morning which is well attended.

A considerable amount of outreach continues to take place with elderly people within our local community particularly aimed towards those who live alone and have few regular visitors. These activities include a monthly Luncheon Club, a Monday Fellowship meeting, Ladies' Friendship Club, and the Flower Guild. A popular monthly Men's Fellowship Group is centred around a series of interesting short biopics of attendees' backgrounds and life experiences.

The Saturday morning "Drop-In Cafe" attracts 10 to 20 people which offers a bacon or sausage butty, tea and coffee and an opportunity to have a chat. On the back of this initiative, the Family Table Tennis club has grown which has proved popular with young and old alike.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

In order to raise funds for the Organ Restoration Fund, the Church hosted three concerts; a "Musical Evening" in October 2023, "The Vincents" in December 2023 and a "60's Sing-along evening in April 2024.

Four Oaks Methodist Church continues to support "Love in a Box" where shoeboxes are filled with small items for children of all ages living in poor areas locally and nationally. We continue to support local, national and international charities.

We have not forgotten those who do not have ready access to the internet and our pastoral team is in regular contact by phone with people who may be stuck at home alone. Practical help with shopping, collecting prescriptions and transport for visits to doctors and hospitals have all been freely given and copies of the weekly notice sheets are delivered by a group of volunteers.

We are mindful of the benefits of regular prayer and a dedicated prayer line (fomcprayerline@gmail.com) has been established for those in need of comfort and support.

The Church family supports Birmingham City Missions and Erdington Food Bank with donations of food, money and help from volunteers.

Following the reopening of the Church premises, many external organisations returned to meet at the Church including: -

- The Tudor Club
- Seasons Art - a popular art class
- a number of choirs and dance groups
- "Moo" music and dancing for toddlers
- a Punjabi speaking club and luncheon group
- the Sutton Coldfield Wind Orchestra
- a "Tiny Talk" baby signing group
- a number of counselling and support groups

The Church continues to seek out opportunities to serve the wider Four Oaks community whenever it can.

Staff changes

It is the tradition in the Methodist Church for Presbyters and Deacons to be appointed for an initial period of five years with the option for this to be extended by up to a further five years. Deacon Marilyn Slowe completed her initial five-year appointment on 31 August 2022 but accepted an invitation to extend her appointment for a further five years. Deacon Marilyn has had a really positive influence on the church with her friendly outgoing manner and many people have benefited from pastoral visits and her friendship. The Trustees are delighted that Deacon Marilyn will continue to bless us with her care and ministry.

After our previous minister left in 2022, Reverend Freddy Takavarasha, a retired minister originally from Zimbabwe, agreed to become our minister for a two-year period. His ministry blessed many people, and we consider ourselves fortunate to have found the right person at the right time. He retired on 31 August 2024. The Trustees would like to thank him for his pastoral care and ministry and wish him well for a long and healthy retirement.

The Methodist Connexion appointed Reverend Nick Jones as Circuit Superintendent of the Sutton Park Circuit on 1 September 2023 and gave him pastoral responsibility for Four Oaks with effect from 1 September 2024. The Trustees look forward to working with Reverend Nick Jones in the coming years as he leads the ministry and pastoral team at Four Oaks.

Eco-Church

The Methodist Connexion is committed to completely negating the amount of greenhouse gases that it produces to net zero by 2030. In order to achieve this objective, the Church has set up a committee to look at how Four Oaks Methodist Church can become an Eco-Church. This will be a major challenge as the Church premises are a grade 2 listed building which restricts the nature of alterations that we can make to it. This eco committee has already identified ways of managing and reducing our energy consumption.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Financial review

Financial position

o Income trends

Church income is primarily drawn from the Sunday collections, standing orders and the associated Gift Aid tax credit, supplemented by lettings income from Wesley Cottage and room rental fees paid by external users of our Church building.

Unrestricted Church income totalling £169,509 for the year ended 31 August 2024 (2023 - £168,256) increased by £1,253 or 0.7% compared to the year ended 31 August 2023 due to a small £1,420 increase in rental income.

Restricted Church income totalling £33,889 for the year ended 31 August 2024 (2023 - £719) increased by £33,170 due to the generous donations received in response to the Organ Fund Gift Day Appeal.

o Expenditure trends

The circuit assessment of £72,579 (2023 - £67,203) due to the Sutton Park Circuit continues to be our single largest item of unrestricted expenditure, amounting to 39% (2023 - 42%) of total unrestricted expenditure for the year ended 31 August 2024. A significant amount of the Circuit assessment is used to pay the District Assessment, stipends and costs related to ministers and deacons.

The total unrestricted expenditure for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £184,080 (2023 - £158,812) which was an increase of £25,268 or 16% compared to the previous year. This increase in costs was due to inflationary increases in most cost areas. The Church has continued to save money on its energy costs by its decision to move the Sunday worship services into the large hall during the winter months. The cost of repairs and maintenance to the Church premises increased by £5,125 to £23,078 (2023 - £17,953) because of work carried out to Wesley Cottage to address damp issues.

o Fund balances

As at 31 August 2024 the unrestricted net assets of Four Oaks Methodist Church, including designated funds, amounted to £68,290 (2023 - £83,467), giving approximately 4 months cover for normal expenditure (2023 - 6 months).

As at 31 August 2024 the restricted net assets of Four Oaks Methodist Church amounted to £64,369 (2023 - £33,668) which largely relates to the remaining balance on the Redevelopment Fund of £20,628 and the Organ Fund of £36,333. The funds held in the Redevelopment Fund have been retained to be used for future capital expenditure at the Church. The Church started an Organ Fund in 2023 to finance the future cost of the refurbishment of the historic Church organ which is estimated will cost £90,000.

Endowment funds amounted to £41,172 as at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £38,585).

Investment policy and objectives

The Charity's Trustees will continue to explore and consider appropriate ways of investing reserves in such a way as to increase income without exposing the Charity to undue risks.

The Church has invested a total of £41,172 as at 31 August 2024 (2023 - £38,585) in funds managed by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes which aims to manage the funds and obtain good returns on these investments whilst making sure that the investments are in line with the moral and ethical teaching of the Methodist Church.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months (2023 - 4 months) average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the Church building and/or be able to continue funding, in the short-term, planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full expenses including the assessment due to the Circuit.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Going concern

The Coronavirus pandemic forced the closure of the Church premises for much of 2020 and the first half of 2021. Following the easing of Government restrictions, the Church premises were re-opened in June 2021 and worship services recommenced. Despite the emergence of the Omicron variant, the Church was therefore able to operate on a more normal basis during the year ended 31 August 2024.

The large increases in energy costs that began in 2022 are an ongoing concern. The Church continues to monitor the situation closely and has taken steps to actively manage its energy usage. Consequently, the Trustees are of the opinion that the Charity will be able to maintain its current activities for the foreseeable future. The Trustees have, therefore, considered that it is appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared on the going concern basis.

Future plans

The Church premises currently remain fully open for worship and external activities. However, we continue to closely monitor the Coronavirus situation and are aware of the need to abide and respond promptly to any changes in Government guidelines. In the meantime, the Church will continue to reach out and support the wider community through worship, prayer and practical support where needed.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Four Oaks Methodist Church is an unincorporated charity which achieved charitable status on 21 July 2009 (registered number 1130630).

Four Oaks Methodist Church is governed by a Deed of Union dated 1932 and by the Methodist Church Act 1976.

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

Trustees must be Members of the Methodist Church and are recruited to reflect the diversity of the Church's activities within the local community. Appointment as a trustee follows informal meetings with the current Trustees.

Organisational structure

The members of Four Oaks Methodist Church Council consist of the Charity's Trustees which comprise the Church office holders, Ministers and representatives appointed by the Church at the Annual Church Meeting.

The Charity is organised so that its Church Council meets regularly to manage its affairs and formulate policy. Day to day management of the Church is undertaken by the Church Leadership team along with the Ministers.

Induction and training of new Trustees

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the church, specifically the leaflet "The Role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church", is given to all new church Trustees as part of their induction as a trustee.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Key management remuneration

In the Trustees' opinion, the key management personnel of the Charity responsible for the direction, control, running and operation of the Charity on a day-to-day basis consists of the Church Council

Key management personnel – Church Council

In most instances, all Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the Charity or remuneration received by Trustees from the Charity are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Remuneration for staff is reviewed annually and normally increased based upon the position of the Charity's finances and the cost of living in general. The Church subscribes to the principles set out by The Living Wage Foundation.

Related parties

Four Oaks Methodist Church is part of the Sutton Coldfield Circuit which is part of the Birmingham District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The internal organisations linked to the church are the Monday Fellowship, the Flower Guild, the Ladies' Friendship Club, the Luncheon Club and Home Missions.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks that the Charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks.

Income and expenditure are monitored and compared with the approved annual budget after at least every 3 months to detect trends as part of the risk management process and to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Fundraising

The majority of our income comes from voluntary donations from our membership and from other supporters. Through the fundraising efforts of our members and supporters we are generating the financial resources to enable us to provide our services.

The Church Council is deeply committed to building relationships and trust with our members and supporters and is committed to the strengthening of oversight and assurance concerning our fundraising efforts and in ensuring compliance and best practice in these areas.

We are particularly aware of the need to protect vulnerable individuals in any fundraising we undertake. Our vulnerable persons' policy sets out the standards we commit to meet.

We continue to be committed to addressing any expression of dissatisfaction on the part of our members and supporters to examining ways to improve the levels of our service to them.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1130630

Registered office

155 Lichfield Road
Sutton Coldfield
B74 2UU

Trustees and Key Lay Workers

Ministers

Reverend Freddy Takavarasha (retired 31 August 2024)

Reverend Nick Jones (appointed 1 September 2024)

Deacon Marilyn Slowe

Centre Manager and Lay Worker

Peter Cashmore

Church Treasurer

David Bowater

Church Stewards

Annette Ashford (stepped down 31 August 2024)

Janet Darke

Lynette Jones

Julie Anne Read

Chris Shaw (stepped down 31 August 2024)

Sue Stewart (appointed 1 September 2023)

Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Anne Thompson

Sutton Park Circuit representatives

Reverend Nick Jones (appointed 1 September 2023)

Deborah Majola

Church representatives (other members of the Church Council)

Annette Ashford (appointed 17 September 2024)

Madeline Ballantine (resigned 17 September 2024)

Diana Bosman

Angela Cliff

Angela Constantine

Glyn Constantine (appointed 17 September 2024)

Sue Hayden

Bill Humpherson

Carolyn Humpherson

Jenny Jeffries (resigned 12 May 2024)

Peter Johansen

Carolyn Nicholl

Linda Revell (resigned 12 May 2024)

Margaret Shaw (resigned 25 January 2024)

Jane Sweetman

Rodney Thompson

Marion Watts

Tom Watts

Rachel Williamson

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (continued)

Independent examiner

P E Smith ACA
J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

Bankers

HSBC plc
67 South Parade
Sutton Coldfield
B72 1PA

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
Methodist Church House
25 Tavistock Place
London
WC1H 9SF

Investment manager

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JQ

Approved by order of the Church Council on 13th January 2025 and signed on the Church Council's behalf by:



Peter Johansen
Trustee

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024 which are set out on pages 11 to 24.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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.



Peter Smith ACA
J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 3BH

13 January 2025

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £
Income						
Offerings		51,587				51,587
Donations and grants		9,088		27,965		37,053
Gift Aid		14,477		5,924		20,401
Interest and investment income		3,900			997	4,897
Income from investment properties		8,955				8,955
Internal organisations		6,578				6,578
Other charitable income	4	74,924				74,924
Total income		169,509	-	33,889	997	204,395
Expenditure						
Circuit assessment or share		72,579				72,579
Grants and donations		3,791				3,791
Property maintenance	7	23,078		3,724		26,802
Insurance, utilities etc.		28,591				28,591
Office expenses	8	7,165				7,165
Other expenditure	9	41,940		70	110	42,120
Internal organisations		6,936				6,936
Total charitable expenditure		184,080	-	3,794	110	187,984
Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	10				1,700	1,700
Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
Net (expenditure) /income		(14,571)	-	30,095	2,587	18,111
Transfers between funds	11	(606)		606		-
Other gains/(losses)						-
Net movement in funds		(15,177)	-	30,701	2,587	18,111
Total funds brought forward	18	77,467	6,000	33,668	38,585	155,720
Total funds carried forward	18	62,290	6,000	64,369	41,172	173,831

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £
Income						
Offerings		61,447				61,447
Legacies		1,027				1,027
Donations and grants				715		715
Gift Aid		14,221		4		14,225
Interest and investment income		2,618			612	3,230
Income from investment properties		9,540				9,540
Internal organisations		5,680				5,680
Other charitable income	4	73,723				73,723
Total income		168,256	-	719	612	169,587
Expenditure						
Circuit assessment or share		67,203				67,203
Grants and donations		1,243				1,243
Property maintenance	7	17,953		14,448		32,401
Insurance, utilities etc.		26,043				26,043
Office expenses	8	6,832				6,832
Other expenditure	9	34,545		20	111	34,676
Internal organisations		4,993				4,993
Total charitable expenditure		158,812	-	14,468	111	173,391
(Losses)/gains on monetary investments	10				(909)	(909)
Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
Net (expenditure) /income		9,444	-	(13,749)	(408)	(4,713)
Transfers between funds	11	(1,275)		1,275		-
Other gains/(losses)						-
Net movement in funds		8,169	-	(12,474)	(408)	(4,713)
Total funds brought forward	18	69,298	6,000	46,142	38,993	160,433
Total funds carried forward	18	77,467	6,000	33,668	38,585	155,720

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets							
Church building and other property						-	-
Investment properties						-	-
Investments					41,172	41,172	38,585
Total Fixed Assets		-	-	-	41,172	41,172	38,585
Current Assets							
Debtors and prepayments	12	26,023				26,023	18,359
Loans by the Church						-	-
Investments with TMCP						-	-
Central Finance Board Deposits		17,799	6,000	50,000		73,799	72,780
Cash at Bank and in hand		32,048		14,369		46,417	32,888
Total Current Assets		75,870	6,000	64,369	-	146,239	124,027
Current Liabilities							
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	15	13,580				13,580	6,892
Grants payable within 2024-24						-	-
Total Current Liabilities		13,580	-	-	-	13,580	6,892
Net Current Assets/(liabilities)		62,290	6,000	64,369	-	132,659	117,135
Long Term Liabilities							
(due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2024-24						-	-
Loans to the Church						-	-
Net Assets		62,290	6,000	64,369	41,172	173,831	155,720
Funds of the Church							
General Fund (Unrestricted)	16.1	62,290				62,290	77,467
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	16.2		6,000			6,000	6,000
Total Unrestricted Funds		62,290	6,000	-	-	68,290	83,467
Restricted Funds	17			64,369		64,369	33,668
Endowment Funds	17				41,172	41,172	38,585
Total Funds		62,290	6,000	64,369	41,172	173,831	155,720

Signed

David Bowater
Church Treasurer

13 January 2025

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Cash from operating activities		
New cash generated/(used) in operating activities	696	(3,898)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	13,852	12,770
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	-
Purchase of intangible assets	-	-
Proceeds from the sale of investments	-	-
Purchase of investments	-	-
Other	-	-
Net cash provided by investing activities	13,852	12,770
Cash flows from financing activities		
New borrowings	-	-
Repayment of borrowings	-	-
Net cash used in financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	14,548	8,872
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	105,668	96,796
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	120,216	105,668
<u>Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities</u>		
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per statement of financial activities)	18,111	(4,713)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortisation charges	-	-
Profit on the sale of fixed assets	-	-
Loss on the sale of fixed assets	-	-
(Gains)/losses on investments	(2,587)	408
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(13,852)	(12,770)
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(7,664)	8,083
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	6,688	5,094
Net cash used in operating activities	696	(3,898)
<u>Analysis of cash and cash equivalents</u>		
Cash in hand	46,417	32,888
Short term deposit (less than 3 months)	73,799	72,780
Total cash and cash equivalents	120,216	105,668

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

The financial statements of the Charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) "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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)", Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

ii Public benefit entity

Four Oaks Methodist Church (FOMC) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Church's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available on 31 August 2024, the Trustees believe that the Church is a going concern.

vi Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to FOMC. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other Charitable Income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. Further information on this matter is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report.

vii Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

viii Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the Church accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that such payment is probable.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

ix VAT

Since the Church is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers except for some qualifying expenditure where the input VAT can be recovered under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

x Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000.

xi Investments

The investments of FOMC are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA and in Note 18 below.

Surplus cash funds are held on deposit with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

xii Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Church or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the Church. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiii Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanations of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

xiv Pensions costs and other post-retirement benefits

Contributions to the personal pension schemes of certain employees are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they relate. The assets of these personal pension schemes are held separately from those of the Charity in independently administered funds.

xv Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the Charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

xvi Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Financial assets, other than investments, and financial liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (after including/deducting transaction costs) and subsequently held at amortised cost less any impairment,

xvii Critical accounting judgements and estimates

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

The estimates and underlying assumption are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

2 Glossary of terms

CFB: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain and provides investment advice to those entities

Church: a group of members from fewer than 10 to more than 300

Circuit: a group of Methodist Churches near each other, typically between 10 and 30

CMTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund

Connexion: The Methodist Church in Great Britain which includes the Head Office at Methodist Church House, all Methodist Districts, Circuits and Churches in Great Britain

District: a group of contiguous Circuits, usually between 15 and 30

FOMC: Four Oaks Methodist Church ("the Church")

FRS: Financial Reporting Standard

NEST: National Employment Savings Trust

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice

TMCP: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds

3 Trustees

Payments to Trustees

It is Church policy to offer to reimburse members and Trustees for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. All expenditure is fully receipted and reimbursed at cost.

One of the Trustees is an employee of the Church (2023: one trustee) and received remuneration of £26,146 (2023: £25,654). Expenses have been reimbursed to 11 (2023: 9) Trustees who, in aggregate, have received the sum of £5,415 (2023: £8,752) during the year.

4 Other charitable income

The Church uses its premises for other activities which generate income for charitable purposes, including letting its premises out to both Church groups and the wider community. This generated income as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Room lettings	70,510	69,090
Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals	1,570	3,473
Concerts	2,564	-
Miscellaneous income	280	1,160
Total Other Charitable Income	74,924	73,723

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

5 Salaries and associated costs

Gross salaries paid to two (2022-23: two) employees were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross pay	29,890	29,674
Employer's National Insurance contributions	2,353	2,335
Less: Employment Allowance	(2,353)	(2,335)
Employer's pension contributions to defined contribution schemes	1,494	1,490
Apprenticeship levy	143	129
Total staff costs	31,527	31,293
Total weekly contractual hours for 2 staff	42	42

No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial; the holiday year ends on 31 August. All staff are paid at or above *The Living Wage*.

One of the two employees were engaged as Four Oaks Centre Manager and the other was engaged part-time as Secretary to the Church. The Presbyters and Deacons who served the Church during the year were engaged by the Methodist Church – Birmingham (Sutton Park) Circuit, not by Four Oaks Methodist Church.

6 Pensions

Under the Auto Enrolment regulations set out by the Pension Regulator, all employees of FOMC are auto-enrolled into an employer pension scheme, subject to eligibility. The Auto-Enrolment staging date for the Church was April 2021. The Church has chosen a defined contribution pension scheme administered through the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) and makes employer contributions at or above the levels required by law.

The pension arrangements for Presbyters and Deacons who served the Church during the year are provided through the Connexion and are funded by contributions made by the Birmingham (Sutton Park) Circuit. The pensions are provided through two schemes: The Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme ("MMPS") and The Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church ("PASLEMC"). Following an actuarial valuation, the two schemes had an estimated combined surplus of £45.7m as at 31 August 2023 and therefore the Connexion has agreed to return the voluntary contributions made by churches in 2022 to the Pension Reserve Fund. Subsequently, the Church received a refund of £22,255 in October 2024.

7 Property maintenance

	2024	2023
	£	£
Maintenance of Church and Halls	10,967	15,020
Maintenance of Church Cottage	12,111	2,933
Property Maintenance (General Fund)	23,078	17,953
Hall Development Project (Restricted Fund)	3,724	14,448
Total Property Maintenance	26,802	32,401

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

8 Office expenses (General fund)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery	999	397
Telephone and broadband	480	427
Staffing and expenses	4,304	4,560
Bank charges	542	608
Examiner's fees	840	840
Total charge to General Fund	7,165	6,832

9 Other expenditure

	2024	2023
	£	£
Church activities	1,801	2,338
Caretaker / Cleaning Costs	31,920	29,843
Concert expenses	936	-
Choir and music costs	7,283	2,364
Total charged to General Fund	41,940	34,545
Other (charged to Restricted Fund)	70	20
Other (charged to Endowment Funds)	110	111
Total	42,120	34,676

10 Investment management

During the year the Church paid £110 to TMCP as administration costs on the endowment funds held. (2023 - £111). The sum of £110 was levied at 0.2% on the value of the funds at the end of the year.

The sum of £1,700 (2023 - £909 loss) represents an unrealised gain in the invested funds of the Endowment Funds. More information can be found in Note 16 *Endowment Funds*.

11 Transfer between funds

The Church has a historic Needham and Beard organ that was installed in 1914 and is in need of a major overall that could cost up to an estimated £90,000. An Organ Fund of £1,975 was created in 2023 and a Gift Day Appeal was held in 2024 which raised £33,686, inclusive of the associated Gift Aid, which was transferred to the Organ Fund together with other specific donations and the net proceed of funds raised through concerts.

£100 (2023 – nil) was transferred from the General Fund to the Benevolent Fund.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

12 Debtors and prepayments

All sums shown as debtors on 1 September 2023 were received during the following year. All sums paid in advance on 1 September 2023 were for activities that have been held during 2024. Similarly, it is expected that payments in advance on 1 September 2024 will be expensed in 2024-25.

Debtors were made up as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	795
Prepayments and accrued income		
Gift Aid tax and VAT receivable	11,295	5,163
Circuit assessment paid in advance	6,351	6,048
Insurance paid in advance	6,147	5,983
Pre-paid gas	-	-
Room lettings	2,230	370
Total (net)	26,023	18,359

13 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The funds that support the Church's Endowment Funds are held by TMCP in Investment Funds Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month. These are regarded as medium- and long-term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day-to-day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

14 Central Finance Board (CFB) and Cash at Bank

The Church has one current account at HSBC plc, an authorised institution. The sums held on those accounts are immediately available. In addition, the Church has one deposit account at CFB, a common deposit fund. Interest is earned on these accounts and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

15 Creditors and accrued expenses

	2024 £	2023 £
Creditors:		
Bank charges	-	13
Building repairs & maintenance	11,800	5,475
Utilities	570	564
Audit and examiner's fee	840	840
Total	13,210	6,892
Accruals:		
PAYE and pension contributions	-	-
Taxation and Social Security	-	-
Other accruals	370	-
	370	-
Total	13,580	6,892

Maturity analysis of basic financial instruments

	Accrued at 1 Sept 2023 £	Paid in year £	Accrual made In year £	Accrued at 31 Aug 2024 £
Trade creditors				
Bank charges	13	(13)	-	-
Building repairs and maintenance	5,475	(4,775)	11,100	11,800
Utilities	564	(564)	570	570
Audit and examiner's fee	840	(840)	840	840
PAYE and pension contributions	-	-	-	-
Taxation and Social Security	-	-	-	-
Other accruals	-	-	370	370
Total	6,892	(6,192)	12,880	13,580

It is expected that all sums accrued on 31 August 2024 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2025.

16 Unrestricted Funds

16.1 General Fund – balance £62,290 on 31 August 2024 (2023: £77,467)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Church and which have not been designated for other purposes.

The general reserves policy of FOMC is to keep the undesignated general-purpose reserves at a level of no less than four months and no more than six months of our "normal" expenditure in any one year.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

16.2 Other Designated Funds – balance £6,000 on 31 August 2024 (2023: £6,000)

Designated funds comprise a maintenance reserve to provide for the future maintenance needs of the Church.

17 Restricted Funds – balance £64,369 on 31 August 2024 (2023: £33,668) Endowment Funds – balance £41,172 on 31 August 2024 (2023: £38,585)

The Church Redevelopment Project was a large-scale project to refurbish the Church premises to make them fit for purpose for the 21st century. The Church redeveloped all of its community rooms and believes that the new and much improved facilities will help to achieve its mission to be a beacon of Christ in the local area. The balance on this fund on 31 August 2024 was £20,628 (2023: £24,351). The Redevelopment Project has now been completed and all costs discharged. The funds raised by the Redevelopment Appeal exceeded the costs incurred by the project and therefore, in agreement with the principal donors, the balance of the fund is to be retained to be used for future capital expenditure at the Church.

The Church has established an Organ Fund to meet the future costs of refurbishing the Church organ. At 31 August 2024 the balance on this fund was £36,333 (2023: £1,976).

The Capital Fund was established to provide income to support the upkeep of the Church's buildings and facilities. Some of this fund is included in Central Finance Board deposits (balance £7,300, 2023: £7,300) and the remainder is in endowment funds (balance £18,740, 2023: £17,765).

C T Avery and Samuel A Wood Trusts were established by bequests to support the ongoing work of the Church. The balances of these funds are shown in note 18 below.

18 Summary of movements on significant individual funds

Current year movement in funds

Fund	Balance at 1-Sep-2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ Losses £	Balance at 31-Aug-2024 £
General Fund	77,467	169,509	(184,080)	(606)	-	62,290
Property Maintenance (Designated)	6,000				-	6,000
Total unrestricted funds	83,467	169,509	(184,080)	(606)	-	68,290
Church Development Project	24,352		(3,724)		-	20,628
Organ Fund	1,975	33,851		506	-	36,332
Capital Fund	7,300				-	7,300
Small Funds (<£500 each)	41	38	(70)	100	-	109
Total restricted funds	33,668	33,889	(3,794)	606	-	64,369
Capital Fund	17,765	938	(51)	-	89	18,741
C T Avery – Trust A	4,123	12	(12)	-	319	4,442
C T Avery – Trust B	1,649	4	(4)	-	128	1,777
Samuel A Wood Trust	15,048	43	(43)	-	1,164	16,212
Total endowment funds	38,585	997	(110)	-	1,700	41,172
Total Funds	155,720	204,395	(187,984)	-	1,700	173,831

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Comparatives for movement in funds

Fund	Balance at 1-Sep-2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ Losses £	Balance at 31-Aug-2023 £
General Fund	69,298	168,256	(158,812)	(1,275)	-	77,467
Property Maintenance (Designated)	6,000			-	-	6,000
Total unrestricted funds	75,298	168,256	(158,812)	(1,275)	-	83,467
Church Development Project	38,781	19	(14,448)	-	-	24,352
Organ Fund	-	700		1,275	-	1,975
Capital Fund	7,300			-	-	7,300
Small Funds (<£500 each)	61	-	(20)	-	-	41
Total restricted funds	46,142	719	(14,468)	1,275	-	33,668
Capital Fund	17,249	550	(49)	-	15	17,765
C T Avery – Trust A	4,306	12	(12)	-	(183)	4,123
C T Avery – Trust B	1,722	5	(5)	-	(73)	1,649
Samuel A Wood Trust	15,716	45	(45)	-	(668)	15,048
Total endowment funds	38,993	612	(111)	-	(909)	38,585
Total Funds	160,433	169,587	(173,391)	-	(909)	155,720

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combines position as follows

Fund	Balance at 1-Sep-2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ Losses £	Balance at 31-Aug-2024 £
General Fund	69,298	337,765	(342,892)	(1,881)	-	62,290
Property Maintenance (Designated)	6,000			-	-	6,000
Total unrestricted funds	75,298	337,765	(342,892)	(1,881)	-	68,290
Church Development Project	38,781	19	(18,172)	-	-	20,628
Organ Fund	-	34,551	-	1,781	-	36,332
Capital Fund	7,300			-	-	7,300
Small Funds (<£500 each)	61	38	(90)	100	-	109
Total restricted funds	46,142	34,608	(18,262)	1,881	-	64,369
Capital Fund	17,249	1,488	(100)	-	104	18,741
C T Avery – Trust A	4,306	24	(24)	-	136	4,442
C T Avery – Trust B	1,722	9	(9)	-	55	1,777
Samuel A Wood Trust	15,716	88	(88)	-	496	16,212
Total endowment funds	38,993	1,609	(221)	-	791	41,172
Total Funds	160,433	373,982	(361,375)	-	791	173,831

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

19 Connected organisations and related parties

All of the Church Trustees are members of the Church or Trustees of another Church in the Circuit.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, Circuits and Churches within the District, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Association, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that FOMC has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over FOMC. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

Payments totalling £2,793 (2023: £1,100) were made to J. Cashmore for work carried out on the Church Premises. J. Cashmore is the son of Peter Cashmore, one of the Trustees, and is therefore a related party. These payments were approved independently by the Church Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance and Property Committee.

There were no other related party transactions which are not otherwise disclosed in these accounts with the exception of donations received from Church members in connection with the Church Organ Fund and Redevelopment Projects. These amounted to £33,851 during the year ended 31 August 2024 (2023 - £19).

20 Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, and Church) within the Methodist Church of Great Britain is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by the Stewards assisting with the services of the Church and serving on committees of the Church that deal with mission, property and finance. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

21 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year-end (2023 - £ nil).

22 Events after the reporting period

There were no events after the year end.

23 Operating Lease lessee-commitments

The Church had no commitments for leasing obligations at the year-end (2023 - £ nil).

24 Independent examiner

During the year the Church re-appointed JW Hinks as Independent Examiner. Their fee for the year is £840 including VAT (2023 - £840).

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1130630

Accounts

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023
FOR
FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH**

J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
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FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

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FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) effective 1 January 2019 - (the Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Purposes and aims

Four Oaks Methodist Church stands proudly at the crossroads of Four Oaks Road and the Lichfield Road as a gateway welcoming everyone to Four Oaks.

Our vision/mission statement is that we seek to be a beacon for Christ - radiating the love of God through Worship, Word and Witness.

Our objectives and aims can be summarised as follows:-

1. To promote religious activities and the name and beliefs of Jesus Christ.
2. To show a love and care for the surrounding community.
3. To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church.
4. Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, Local or other organisation of the Methodist Church.
5. Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary of ancillary to the Methodist Church.
6. Worshipping God through prayer, song and other acts of worship.
7. The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the Church and non-members alike.
8. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
9. The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
10. Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
11. Promoting Christianity through the staging of events and services.
12. Providing chaplaincy services to local schools, care homes and other institutions as appropriate and where able.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help. The review also helps us to ensure that our aim, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The focus of our work

The focus of our work continues primarily to be the advancement of the Christian faith in the Four Oaks community in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Grant making

Four Oaks Methodist Church makes small grants to various organisations and individuals who support and deliver the Church's objects.

Potential recipients of grants paid by Four Oaks Methodist Church are reviewed by the Trustees on a case-by-case basis depending upon the available resources of the Charity.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Amongst other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and, therefore, to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:-

1. The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
2. The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
3. The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
4. The selection and training of all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
5. Respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authorities in any investigation.
6. Seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
7. Seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
8. Seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our Church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
9. In all of these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Four Oaks Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, Government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Four Oaks Methodist Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

How our activities deliver public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging.

The Church recognises that it remains an ongoing struggle to increase or even stabilise church membership in a context of rapid national decline. The impact of the Coronavirus pandemic restricted our ability to meet and hold worship services face-to-face, but these restrictions have now been lifted and the Church has resumed operating on a more normal basis. Consequently, our focus this past year has been to reengage with the wider Four Oaks community and to offer a range of activities for people of all ages and beliefs.

Our main activities and who we try to help are described below. The Charity's activities continue to focus on our aim to advance the Christian faith in the Four Oaks community in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church.

Review of the year

Four Oaks Methodist Church has continued to meet its objective to witness to the Four Oaks community through the many activities that are regularly held on Church premises.

The Church has responded to changing circumstances by embracing new technologies to maintain contact with the Church family and with the wider community. The Church website (<https://www.fouroaksmethodist.org.uk>) and its associated Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FourOaksMethodistChurch>) have been updated and contain links and information on our ongoing activities. Two new WhatsApp groups have been formed; one contains regular Church notices and the other offers mutual support and connection with the Church community through a chat room. The weekly Church notices are now sent by e-mail to Church members and other individuals on request. All of these modern digital ways of communication allow us to share resources and links to worship services, worship at home notes, the weekly lectionary readings and the Methodist Prayer Handbook.

Four Oaks Methodist Church has a large and active membership and is one of the stronger churches in the Sutton Park Circuit. There are a number of house groups that meet regularly for bible study and fellowship. The Church has a strong pastoral team that is in regular contact with the wider Church family and delivers the monthly *Messenger*.

The Church marked the King's coronation by hosting a street party for the wider Four Oaks' community which included a barbeque with fun and games for the whole family. The occasion was commemorated by the planting of a tree.

The Church continues to sponsor and support a full range of uniformed organisations including Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies, Girl Guides and Focus Explorer Scouts. There is also a popular Baby and Toddlers group.

There is a regular service held on a Wednesday morning which is well attended.

A considerable amount of outreach continues to take place with elderly people within our local community particularly aimed towards those who live alone and have few regular visitors. These activities include a monthly Luncheon Club, a Monday Fellowship meeting, Ladies' Friendship Club, and the Flower Guild. A popular monthly Men's Fellowship Group was started during the year centred around a series of interesting short biopics of attendees' backgrounds and life experiences.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Saturday morning "Drop-In Cafe" attracts 20 to 30 people which offers a bacon or sausage butty, tea and coffee and an opportunity to have a chat. On the back of this initiative, the Family Table Tennis club has grown which has proved popular with young and old alike.

Four Oaks Methodist Church continues to support "*Love in a Box*" where shoeboxes are filled with small items for children of all ages living in poor areas locally and nationally. We continue to support local, national and international charities.

We have not forgotten those who do not have ready access to the internet and our pastoral team is in regular contact by phone with people who may be stuck at home alone. Practical help with shopping, collecting prescriptions and transport for visits to doctors and hospitals have all been freely given and copies of the weekly notice sheets are delivered by a group of volunteers.

We are mindful of the benefits of regular prayer and a dedicated prayer line (fomcprayerline@gmail.com) has been established for those in need of comfort and support.

The Church family supports Erdington Food Bank with donations of food, money and help from volunteers and also has links with Birmingham City Mission.

Following the reopening of the Church premises, many external organisations returned to meet at the Church including: -

- The Tudor Club
- Seasons Art - a popular art class
- a number of choirs and dance groups
- "Moo" music and dancing for toddlers
- a Punjabi speaking club and luncheon group
- the Sutton Coldfield Wind Orchestra
- a "Tiny Talk" baby signing group
- a number of counselling and support groups

The Church continues to seek out opportunities to serve the wider Four Oaks community whenever it can.

Staff changes

It is the tradition in the Methodist Church for Presbyters and Deacons to be appointed for an initial period of five years with the option for this to be extended by up to a further five years. Deacon Marilyn Slowe completed her initial five-year appointment on 31 August 2022 but has accepted an invitation to extend her appointment for a further five years. Reverend Freddy Takavarasha, a minister on secondment to the UK from Zimbabwe, was appointed on 1 September 2022 for an initial one-year period to the Sutton Park Circuit with pastoral responsibility for Four Oaks and has agreed to extend his appointment for a further year. The Trustees are delighted to have the opportunity to work with both Deacon Marilyn Slowe and Reverend Freddy Takavarasha and thank them for blessing us with their ongoing pastoral care and ministry.

Sutton Park Circuit has applied to the Methodist Connexion for a Superintendent Minister to be appointed to Four Oaks with effect from 1st September 2024 to replace Reverend Freddy Takavarasha who will be sitting down from that date.

Eco-Church

The Methodist Connexion is committed to completely negating the amount of greenhouse gases that it produces to net zero by 2030. In order to achieve this objective, the Church has set up a committee to look at how Four Oaks Methodist Church can become an Eco-Church. This will be a major challenge as the Church premises are a grade 2 listed building which restricts the nature of alterations that we can make to it. This eco committee has already identified ways of managing and reducing our energy consumption.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Financial review

Financial position

o Income trends

Church income is primarily drawn from the Sunday collections, standing orders and the associated Gift Aid tax credit, supplemented by lettings income from Wesley Cottage and room rental fees paid by external users of our Church building.

Unrestricted Church income totalling £168,256 for the year ended 31 August 2023 (2022 - £159,974) increased by £8,282 or 5% compared to the year ended 31 August 2022 due to a £17,680 increase in rental income.

Restricted Church income totalling £719 for the year ended 31 August 2023 (2022 - £1,813) decreased by £1,094 or 60% compared to the year ended 31 August 2022. This income relates to the final instalments of pledges made to the Church Redevelopment Project which was successfully completed in 2018 and donations made towards the new Organ Fund.

o Expenditure trends

The assessment of £67,203 (2022 - £64,309) due to the Sutton Park Circuit continues to be our single largest item of unrestricted expenditure, amounting to 42% (2022 – 37%) of total unrestricted expenditure for the year ended 31 August 2023. A significant amount of the Circuit assessment is used to pay the District assessment, stipends and costs related to Ministers.

The total unrestricted expenditure of for the year ended 31 August 2023 was £158,812 which was a decrease of £15,101 or 9% compared to the previous year. During the previous year the Church made a voluntary contribution of £20,500 to the Connexion's Pension Reserve Fund. Energy costs fell sharply by £9,709 following a decision to move the Sunday worship services into the large hall during the winter months in order to save on heating of the main Church area. The cost of repairs and maintenance to the Church premises increased by £7,458 to £17,795 (2022 - £10,337).

o Fund balances

As at 31 August 2023 the unrestricted net assets of Four Oaks Methodist Church, including designated funds, amounted to £83,467 (2022 - £75,298), giving approximately 6 months cover for normal expenditure (2022 - 6 months).

As at 31 August 2023 the restricted net assets of Four Oaks Methodist Church amounted to £33,668 (2022 - £46,142) which largely relates to the remaining balance on the Redevelopment Fund. The Redevelopment Project has now been completed and all costs discharged. The funds raised by the Redevelopment Appeal exceeded the costs incurred by the project and therefore, in agreement with the principal donors, the balance of the fund has been retained to be used for future capital expenditure at the Church. The Church has started an Organ Fund to finance the future cost of a refurbishment of the historic Church organ. The balance on this fund at 31 August 2023 was £1,975 (2022 – £ nil)

Endowment funds amounted to £38,585 as at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £38,993).

Investment policy and objectives

The Charity's Trustees will continue to explore and consider appropriate ways of investing reserves in such a way as to increase income without exposing the Charity to undue risks.

The Church has invested a total of £38,585 as at 31 August 2023 (2022 - £38,993) in funds managed by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes which aims to manage the funds and obtain good returns on these investments whilst making sure that the investments are in line with the moral and ethical teaching of the Methodist Church.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months (2022 – 4 months) average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the Church building

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

and/or be able to continue funding, in the short-term, planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full expenses including the assessment due to the Circuit.

Going concern

The Coronavirus pandemic forced the closure of the Church premises for much of 2020 and the first half of 2021. Following the easing of Government restrictions, the Church premises were re-opened in June 2021 and worship services recommenced. Despite the emergence of the Omicron variant, the Church was therefore able to operate on a more normal basis during the year ended 31 August 2023.

The large increases in energy costs were a concern and the Church continues to monitor the situation closely and has taken steps to manage its energy usage. The positive response to the Gift Day Appeal has topped up our unrestricted reserves and increased the level of income from our regular monthly offerings. Consequently, the Trustees are of the opinion that the Charity will be able to maintain its current activities for the foreseeable future. The Trustees have, therefore, considered that it is appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared on the going concern basis.

Future plans

The Church premises currently remain fully open for worship and external activities. However, we continue to closely monitor the Coronavirus situation and are particularly aware that a new variant might necessitate further Government restrictions. The continuing need to abide by Government guidelines to prevent the spread of Coronavirus could therefore restrict activities and worship in the foreseeable future. In the meantime, the Church will continue to reach out and support the wider community through worship, prayer and practical support where needed.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Four Oaks Methodist Church is an unincorporated charity which achieved charitable status on 21 July 2009 (registered number 1130630).

Four Oaks Methodist Church is governed by a Deed of Union dated 1932 and by the Methodist Church Act 1976.

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

Trustees must be Members of the Methodist Church and are recruited to reflect the diversity of the Church's activities within the local community. Appointment as a trustee follows informal meetings with the current Trustees.

Organisational structure

The members of Four Oaks Methodist Church Council consist of the Charity's Trustees which comprise the Church office holders, Ministers and representatives appointed by the Church at the Annual Church Meeting.

The Charity is organised so that its Church Council meets regularly to manage its affairs and formulate policy. Day to day management of the Church is undertaken by the Church Leadership team along with the Ministers.

Induction and training of new Trustees

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the church, specifically the leaflet "The Role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church", is given to all new church Trustees as part of their induction as a trustee.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Key management remuneration

In the Trustees' opinion, the key management personnel of the Charity responsible for the direction, control, running and operation of the Charity on a day-to-day basis consists of the Church Council

Key management personnel – Church Council

In most instances, all Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the Charity or remuneration received by Trustees from the Charity are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Remuneration for staff is reviewed annually and normally increased based upon the position of the Charity's finances and the cost of living in general.

Related parties

Four Oaks Methodist Church is part of the Sutton Coldfield Circuit which is part of the Birmingham District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The internal organisations linked to the church are the Monday Fellowship, the Flower Guild, the Ladies' Friendship Club, the Luncheon Club and Home Missions.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks that the Charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks. Particular case has been taken to carry out a Coronavirus risk assessment for the premises and to put in place suitable safeguards and procedures to minimise and manage these risks.

Income and expenditure are monitored and compared with the approved annual budget after at least every 3 months to detect trends as part of the risk management process and to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Fundraising

The majority of our income comes from voluntary donations from our membership and from other supporters. Through the fundraising efforts of our members and supporters we are generating the financial resources to enable us to provide our services.

Our Church Council is deeply committed to building relationships and trust with our members and supporters and is committed to the strengthening of oversight and assurance concerning our fundraising efforts and in ensuring compliance and best practice in these areas.

We are particularly aware of the need to protect vulnerable individuals in any fundraising we undertake. Our vulnerable persons' policy sets out the standards we commit to meet.

We continue to be committed to addressing any expression of dissatisfaction on the part of our members and supporters to examining ways to improve the levels of our service to them.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1130630

Registered office

155 Lichfield Road
Sutton Coldfield
B74 2UU

Trustees and Key Lay Workers

Ministers

Reverend Freddy Takavarasha (appointed 1 September 2022)

Deacon Marilyn Slowe

Lay Workers

Peter Cashmore

Susannah Timney

Church Treasurer

David Bowater

Church Stewards

Annette Ashford

Janet Darke

Lynette Jones

Julie Ann Read

Chris Shaw

Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Anne Thompson

Sutton Park Circuit representatives

Reverend Nick Jones (appointed 1 September 2022)

Deborah Majola

Church representatives (other members of the Church Council)

Madeline Ballantine

Diana Bosman

Angela Cliff

Angela Constantine

Sue Hayden

Bill Humpherson

Carolyn Humpherson

Jenny Jeffries

Peter Johansen

Carolyn Nicholl

Linda Revell

Margaret Shaw

Sue Stewart

Jane Sweetman

Rodney Thompson

Marion Watts

Tom Watts

Rachel Williamson

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (continued)

Independent examiner

P E Smith ACA
J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

Bankers

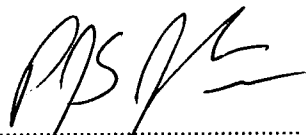
HSBC plc
67 South Parade
Sutton Coldfield
B72 1PA

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

Investment manager

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JQ

Approved by order of the Church Council, on 27 February 2024 and signed on the Church Council's behalf by:



Peter Johansen
Trustee

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2023 which are set out on pages 11 to 24.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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.



Peter Smith ACA
J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 3BH

27 February 2024

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £
Income						
Offerings		61,447				61,447
Legacies		1,027				1,027
Donations and grants				715		715
Gift Aid		14,221		4		14,225
Interest and investment income		2,618			612	3,230
Income from investment properties		9,540				9,540
Internal organisations		5,680				5,680
Other charitable income	4	73,723				73,723
Total income		168,256	-	719	612	169,587
Expenditure						
Circuit assessment or share		67,203				67,203
Grants and donations		1,243				1,243
Property maintenance	7	17,953		14,448		32,401
Insurance, utilities etc.		26,043				26,043
Office expenses	8	6,832				6,832
Other expenditure	9	34,545		20	111	34,676
Internal organisations		4,993				4,993
Total charitable expenditure		158,812	-	14,468	111	173,391
(Losses)/gains on monetary investments	10				(909)	(909)
Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
Net (expenditure) /income		9,444	-	(13,749)	(408)	(4,713)
Transfers between funds	11	(1,275)		1,275		-
Other gains/(losses)						-
Net movement in funds		8,169	-	(12,474)	(408)	(4,713)
Total funds brought forward	18	69,298	6,000	46,142	38,993	160,433
Total funds carried forward	18	77,467	6,000	33,668	38,585	155,720

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £
Income						
Offerings		64,810				64,810
Legacies		97				97
Donations and grants		8,538		1,562		10,100
Gift Aid		16,526		251		16,777
Interest and investment income		715			163	878
Income from investment properties		9,540				9,540
Internal organisations		4,935				4,935
Other charitable income	4	54,813				54,813
Total income		159,974	-	1,813	163	161,950
Expenditure						
Circuit assessment or share		64,309				64,309
Grants and donations		3,045				3,045
Property maintenance	7	10,337		(1,867)		8,470
Insurance, utilities etc.		34,976				34,976
Office expenses	8	7,081				7,081
Other expenditure	9	50,108		25	115	50,248
Internal organisations		4,057				4,057
Total charitable expenditure		173,913	-	(1,842)	115	172,186
(Losses)/gains on monetary investments	10				(1,540)	(1,540)
Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
Net (expenditure) /income		(13,939)	-	3,655	(1,492)	(11,776)
Transfers between funds	11					-
Other gains/(losses)						-
Net movement in funds		(13,939)	-	3,655	(1,492)	(11,776)
Total funds brought forward	18	83,237	6,000	42,487	40,485	172,209
Total funds carried forward	18	69,298	6,000	46,142	38,993	160,433

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets							
Church building and other property						-	-
Investment properties						-	-
Investments					38,585	38,585	38,993
Total Fixed Assets		-	-	-	38,585	38,585	38,993
Current Assets							
Debtors and prepayments	12	18,359				18,359	26,442
Loans by the Church						-	-
Investments with TMCP						-	-
Central Finance Board Deposits		51,780	6,000	15,000		72,780	37,814
Cash at Bank and in hand		14,220		18,668		32,888	58,982
Total Current Assets		84,359	6,000	33,668	-	124,027	123,238
Current Liabilities							
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	15	6,892				6,892	1,798
Grants payable within 2023-24						-	-
Total Current Liabilities		6,892	-	-	-	6,892	1,798
Net Current Assets/(liabilities)		77,467	6,000	33,668	-	117,135	121,440
Long Term Liabilities							
(due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2023-24						-	-
Loans to the Church						-	-
Net Assets		77,467	6,000	33,668	38,585	155,720	160,433
Funds of the Church							
General Fund (Unrestricted)	16.1	77,467				77,467	69,298
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	16.2		6,000			6,000	6,000
Total Unrestricted Funds		77,467	6,000	-	-	83,467	75,298
Restricted Funds	17			33,668		33,668	46,142
Endowment Funds	17				38,585	38,585	38,993
Total Funds		77,467	6,000	33,668	38,585	155,720	160,433

Signed

David Bowater
Church Treasurer

27 February 2024

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Cash from operating activities		
New cash (used)/generated in operating activities	(3,898)	(34,750)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	12,770	10,418
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		
Purchase of intangible assets		
Proceeds from the sale of investments		
Purchase of investments		
Other		
Net cash provided by investing activities	12,770	10,418
Cash flows from financing activities		
New borrowings		
Repayment of borrowings		
Net cash used in financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	8,872	(24,332)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	96,796	121,128
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	105,668	96,796
<u>Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities</u>		
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period		
(as per statement of financial activities)	(4,713)	(11,776)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortisation charges		
Profit on the sale of fixed assets		
Loss on the sale of fixed assets		
Losses/(gains) on investments	408	1,492
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(12,770)	(10,418)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks		
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	8,083	(7,452)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	5,094	(6,596)
Net cash used in operating activities	(3,898)	(34,750)
<u>Analysis of cash and cash equivalent</u>		
Cash in hand	32,888	37,814
Short term deposit (less than 3 months)	72,780	58,982
Total cash and cash equivalents	105,668	96,796

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

The financial statements of the Charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) "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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)", Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

ii Public benefit entity

Four Oaks Methodist Church (FOMC) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Church's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available on 31 August 2023, the Trustees believe that the Church is a going concern.

vi Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to FOMC. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. Further information on this matter is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report.

vii Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

viii Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the Church accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that such payment is probable.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

ix VAT

Since the Church is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers except for some qualifying expenditure where the input VAT can be recovered under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

x Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000.

xi Investments

The investments of FOMC are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA and in Note 18 below.

Surplus cash funds are held on deposit with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

xii Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Church or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the Church. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiii Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanations of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

xiv Pensions costs and other post-retirement benefits

Contributions to the personal pension schemes of certain employees are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they relate. The assets of these personal pension schemes are held separately from those of the Charity in independently administered funds.

xv Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the Charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

xvi Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Financial assets, other than investments, and financial liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (after including/deducting transaction costs) and subsequently held at amortised cost less any impairment,

xvii Critical accounting judgements and estimates

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

The estimates and underlying assumption are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2 Glossary of terms

CFB: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain and provides investment advice to those entities

Church: a group of members from fewer than 10 to more than 300

Circuit: a group of Methodist Churches near each other, typically between 10 and 30

CMTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund

Connexion: The Methodist Church in Great Britain which includes the Head Office at Methodist Church House, all Methodist Districts, Circuits and Churches in Great Britain

District: a group of contiguous Circuits, usually between 15 and 30

FOMC: Four Oaks Methodist Church ("the Church")

FRS: Financial Reporting Standard

NEST: National Employment Savings Trust

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice

TMCP: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds

3 Trustees

Payments to Trustees

It is Church policy to offer to reimburse members and Trustees for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. All expenditure is fully receipted and reimbursed at cost.

One of the Trustees is an employee of the Church (2022: one trustee) and received remuneration of £25,654 (2022: £23,207). Expenses have been reimbursed to 9 (2022: 5) Trustees who, in aggregate, have received the sum of £8,752 (2022: £2,208) during the year.

4 Other charitable income

The Church uses its premises for other activities which generate income for charitable purposes, including letting its premises out to both Church groups and the wider community. This generated income as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Room lettings	69,090	51,410
Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals	3,473	2,640
Job Retention Scheme	-	273
Miscellaneous income	1,160	490
Total Other Charitable Income	73,723	54,813

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

5 Salaries and associated costs

Gross salaries paid to two (2019-20: two) employees were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Gross pay	29,674	27,053
Employer's National Insurance contributions	2,335	2,121
Less: Employment Allowance	(2,335)	(2,121)
Employer's pension contributions to defined contribution schemes	1,490	1,380
Apprenticeship levy	129	118
Total staff costs	31,293	28,551
Total weekly contractual hours for 2 staff	42	42

The Church received a grant under the Government's Job Retention Scheme of £ nil (2022 – £273) towards the employment costs of the Centre Manager who was furloughed during part of the previous year.

No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial; the holiday year ends on 31 August. All staff are paid at or above *The Living Wage*.

One of the two employees were engaged as Four Oaks Centre Manager and the other was engaged part-time as Secretary to the Church. The Presbyters and Deacons who served the Church during the year were engaged by the Methodist Church – Birmingham (Sutton Park) Circuit, not by Four Oaks Methodist Church.

6 Pensions

Under the Auto Enrolment regulations set out by the Pension Regulator, all employees of FOMC are auto-enrolled into an employer pension scheme, subject to eligibility. The Auto-Enrolment staging date for the Church was April 2021. The Church has chosen a defined contribution pension scheme administered through the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) and makes employer contributions at or above the levels required by law.

The pension arrangements for Presbyters and Deacons who served the Church during the year are provided through the Connexion and are funded by contributions made by the Birmingham (Sutton Park) Circuit. The pensions are provided through two schemes: The Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme ("MMPS") and The Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church ("PASLEMC"). Following an actuarial valuation, the two schemes had an estimated combined deficit of £30.6m as at 31 August 2020 but this deficit was covered by the designated Pension Reserve Fund of £36m established in 2009 by the Connexion.

7 Property maintenance

	2023	2022
	£	£
Maintenance of Church and Halls	16,007	7,750
Maintenance of Church Cottage	1,788	2,587
Property Maintenance (General Fund)	17,795	10,337
Hall Development Project (Restricted Fund)	14,448	(1,867)
Total Property Maintenance	32,243	8,470

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

8 Office expenses (General fund)

	2023	2022
	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery	397	1,223
Telephone and broadband	427	357
Staffing and expenses	4,560	4,108
Bank charges	608	553
Examiner's fees	840	840
Total charge to General Fund	6,832	7,081

9 Other expenditure

	2023	2022
	£	£
Church activities	2,338	1,444
Caretaker / Cleaning Costs	29,843	25,571
Contribution to the Connexion Pension Reserve Fund	-	20,500
Choir and music costs	2,364	2,593
Total charged to General Fund	34,545	50,108
Other (charged to Restricted Fund)	20	25
Other (charged to Endowment Funds)	111	115
Total	34,676	50,248

Following an appeal made in July 2021 by the Connexion, the Church made a voluntary donation of £20,500 to the Connexion's Pension Reserve Fund (see Note 6 *Pensions*) on 9 November 2021. No such voluntary donation was made to the Connexion's Pension Reserve Fund during the year ended 31 August 2023.

10 Investment management

During the year the Church paid £111 to TMCP as administration costs on the endowment funds held. (2022 - £115). The sum of £111 was levied at 0.2% on the value of the funds at the end of the year.

The sum of £909 (2022 - £1,540 loss) represents an unrealised loss in the invested funds of the Endowment Funds. More information can be found in Note 16 *Endowment Funds*.

11 Transfer between funds

The Church has a historic Needham and Beard organ that was installed in 1914 and is in need of a major overall that could cost up to an estimated £75,000. £1,275 was raised by a Jubilee Concert last year and the proceeds were transferred from the General Fund to create an Organ Fund to meet the future costs of the organ refurbishment. During the current year, a further £700 was raised specifically for the Organ Fund.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

12 Debtors and prepayments

All sums shown as debtors on 1 September 2022 were received during the following year. All sums paid in advance on 1 September 2022 were for activities that have been held during 2023. Similarly, it is expected that payments in advance on 1 September 2023 will be expensed in 2023-24.

Debtors were made up as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	795	-
Prepayments and accrued income		
Gift Aid tax and VAT receivable	5,163	12,556
Circuit assessment paid in advance	6,048	5,449
Insurance paid in advance	5,983	5,601
Pre-paid gas	-	1,121
Room lettings	370	1,715
Total (net)	18,359	26,442

13 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The funds that support the Church's Endowment Funds are held by TMCP in Investment Funds Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month. These are regarded as medium- and long-term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day-to-day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

14 Central Finance Board (CFB) and Cash at Bank

The Church has one current account at HSBC plc, an authorised institution. The sums held on those accounts are immediately available. In addition, the Church has one deposit account at CFB, a common deposit fund. Interest is earned on these accounts and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

15 Creditors and accrued expenses

	2023 £	2022 £
Creditors:		
Bank charges	13	-
Building repairs & maintenance	5,475	300
Utilities	564	658
Audit and examiner's fee	840	840
Total	6,892	1,798
Accruals:		
PAYE and pension contributions	-	-
Taxation and Social Security	-	-
Total	6,892	1,798

Maturity analysis of basic financial instruments

	Accrued at 1 Sept 2022 £	Paid in year £	Accrual made In year £	Accrued at 31 Aug 2023 £
Trade creditors				
Bank charges	-	-	13	13
Building repairs and maintenance	300	-	5,175	5,475
Utilities	658	(658)	564	564
Audit and examiner's fee	840	(840)	840	840
Taxation and Social Security	-	-		
Total	1,798	(1,498)	6,592	6,892

It is expected that all sums accrued on 31 August 2023 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2024.

16 Unrestricted Funds

16.1 General Fund – balance £77,467 on 31 August 2023 (2022: £69,298)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Church and which have not been designated for other purposes.

The general reserves policy of FOMC is to keep the undesignated general-purpose reserves at a level of no less than four months and no more than six months of our "normal" expenditure in any one year.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

16.2 Other Designated Funds – balance £6,000 on 31 August 2023 (2022: £6,000)

Designated funds comprise a maintenance reserve to provide for future maintenance needs of the Church.

17 Restricted Funds – balance £33,668 on 31 August 2023 (2022: £46,142) Endowment Funds – balance £38,585 on 31 August 2023 (2022: £38,993)

The Church Redevelopment Project was a large-scale project to refurbish the Church premises to make them fit for purpose for the 21st century. The Church redeveloped all of its community rooms and believes that the new and much improved facilities will help to achieve its mission to be a beacon of Christ in the local area. The balance on this fund on 31 August 2023 was £24,351 (2022: £38,781). The Redevelopment Project has now been completed and all costs discharged. The funds raised by the Redevelopment Appeal exceeded the costs incurred by the project and therefore, in agreement with the principal donors, the balance of the fund is to be retained to be used for future capital expenditure at the Church.

The Church has established an Organ Fund to meet the future costs of refurbishing the Church organ. At 31 August 2023 the balance on this fund was £1,976 (2022 – £ nil).

The Capital Fund was established to provide income to support the upkeep of the Church's buildings and facilities. Some of this fund is included in Central Finance Board deposits (balance £7,300, 2022: £7,300) and the remainder is in endowment funds (balance £17,765 2022: £17,249).

C T Avery and Samuel A Wood Trusts were established by bequests to support the ongoing work of the Church. The balances of these funds are shown in note 18 below.

18 Summary of movements on significant individual funds

Current year movement in funds

Fund	Balance at 01-Sep-2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ Losses £	Balance at 31-Aug-2023 £
General Fund	69,298	168,256	(158,812)	(1,275)	-	77,467
Property Maintenance (Designated)	6,000	-	-	-	-	6,000
Total unrestricted funds	75,298	168,256	(158,812)	(1,275)	-	83,467
Church Development Project	38,781	19	(14,448)	-	-	24,352
Organ Fund	-	700	-	1,275	-	1,975
Capital Fund	7,300	-	-	-	-	7,300
Small Funds (<£500 each)	61	-	(20)	-	-	41
Total restricted funds	46,142	719	(14,468)	1,275	-	33,668
Capital Fund	17,249	550	(49)	-	15	17,765
C T Avery – Trust A	4,306	12	(12)	-	(183)	4,123
C T Avery – Trust B	1,722	5	(5)	-	(73)	1,649
Samuel A Wood Trust	15,716	45	(45)	-	(668)	15,048
Total endowment funds	38,993	612	(111)	-	(909)	38,585
Total Funds	160,433	169,587	(173,391)	-	(909)	155,720

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Comparatives for movement in funds

Fund	Balance at 01-Sep-2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ Losses £	Balance at 31-Aug-2023 £
General Fund	83,237	159,974	(173,913)			69,298
Property Maintenance (Designated)	6,000	-	-			6,000
Total unrestricted funds	89,237	159,974	(173,913)			75,298
Church Development Project	35,101	1,813	1,867			38,781
Organ Fund	-	-	-			-
Capital Fund	7,300	-	-			7,300
Small Funds (<£500 each)	86	-	(25)			61
Total restricted funds	42,487	1,813	1,842			46,142
Capital Fund	17,283	97	(49)		(82)	17,249
C T Avery – Trust A	4,594	111	(111)		(288)	4,306
C T Avery – Trust B	1,838	45	(45)		(116)	1,722
Samuel A Wood Trust	16,770	407	(407)		(1,054)	15,716
Total endowment funds	40,485	660	(612)		(1,540)	38,993
Total Funds	172,209	162,447	(172,683)		(1,540)	160,433

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combines position as follows

Fund	Balance at 01-Sep-2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ Losses £	Balance at 31-Aug-2023 £
General Fund	83,237	328,230	(332,725)	(1,275)		77,467
Property Maintenance (Designated)	6,000	-	-			6,000
Total unrestricted funds	89,237	328,230	(332,725)	(1,275)		83,467
Church Development Project	35,101	1,832	(12,581)			24,352
Organ Fund	-	700		1,275		1,975
Capital Fund	7,300					7,300
Small Funds (<£500 each)	86		(45)			41
Total restricted funds	42,487	2,532	(12,626)	1,275		33,668
Capital Fund	17,283	647	(98)		(67)	17,765
C T Avery – Trust A	4,594	123	(123)		(471)	4,123
C T Avery – Trust B	1,838	50	(50)		(189)	1,649
Samuel A Wood Trust	16,770	452	(452)		(1,722)	15,048
Total endowment funds	40,485	1,272	(723)	-	(2,449)	38,585
Total Funds	172,209	332,034	(346,074)	-	(2,449)	155,720

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1130630

Accounts

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022
FOR
FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH**

J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
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B15 3BH

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

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FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2022. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) effective 1 January 2019 - (the Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Purposes and aims

Four Oaks Methodist Church stands proudly at the crossroads of Four Oaks Road and the Lichfield Road as a gateway welcoming everyone to Four Oaks.

Our vision/mission statement is that we seek to be a beacon for Christ - radiating the love of God through Worship, Word and Witness.

Our objectives and aims can be summarised as follows:-

1. To promote religious activities and the name and beliefs of Jesus Christ.
2. To show a love and care for the surrounding community.
3. To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church.
4. Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, Local or other organisation of the Methodist Church.
5. Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary of ancillary to the Methodist Church.
6. Worshipping God through prayer, song and other acts of worship.
7. The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the Church and non-members alike.
8. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
9. The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
10. Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
11. Promoting Christianity through the staging of events and services.
12. Providing chaplaincy services to local schools, care homes and other institutions as appropriate and where able.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help. The review also helps us to ensure that our aim, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The focus of our work

The focus of our work continues primarily to be the advancement of the Christian faith in the Four Oaks community in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Grant making

Four Oaks Methodist Church makes small grants to various organisations and individuals who support and deliver the Church's objects.

Potential recipients of grants paid by Four Oaks Methodist Church are reviewed by the Trustees on a case-by-case basis depending upon the available resources of the Charity.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Amongst other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and, therefore, to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:-

1. The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
2. The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
3. The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
4. The selection and training of all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
5. Respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authorities in any investigation.
6. Seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
7. Seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
8. Seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our Church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
9. In all of these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Four Oaks Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, Government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Four Oaks Methodist Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

How our activities deliver public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging.

The Church recognises that it remains an ongoing struggle to increase or even stabilise church membership in a context of rapid national decline. The impact of the Coronavirus pandemic restricted our ability to meet and hold worship services face-to-face but these restrictions have now been lifted and the Church has resumed operating on a more normal basis. Consequently, our focus this past year has been to reengage with the wider Four Oaks community and to offer a range of activities for people of all ages and beliefs.

Our main activities and who we try to help are described below. The Charity's activities continue to focus on our aim to advance the Christian faith in the Four Oaks community in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church.

Review of the year

Four Oaks Methodist Church has continued to meet its objective to witness to the Four Oaks community through the many activities that are regularly held on Church premises.

The Church has responded to changing circumstances by embracing new technologies to maintain contact with the Church family and with the wider community. The Church website (<https://www.fouroaksmethodist.org.uk>) and its associated Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FourOaksMethodistChurch>) have been updated and contain links and information on our ongoing activities. Two new WhatsApp groups have been formed; one contains regular Church notices and the other offers mutual support and connection with the Church community through a chat room. The weekly Church notices are now sent by e-mail to Church members and other individuals on request. All of these modern digital ways of communication allow us to share resources and links to worship services, worship at home notes, the weekly lectionary readings, and the Methodist Prayer Handbook.

Four Oaks Methodist Church has a large and active membership and is one of the stronger churches in the Sutton Park Circuit. There are a number of house groups that meet regularly for bible study and fellowship. The Church has a strong pastoral team that is in regular contact with the wider Church family and delivers the monthly *Messenger*.

The Church continues to sponsor and support a full range of uniformed organisations including Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies, Girl Guides and Focus Explorer Scouts.

The Young Church meets fortnightly on a Sunday and joins in with other churches in the Circuit to promote a new youth worship service aimed at the teenagers in our community. There is also a popular Baby and Toddlers group.

There is also a regular service held on a Wednesday morning which is well attended.

A considerable amount of outreach continues to take place with elderly people within our local community particularly aimed towards those who live alone and have few regular visitors. These activities include a monthly Luncheon Club, a Monday Fellowship meeting, Ladies Friendship Club, and the Flower Guild.

The Saturday morning "Drop-In Cafe" attracts 20 to 30 people which offers a bacon or sausage butty, tea and coffee and an opportunity to have a chat. On the back of this initiative, the Family Table Tennis club has grown which has proved popular with young and old alike.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Four Oaks Methodist Church continues to support "Love in a Box" where shoeboxes are filled with small items for children of all ages living in poor areas locally and nationally. We continue to support local, national and international charities.

We have not forgotten those who do not have ready access to the internet and our pastoral team is in regular contact by phone with people who may be stuck at home alone. Practical help with shopping, collecting prescriptions and transport for visits to doctors and hospitals have all been freely given and copies of the weekly notice sheets are delivered by a group of volunteers.

We are mindful of the benefits of regular prayer and a dedicated prayer line (fomcprayerline@gmail.com) has been established for those in need of comfort and support.

The Church family supports Erdington Food Bank with donations of food, money and help from volunteers and also has links with Birmingham City Mission.

Following the reopening of the Church premises, many external organisations returned to meet at the Church including: -

- The Tudor Club
- Seasons Art - a popular art class
- a number of choirs and dance groups
- "Moo" music and dancing for toddlers
- a Punjabi speaking club and luncheon group
- the Sutton Coldfield Wind Orchestra
- a "Tiny Talk" baby signing group
- a number of counselling and support groups

The Church continues to seek out opportunities to serve the wider Four Oaks community whenever it can.

Staff changes

It is the tradition in the Methodist Church for Presbyters and Deacons to be appointed for an initial period of five years with the option for this to be extended by up to a further three years. After successfully completing his five-year appointment, Reverend Stephen Froggatt decided to step down from full time ministry on 31 August 2022 and return to his previous career in academia. Whilst in this new role he does remain an ordained Methodist Minister. The Trustees wish to record their appreciation to him for his care and ministry during his appointment.

Deacon Marilyn Slowe also completed her initial five-year appointment on 31 August 2022 but has accepted an invitation to extend her appointment for a further three years. Reverend Freddy Takavarasha, a minister on secondment to the UK from Zimbabwe, was appointed on 1 September 2022 for an initial one-year period to the Sutton Park Circuit with pastoral responsibility for Four Oaks. The Trustees are delighted to have the opportunity to work with both Deacon Marilyn Slowe and Reverend Freddy Takavarasha and thank them for blessing us with their ongoing pastoral care and ministry.

Gift Day Appeal

In response to the sharp increase in energy costs, the Church launched a Gift Day Appeal which raised £15,600 plus pledges that will increase the regular weekly offerings by a further c£6,000 per annum.

Eco-Church

The Methodist Connexion is committed to completely negating the amount of greenhouse gases that it produces to net zero by 2030. In order to achieve this objective, the Church has set up a committee to look at how Four Oaks Methodist Church can become an Eco-Church. This will be a major challenge as the Church premises are a grade 2 listed building which restricts the nature of alterations that we can make to it. This eco committee has already identified ways of managing and reducing our energy consumption.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Financial review

Financial position

o Income trends

Church income is primarily drawn from the Sunday collections, standing orders and the associated Gift Aid tax credit, supplemented by lettings income from Wesley Cottage and room rental fees paid by external users of our Church building.

Unrestricted Church income totalling £159,974 for the year ended 31 August 2022 (2021 - £142,495) increased by £17,479 or 12% compared to the year ended 31 August 2021, largely due to the £15,600 proceeds of a gift day and a £33,740 increase in letting income (2021 - £4,207 reduction) following the reopening of the Church premises after the lifting of the Government's Coronavirus lockdown measures, which offset the lack of any new legacies (2021 - £37,225).

Restricted Church income totalling £1,813 for the year ended 31 August 2022 (2021 - £2,544) decreased by £731 or 29% compared to the year ended 31 August 2021. This income relates to the final instalments of pledges made to the Church Redevelopment Project which was successfully completed in 2018.

o Expenditure trends

The assessment of £64,309 (2021 - £63,048) due to the Sutton Park Circuit continues to be our single largest item of unrestricted expenditure, amounting to 37% (2021 - 44%) of total unrestricted expenditure for the year ended 31 August 2022. A significant amount of the Circuit assessment is used to pay the District assessment, stipends and costs related to Ministers.

The total unrestricted expenditure of for the year ended 31 August 2022 was £173,913 which was an increase of £54,736 or 46% compared to the previous year. During the year the Church made a voluntary contribution of £20,500 to the Connexion's Pension Reserve Fund. Energy costs rose sharply with expenditure on utilities and insurance increasing by £20,604 (143%) to £34,976 (2021-£14,372). The cost of repairs and maintenance to the Church premises increased by £3,115 to £10,337 (2021-£7,222).

The completion of the Redevelopment Project allowed £1,867 of accruals to be released.

o Fund balances

As at 31 August 2022 the unrestricted net assets of Four Oaks Methodist Church, including designated funds, amounted to £75,298 (2021 - £89,237), giving approximately 6 months cover for normal expenditure (2021 - 9 months).

As at 31 August 2022 the restricted net assets of Four Oaks Methodist Church amounted to £46,142 (2021 - £42,487) which largely relates to the balance on the Redevelopment Fund. The Redevelopment Project has now been completed and all costs discharged. The funds raised by the Redevelopment Appeal exceeded the costs incurred by the project and therefore, in agreement with the principal donors, the balance of the fund is to be retained to be used for future capital expenditure at the Church.

Endowment funds amounted to £38,993 as at 31 August 2022 (2021 - £40,485).

Investment policy and objectives

The Charity's Trustees will continue to explore and consider appropriate ways of investing reserves in such a way as to increase income without exposing the Charity to undue risks.

The Church has invested a total of £38,993 as at 31 August 2022 (2021 - £40,485) in funds managed by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes which aims to manage the funds and obtain good returns on these investments whilst making sure that the investments are in line with the moral and ethical teaching of the Methodist Church.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months (2021 - 4 months) average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the Church building

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

and/or be able to continue funding, in the short-term, planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full expenses including the assessment due to the Circuit.

Going concern

The Coronavirus pandemic forced the closure of the Church premises for much of 2020 and the first half of 2021. Following the easing of Government restrictions, the Church premises were re-opened in June 2021 and worship services recommenced. Despite the emergence of the Omicron variant, the Church was therefore able to operate on a more normal basis during the year ended 31 August 2022.

The large increases in energy costs are a concern and the Church continues to monitor the situation closely and has taken steps to manage its energy usage. The positive response to the Gift Day Appeal has topped up our unrestricted reserves and increased the level of income from our regular monthly offerings. Consequently, the Trustees are of the opinion that the Charity will be able to maintain its current activities for the foreseeable future. The Trustees have, therefore, considered that it is appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared on the going concern basis.

Future plans

The Church premises currently remain fully open for worship and external activities. However, we continue to closely monitor the Coronavirus situation and are particularly aware that a new variant might necessitate further Government restrictions. The continuing need to abide by Government guidelines to prevent the spread of Coronavirus could therefore restrict activities and worship in the foreseeable future. In the meantime, the Church will continue to reach out and support the wider community through worship, prayer and practical support where needed.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Four Oaks Methodist Church is an unincorporated charity which achieved charitable status on 21 July 2009 (registered number 1130630).

Four Oaks Methodist Church is governed by a Deed of Union dated 1932 and by the Methodist Church Act 1976.

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

Trustees must be Members of the Methodist Church and are recruited to reflect the diversity of the Church's activities within the local community. Appointment as a trustee follows informal meetings with the current Trustees.

Organisational structure

The members of Four Oaks Methodist Church Council consist of the Charity's Trustees which comprise the Church office holders, Ministers and representatives appointed by the Church at the Annual Church Meeting.

The Charity is organised so that its Church Council meets regularly to manage its affairs and formulate policy. Day to day management of the Church is undertaken by the Church Leadership team along with the Ministers.

Induction and training of new Trustees

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the church, specifically the leaflet "The Role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church", is given to all new church Trustees as part of their induction as a trustee.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Key management remuneration

In the Trustees' opinion, the key management personnel of the Charity responsible for the direction, control, running and operation of the Charity on a day-to-day basis consists of the Church Council

Key management personnel – Church Council

In most instances, all Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the Charity or remuneration received by Trustees from the Charity are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Remuneration for staff is reviewed annually and normally increased based upon the position of the Charity's finances and the cost of living in general.

Related parties

Four Oaks Methodist Church is part of the Sutton Coldfield Circuit which is part of the Birmingham District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The internal organisations linked to the church are the Monday Fellowship, the Flower Guild, the Ladies Friendship Club, the Luncheon Club and Home Missions.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks that the Charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks. Particular case has been taken to carry out a Coronavirus risk assessment for the premises and to put in place suitable safeguards and procedures to minimise and manage these risks.

Income and expenditure are monitored and compared with the approved annual budget after at least every 3 months to detect trends as part of the risk management process and to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Fundraising

The majority of our income comes from voluntary donations from our membership and from other supporters. Through the fundraising efforts of our members and supporters we are generating the financial resources to enable us to provide our services.

Our Church Council is deeply committed to building relationships and trust with our members and supporters and is committed to the strengthening of oversight and assurance concerning our fundraising efforts and in ensuring compliance and best practice in these areas.

We are particularly aware of the need to protect vulnerable individuals in any fundraising we undertake. Our vulnerable persons' policy sets out the standards we commit to meet.

We continue to be committed to addressing any expression of dissatisfaction on the part of our members and supporters to examining ways to improve the levels of our service to them.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number

1130630

Registered office

155 Lichfield Road
Sutton Coldfield
B74 2UU

Trustees and Key Lay Workers

Ministers

Reverend Stephen Froggatt (resigned 31 August 2022)
Reverend Freddy Takavarasha (appointed 1 September 2022)
Deacon Marilyn Slowe

Lay Workers

Peter Cashmore
Susannah Timney

Church Treasurer

David Bowater

Church Stewards

Annette Ashford	Lynette Jones
Ian Bosman (suspended 14 July 2021)	Julie Ann Read
Janet Darke	Chris Shaw

Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Anne Thompson

Sutton Park Circuit representatives

Reverend Malcolm Oliver (resigned 31 August 2022)
Reverend Nick Jones (appointed 1 September 2022)
Deborah Majola (appointed 1 September 2021)

Church representatives (other members of the Church Council)

Madeline Ballantine	Nicola Murcott (resigned 31 August 2022)
Diana Bosman	Carolyn Nicholl
Angela Cliff	Linda Revell (appointed 1 September 2022)
Angela Constantine	Margaret Shaw (appointed 1 September 2022)
Sue Hayden	Sue Stewart
Bill Humpherson	Jane Sweetman
Carolyn Humpherson	Rodney Thompson
Jenny Jeffries (appointed 1 September 2022)	Marion Watts
Tracy Jennens (resigned 1 November 2021)	Tom Watts
Peter Johansen	Rachel Williamson
Juliet Lees (resigned 31 August 2022)	

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (continued)

Independent examiner

P E Smith ACA
J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

Bankers

HSBC plc
67 South Parade
Sutton Coldfield
B72 1PA

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

Investment manager

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester
M1 1JQ

Approved by order of the Church Council, on 14 February 2023 and signed on the Church Council's behalf by:


.....
Peter Johansen
Trustee

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2022 which are set out on pages 11 to 24.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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.
4. the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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



Peter Smith ACA
J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 3BH

14 February 2023

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £
Income						
Offerings		64,810				64,810
Legacies		97				97
Donations and grants		8,538		1,562		10,100
Gift aid		16,526		251		16,777
Interest and investment income		715			163	878
Income from investment properties		9,540				9,540
Internal organisations		4,935				4,935
Other charitable income	4	54,813				54,813
Total income		159,974	-	1,813	163	161,950
Expenditure						
Circuit assessment or share		64,309				64,309
Grants and donations		3,045				3,045
Property maintenance	7	10,337		(1,867)		8,470
Insurance. Utilities etc.		34,976				34,976
Office expenses	8	7,081				7,081
Other expenditure	9	50,108		25	115	50,248
Internal organisations		4,057				4,057
Total charitable expenditure		173,913	-	(1,842)	115	172,186
(Losses)/gains on monetary investments	10				(1,540)	(1,540)
Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
Net (expenditure) /income		(13,939)	-	3,655	(1,492)	(11,776)
Transfers between funds	11					-
Other gains/(losses)						-
Net movement in funds		(13,939)	-	3,655	(1,492)	(11,776)
Total funds brought forward	18	83,237	6,000	42,487	40,485	172,209
Total funds carried forward	18	69,298	6,000	46,142	38,993	160,433

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £
Income						
Offerings		53,185				53,185
Legacies		37,225				37,225
Donations and grants		5,118		2,223		7,341
Gift aid		12,121		321		12,442
Interest and investment income		395				395
Income from investment properties		8,745				8,745
Internal organisations		538				538
Other charitable income	4	25,168				25,168
Total income		142,495	-	2,544	-	145,039
Expenditure						
Circuit assessment or share		63,048				63,048
Grants and donations		817				817
Property maintenance	7	7,222		5,062		12,284
Insurance. Utilities etc.		14,372				14,372
Office expenses	8	5,892				5,892
Other expenditure	9	26,999		20	73	27,092
Internal organisations		827				827
Total charitable expenditure		119,177	-	5,082	73	124,332
Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	10				3,872	3,872
Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
Net income/(expenditure)		23,318	-	(2,538)	3,799	24,579
Transfers between funds	11	-		-		-
Other gains/(losses)						-
Net movement in funds		23,318	-	(2,538)	3,799	24,579
Total funds brought forward	18	59,919	6,000	45,025	36,686	147,630
Total funds carried forward	18	83,237	6,000	42,487	40,485	172,209

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets							
Church building and other property						-	-
Investment properties						-	-
Investments					38,993	38,993	40,485
Total Fixed Assets		-	-	-	38,993	38,993	40,485
Current Assets							
Debtors and prepayments	12	22,443		3,999		26,442	18,990
Loans by the Church						-	-
Investments with TMCP						-	-
Central Finance Board Deposits		16,814	6,000	15,000		37,814	101,649
Cash at Bank and in hand		31,839		27,143		58,982	19,479
Total Current Assets		71,096	6,000	46,142	-	123,238	140,118
Current Liabilities							
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	15	1,798				1,798	8,394
Grants payable within 2021-22						-	-
Total Current Liabilities		1,798	-	-	-	1,798	8,394
Net Current Assets/(liabilities)		69,298	6,000	46,142	-	121,440	131,724
Long Term Liabilities							
(due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2021-22						-	-
Loans to the Church						-	-
Net Assets		69,298	6,000	46,142	38,993	160,433	172,209
Funds of the Church							
General Fund (Unrestricted)	16.1	69,298				69,298	83,237
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	16.2		6,000			6,000	6,000
Total Unrestricted Funds		69,298	6,000	-	-	75,298	89,237
Restricted Funds	17			46,142		46,142	42,487
Endowment Funds	17				38,993	38,993	40,485
Total Funds		69,298	6,000	46,142	38,993	160,433	172,209

Signed

David Bowater
Church Treasurer

14 February 2023

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Cash from operating activities		
New cash (used)/generated in operating activities	(34,750)	(12,992)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	10,418	9,140
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		
Purchase of intangible assets		
Proceeds from the sale of investments		
Purchase of investments		
Other		
Net cash provided by investing activities	10,418	9,140
Cash flows from financing activities		
New borrowings		
Repayment of borrowings		
Net cash used in financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	(24,332)	(3,852)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	121,128	124,980
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	96,796	121,128
<u>Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities</u>		
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per statement of financial activities)	(11,776)	24,579
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortisation charges		
Profit on the sale of fixed assets		
Loss on the sale of fixed assets		
Losses/(gains) on investments	1,492	(3,799)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(10,418)	(9,140)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(7,452)	(2,254)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(6,596)	(22,378)
Net cash used in operating activities	(34,750)	(12,992)
<u>Analysis of cash and cash equivalent</u>		
Cash in hand	37,814	101,649
Short term deposit (less than 3 months)	58,982	19,479
Total cash and cash equivalents	96,796	121,128

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

The financial statements of the Charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) "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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)", Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

ii Public benefit entity

Four Oaks Methodist Church (FOMC) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Church's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available on 31 August 2022, the Trustees believe that the Church is a going concern.

vi Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to FOMC. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. Further information on this matter is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report.

vii Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

viii Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the Church accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that such payment is probable.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

ix VAT

Since the Church is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers except for some qualifying expenditure where the input VAT can be recovered under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

x Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000.

xi Investments

The investments of FOMC are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA and in Note 18 below.

xii Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Church or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the Church. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiii Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanations of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

xiv Pensions costs and other post-retirement benefits

Contributions to the personal pension schemes of certain employees are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they relate. The assets of these personal pension schemes are held separately from those of the Charity in independently administered funds.

xv Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the Charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

xvi Critical accounting judgements and estimates

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

The estimates and underlying assumption are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

2 Glossary of terms

CFB: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain and provides investment advice to those entities

Church: a group of members from fewer than 10 to more than 300

Circuit: a group of Methodist Churches near each other, typically between 10 and 30

CMTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund

Connexion: The Methodist Church in Great Britain which includes the Head Office at Methodist Church House, all Methodist Districts, Circuits and Churches in Great Britain

District: a group of contiguous Circuits, usually between 15 and 30

FOMC: Four Oaks Methodist Church ("the Church")

FRS: Financial Reporting Standard

NEST: National Employment Savings Trust

SOFA: Statement of Financial Activities

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice

TMCP: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds

3 Trustees

Payments to Trustees

It is Church policy to offer to reimburse members and Trustees for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. All expenditure is fully receipted and reimbursed at cost.

One of the Trustees is an employee of the Church (2021: one trustee) and received remuneration of £23,207 (2021: £22,816). Expenses have been reimbursed to 5 (2021: 11) Trustees who, in aggregate, have received the sum of £3,208 (2021: £4,431) during the year.

4 Other charitable income

The Church uses its premises for other activities which generate income for charitable purposes, including letting its premises out to both Church groups and the wider community. This generated income as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Room lettings	51,410	17,670
Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals	2,640	3,746
Job Retention Scheme	273	2,886
Miscellaneous income	490	866
Total Other Charitable Income	54,813	25,168

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

5 Salaries and associated costs

Gross salaries paid to two (2019-20: two) employees were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Gross pay	27,053	26,527
Employer's National Insurance contributions	2,121	1,960
Less: Employment Allowance	(2,121)	(1,960)
Employer's pension contributions to defined contribution schemes	1,380	1,337
Apprenticeship levy	118	115
Total staff costs	28,551	27,979
 Total weekly contractual hours for 2 staff	 42	 42

The Church received a grant under the Government's Job Retention Scheme of £273 (2021 – £2,886) towards the employment costs of the Centre Manager who was furloughed during part of the year.

No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial; the holiday year ends on 31 August. All staff are paid at or above *The Living Wage*.

One of the two employees were engaged as Four Oaks Centre Manager and the other was engaged part-time as Secretary to the Church. The Presbyters and Deacons who served the Church during the year were engaged by the Methodist Church – Birmingham (Sutton Park) Circuit, not by Four Oaks Methodist Church.

6 Pensions

Under the Auto Enrolment regulations set out by the Pension Regulator, all employees of FOMC are auto-enrolled into an employer pension scheme, subject to eligibility. The Auto-Enrolment staging date for the Church was April 2021. The Church has chosen a defined contribution pension scheme administered through the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) and makes employer contributions at or above the levels required by law.

The pension arrangements for Presbyters and Deacons who served the Church during the year are provided through the Connexion and are funded by contributions made by the Birmingham (Sutton Park) Circuit. The pensions are provided through two schemes: The Methodist Ministers' Pension Scheme ("MMPS") and The Pension and Assurance Scheme for Lay Employees of the Methodist Church ("PASLEMC"). Following an actuarial valuation, the two schemes had an estimated combined deficit of £30.6m as at 31 August 2020 but this deficit was covered by the designated Pension Reserve Fund of £36m established in 2009 by the Connexion.

7 Property maintenance

	2022	2021
	£	£
Maintenance of Church and Halls	7,750	3,179
Maintenance of Church Cottage	2,587	4,043
Property Maintenance (General Fund)	10,337	7,222
Hall Development Project (Restricted Fund)	(1,867)	5,062
Total Property Maintenance	8,470	12,284

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

8 Office expenses (General fund)

	2022	2021
	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery	1,223	234
Telephone and broadband	357	370
Staffing and expenses	4,108	4,309
Bank charges	553	139
Examiner's fees	840	840
Total charge to General Fund	7,081	5,892

9 Other expenditure

	2022	2021
	£	£
Church activities	1,444	1,492
Caretaker / Cleaning Costs	25,571	24,490
Contribution to the Connexion Pension Reserve Fund	20,500	-
Choir and music costs	2,593	1,017
Total charged to General Fund	50,108	26,999
Other (charged to Restricted Fund)	25	20
Other (charged to Endowment Funds)	115	73
Total	50,248	27,092

Following an appeal made in July 2021 by the Connexion, the Church made a voluntary donation of £20,500 to the Connexion's Pension Reserve Fund (see Note 6 *Pensions*) on 9 November 2021.

10 Investment management

During the year the Church paid £115 to TMCP as administration costs on the endowment funds held. (2021 - £73). The sum of £115 was levied at 0.2% on the value of the funds at the end of the year.

The sum of £1,540 (2021 - £3,872 gain) represents an unrealised loss in the invested funds of the Endowment Funds. More information can be found in Note 16 *Endowment Funds*.

11 Transfer between funds

No transfers were made between funds in either 2022 or 2021.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

12 Debtors and prepayments

All sums shown as debtors on 1 September 2021 were received during the following year. All sums paid in advance on 1 September 2021 were for activities that have been held during 2022. Similarly, it is expected that payments in advance on 1 September 2022 will be expensed in 2022-23.

Debtors were made up as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income		
Gift aid tax and VAT receivable	12,556	8,446
Circuit assessment paid in advance	5,449	5,359
Insurance paid in advance	5,601	5,085
Pre-paid gas	1,121	-
Room lettings	1,715	100
Total (net)	26,442	18,990

13 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The funds that support the Church's Endowment Funds are held by TMCP in Investment Funds Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month. These are regarded as medium- and long-term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day-to-day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

14 Central Finance Board (CFB) and Cash at Bank

The Church has one current account at HSBC plc, an authorised institution. The sums held on those accounts are immediately available. In addition, the Church has one deposit account at CFB, a common deposit fund. Interest is earned on these accounts and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

15 Creditors and accrued expenses

	2022 £	2021 £
Creditors:		
Donations paid in advance	-	1,050
Building repairs & maintenance	300	5,993
Utilities	658	155
Audit and examiner's fee	840	840
Total	1,798	8,038
Accruals:		
PAYE and pension contributions	-	356
Taxation and Social Security	-	356
Total	1,798	8,394

Maturity analysis of basic financial instruments

	Accrued at 1 Sept 2021 £	Paid in year £	Accrual made In year £	Accrued at 31 Aug 2022 £
Trade creditors				
Donations paid in advance	1,050	(1,050)	-	-
Building repairs and maintenance	5,993	(5,993)	300	300
Utilities	155	(155)	658	658
Audit and examiner's fee	840	(840)	840	840
Taxation and Social Security	356	(356)	-	-
Total	8,394	(8,394)	1,798	1,798

It is expected that all sums accrued on 31 August 2022 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2023.

16 Unrestricted Funds

16.1 General Fund – balance £69,298 on 31 August 2022 (2021: £83,237)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Church and which have not been designated for other purposes.

The general reserves policy of FOMC is to keep the undesignated general-purpose reserves at a level of no less than four months and no more than six months of our "normal" expenditure in any one year.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

16.2 Other Designated Funds – balance £6,000 on 31 August 2022 (2021: £6,000)

Designated funds comprise a maintenance reserve to provide for future maintenance needs of the Church.

17 Restricted Funds – balance £46,142 on 31 August 2022 (2021: £42,487) Endowment Funds – balance £38,993 on 31 August 2022 (2021: £40,485)

The Church Redevelopment Project was a large-scale project to refurbish the Church premises to make them fit for purpose for the 21st century. The Church redeveloped all of its community rooms and believes that the new and much improved facilities will help to achieve its mission to be a beacon of Christ in the local area. The balance on this fund on 31 August 2022 was £38,781 (2021: £35,101). The Redevelopment Project has now been completed and all costs discharged. The funds raised by the Redevelopment Appeal exceeded the costs incurred by the project and therefore, in agreement with the principal donors, the balance of the fund is to be retained to be used for future capital expenditure at the Church.

The Capital Fund was established to provide income to support the upkeep of the Church's buildings and facilities. Some of this fund is included in Central Finance Board deposits (balance £7,300, 2021: £7,300) and the remainder is in endowment funds (balance £17,249 2021: £17,283).

C T Avery and Samuel A Wood trusts were established by bequests to support the ongoing work of the Church. The balances of these funds are shown in note 18 below.

18 Summary of movements on significant individual funds

Current year movement in funds

Fund	Balance at 01-Sep-2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ Losses £	Balance at 31-Aug-2022 £
General Fund	83,237	159,974	(173,913)	-	-	69,298
Property Maintenance (Designated)	6,000	-	-	-	-	6,000
Total unrestricted funds	89,237	159,974	(173,913)	-	-	75,298
Church Development Project	35,101	1,813	1,867	-	-	38,781
Capital Fund	7,300	-	-	-	-	7,300
Small Funds (<£500 each)	86	-	(25)	-	-	61
Total restricted funds	42,487	1,813	1,842	-	-	46,142
Capital Fund	17,283	97	(49)	-	(82)	17,249
C T Avery – Trust A	4,594	111	(111)	-	(288)	4,306
C T Avery – Trust B	1,838	45	(45)	-	(116)	1,722
Samuel A Wood Trust	16,770	407	(407)	-	(1,054)	15,716
Total endowment funds	40,485	660	(612)	-	(1,540)	38,993
Total Funds	172,209	162,447	(172,683)	-	(1,540)	160,433

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Comparatives for movement in funds

Fund	Balance at 01-Sep-2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ Losses £	Balance at 31-Aug-2021 £
General Fund	59,919	142,495	(119,177)	-	-	83,237
Property Maintenance (Designated)	6,000	-	-	-	-	6,000
Total unrestricted funds	65,919	142,495	(119,177)	-	-	89,237
Church Development Project	37,619	2,544	(5,062)	-	-	35,101
Capital Fund	7,300	-	-	-	-	7,300
Small Funds (<£500 each)	106	-	(20)	-	-	86
Total restricted funds	45,025	2,544	(5,082)	-	-	42,487
Capital Fund	17,083	71	(34)	-	163	17,283
C T Avery – Trust A	3,882	72	(72)	-	712	4,594
C T Avery – Trust B	1,552	29	(29)	-	286	1,838
Samuel A Wood Trust	14,169	261	(261)	-	2,601	16,770
Total endowment funds	36,686	433	(396)	-	3,762	40,485
Total Funds	147,630	145,472	(124,655)	-	3,762	172,209

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combines position as follows

Fund	Balance at 01-Sep-2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ Losses £	Balance at 31-Aug-2022 £
General Fund	59,919	302,469	(293,090)	-	-	69,298
Property Maintenance (Designated)	6,000	-	-	-	-	6,000
Total unrestricted funds	65,919	302,469	(293,090)	-	-	75,298
Church Development Project	37,619	4,357	(3,195)	-	-	38,781
Capital Fund	7,300	-	-	-	-	7,300
Small Funds (<£500 each)	106	-	(45)	-	-	61
Total restricted funds	45,025	4,357	(3,240)	-	-	46,142
Capital Fund	17,083	168	(83)	-	81	17,249
C T Avery – Trust A	3,882	183	(183)	-	424	4,306
C T Avery – Trust B	1,552	74	(74)	-	170	1,722
Samuel A Wood Trust	14,169	668	(668)	-	1,547	15,716
Total endowment funds	36,686	1,093	(1,008)	-	2,222	38,993
Total Funds	147,630	307,919	(297,338)	-	2,222	160,433

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

19 Connected organisations and related parties

All of the Church Trustees are members of the Church or Trustees of another Church in the Circuit.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, Circuits and Churches within the District, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Association, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own Trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that FOMC has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over FOMC. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

There were no related party transactions which are not otherwise disclosed in these accounts with the exception of donations received from Church members in connection with the Church Redevelopment Project. These amounted to £1,256 during the year ended 31 August 2022 (2021 £1,285).

20 Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, and Church) within the Methodist Church of Great Britain is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by the Stewards assisting with the services of the Church and serving on committees of the Church that deal with mission, property and finance. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

21 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year-end (2021 - £nil).

22 Events after the reporting period

There were no events after the year end.

23 Operating Lease lessee-commitments

The Church had no commitments for leasing obligations at the year-end (2021 - £nil).

24 Independent examiner

During the year the Church re-appointed JW Hinks as Independent Examiner. Their fee for the year is £840 including VAT (2021 - £840).

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1130630

Accounts

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021
FOR
FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH**

J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
West Midlands
B15 3BH

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

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FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The Trustees present their report with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2021. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) effective 1 January 2019 - (the Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Purposes and aims

Four Oaks Methodist Church stands proudly at the crossroads of Four Oaks Road and the Lichfield Road as a gateway welcoming everyone to Four Oaks.

Our vision/mission statement is that we seek to be a beacon for Christ - radiating the love of God through Worship, Word and Witness.

Our objectives and aims can be summarised as follows.

1. To promote religious activities and the name and beliefs of Jesus Christ.
2. To show a love and care for the surrounding community.
3. To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church.
4. Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, Local or other organisation of the Methodist Church.
5. Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary of ancillary to the Methodist Church.
6. Worshipping God through prayer, song and other acts of worship.
7. The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the Church and non-members alike.
8. The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
9. The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
10. Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
11. Promoting Christianity through the staging of events and services.
12. Providing chaplaincy services to local schools, care homes and other institutions as appropriate and where able.

Ensuring our work delivers our aims

We review our aims, objectives and activities each year. This review looks at what we achieved and the outcomes of our work in the previous 12 months. The review looks at the success of each key activity and the benefits they have brought to those groups of people we are set up to help. The review also helps us to ensure that our aim, objectives and activities remained focused on our stated purposes.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aims and objectives and in planning our future activities. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

The focus of our work

The focus of our work continues primarily to be the advancement of the Christian faith in the Four Oaks community in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Grant making

Four Oaks Methodist Church makes small grants to various organisations and individuals who support and deliver the Church's objects.

Potential recipients of grants paid by Four Oaks Methodist Church are reviewed by the Trustees on a case by case basis depending upon the available resources of the Charity.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Amongst other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and, therefore, to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles.

1. The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
2. The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
3. The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
4. The selection and training of all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
5. Respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authorities in any investigation.
6. Seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
7. Seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
8. Seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our Church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
9. In all of these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Four Oaks Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, Government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

Four Oaks Methodist Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Achievements and performance

Charitable activities

How our activities deliver public benefit

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging.

The Church recognises that it remains an ongoing struggle to increase or even stabilise church membership in a context of rapid national decline. The impact of the Coronavirus pandemic has restricted our ability to meet and hold worship services face to face. The Church has responded by embracing new technologies to maintain contact with the Church family and to meet on-line for worship, fellowship and meetings. Consequently our focus this past year has been not just on raising numbers but on increasing the quality of connections and relationships within the church family and between the church and the local community.

Our main activities and who we try to help are described below. The Charity's activities continue to focus on our aim to advance the Christian faith in the Four Oaks community in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church.

Review of the year

Four Oaks Methodist Church has continued to meet its objective to witness to the Four Oaks community through the many activities that are regularly held on Church premises.

The UK Government announced a national lockdown due to the Coronavirus pandemic on 23 March 2020 and, as a consequence, the Church was required to close its doors to all community activities and worship.

In terms of Worship, the Church joined with the Birmingham District and the Sutton Park Circuit to maintain regular Sunday services during lockdowns that were available through YouTube and Facebook.

A number of Church activities were moved on-line as a way of maintaining contact with the wider community. The Church website (<https://www.fouroaksmethodist.org.uk>) and its associated Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FourOaksMethodistChurch>) have been updated and contain links and information on our ongoing activities. Two new WhatsApp groups have been formed; one contains regular Church notices and the other offers mutual support and connection with the Church community through a chat room. The weekly Church notices are now sent by e-mail to Church members and other individuals on request. All of these modern digital ways of communication allow us to share resources and links to worship services, worship at home notes, the weekly lectionary readings, and the Methodist Prayer Handbook.

Zoom has allowed us to continue meeting "face to face" during lockdowns with our house groups and to hold Church Council and other business meetings. There has been a Zoom bible study and there was a fortnightly Church Zoom prayer group. The popular Saturday morning "Drop In Café" was temporarily moved online and become a "Bacon Buttie Club" where people can share time together over Zoom with a cup of tea and a bacon bap.

The Coronavirus restrictions were relaxed during the summer of 2020 and this enabled us to reopen the Church premises to outside activity in July 2020 and resume worship services in September 2020. However, a second lockdown in the New Year led to a curtailment of activities until regulations were relaxed again in the spring of 2021 following the successful roll out of the Coronavirus vaccination program. By operating cautiously within Government guidelines most activities have now resumed at the Church although we continue to monitor the situation closely.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Four Oaks Methodist Church has a large and active membership and is one of the stronger churches in the Sutton Park Circuit. There are a number of house groups that meet regularly for bible study and fellowship. The Church has a strong pastoral team that is in regular contact with the wider Church family.

The Church continues to sponsor and support a full range of uniformed organisations including Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Rainbows, Brownies, Girl Guides and Focus Explorer Scouts.

The Young Church meets fortnightly on a Sunday and joins in with other churches in the Circuit to promote a new youth worship service aimed at the teenagers in our community. There is also a popular Baby and Toddlers group.

A considerable amount of outreach continues to take place with elderly people within our local community particularly aimed towards those who live alone and have few regular visitors. These activities include "Holiday at Home" sessions, "Turkey and Tinsel" at Christmas, a monthly "Luncheon Club", "Ladies Friendship Club, "Flower Guild" and regular "Extend" exercise classes.

The Saturday morning "Drop-In Cafe" attracts 20 to 30 people which offers a bacon or sausage butty, tea and coffee and an opportunity to have a chat. On the back of this initiative, the Family Table Tennis club has grown which has proved popular with young and old alike.

Four Oaks Methodist Church continues to support "Love in a Box" where shoeboxes are filled with small items for children of all ages living in poor European countries. We continue to support local, national and international charities.

We have not forgotten those who do not have ready access to the internet and our pastoral team is in regular contact by phone with people who may be stuck at home alone. Practical help with shopping, collecting prescriptions and transport for visits to doctors and hospitals have all been freely given and copies of the weekly notice sheets are delivered by a group of volunteers.

We are mindful of the benefits of regular prayer and a dedicated prayer line (fomcprayerline@gmail.com) has been established for those in need of comfort and support.

The Church Family is supporting Erdington Food Bank with donations of food, money and help from volunteers and Birmingham City Mission.

Although the doors to the Church were closed for over five months, the work of God has opened our doors to the wider community in this difficult time. By opening up this way, we have been able to touch the hearts of more and more people, taking the gospel further afield than we could have ever imagined.

Following the reopening of the Church premises, many external organisations returned to meet at the Church including:-

- The Tudor Club
- a popular art class;
- a number of choirs and dance groups;
- a Punjabi speaking club;
- the Sutton Coldfield Wind Orchestra;
- "Mow" music and dancing for toddlers
- Weight Watchers; and
- a Tiny Talk baby signing group.

The Church continues to seek out opportunities to serve the wider Four Oaks community whenever it can.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Financial review

Financial position

o Income trends

Church income is primarily drawn from the Sunday collections and the associated Gift Aid tax credit, supplemented by lettings income from Wesley Cottage and room rental fees paid by external users of our Church building.

Unrestricted Church income totalling £142,495 for the year ended 31 August 2021 (2020 - £111,496) increased by £30,999 or 28% compared to the year ended 31 August 2020, largely due to the receipt of a £37,225 legacy which offset a £2,792 fall in offerings (2020 - £8,773 fall) and a £4,207 reduction in letting income (2020 - £2,173 reduction) because of the closure of the Church premises to comply with the Government's Coronavirus lockdown measures.

Restricted Church income totalling £2,544 for the year ended 31 August 2021 (2020 - £3,406) decreased by £862 or 25% compared to the year ended 31 August 2020. This income relates to the final instalments of pledges made to the Church Redevelopment Project which was successfully completed in 2018.

o Expenditure trends

The assessment of £63,048 (2020 - £61,506) due to the Sutton Park Circuit continues to be our single largest item of unrestricted expenditure, amounting to 44% (2020 - 54%) of total unrestricted expenditure for the year ended 31 August 2021. A significant amount of the Circuit assessment is used to pay the District assessment, stipends and costs related to Ministers.

Other unrestricted expenditure for the year ended 31 August 2021 includes £7,222 (2020 - £3,787) in maintaining the Church premises and £14,372 (2020 - £13,834) for utilities and insurance.

Restricted expenditure totalling £5,082 for the year ended 31 August 2021 (2020 - £31,483) includes £5,062 (2020 - £31,433) in costs related to the Church's Redevelopment Project, inclusive of professional fees, that was substantially completed in 2018. There will be a small amount of further costs and retentions to be paid in the coming year.

o Fund balances

As at 31 August 2021 the unrestricted net assets of Four Oaks Methodist Church, including designated funds, amounted to £89,237 (2020 - £65,919), giving approximately 9 months cover for expenditure (2020 - 7 months).

As at 31 August 2021 the restricted net assets of Four Oaks Methodist Church amounted to £42,486 (2020 - £45,025), reflecting the major costs still to be incurred by the Church on the Church Redevelopment Project, and it is expected that the majority of the remaining funds will be expensed during the year ended 31 August 2022.

Endowment funds amounted to £40,485 as at 31 August 2021 (2020 - £36,686).

Investment policy and objectives

The Charity's Trustees will explore and consider appropriate ways of investing reserves in such a way as to increase income without exposing the Charity to undue risks.

The Church has invested a total of £40,485 as at 31 August 2021 (2020 - £36,686) in funds managed by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes which aims to manage the funds and obtain good returns on these investments whilst making sure that the investments are in line with the moral and ethical teaching of the Methodist Church.

Reserves policy

The reserves policy for the Circuit is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 4 months (2020 - 4 months) average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the Church building and/or be able to continue funding, in the short-term, planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full expenses including the assessment due to the Circuit.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Going concern

The Coronavirus pandemic forced the closure of the Church premises for much of 2020 and the first half of 2021. Following the easing of Government restrictions, the Church premises were re-opened in June 2021 and worship services recommenced.

Although there was a further fall during the year in the level of income from external lettings, the Church was able to maintain a healthy surplus because of the continued generosity of the wider Church family who have maintained their regular giving during the Coronavirus pandemic. With the recent emergence of the Omicron variant, there is an increased possibility of tighter restrictions in the coming months which could affect Church activities. A number of forecasts have been produced with different assumptions based on the possible closure of the Church premises in the year ending 31 August 2022. Although this could result in a deficit being incurred, the Church has sufficient free unrestricted reserves and cash balances to fund the anticipated worst case deficit. Consequently, the Trustees are of the opinion that the Charity will be able to maintain its current activities for the foreseeable future. The Trustees have, therefore, considered that it is appropriate for the financial statements to be prepared on the going concern basis.

Future plans

The Church premises currently remains open for worship and external activities. However we continue to closely monitor the emerging Coronavirus situation and are particularly aware that the Omicron variant may necessitate further Government restrictions. The continuing need to abide by Government guidelines to prevent the spread of Coronavirus could restrict activities and worship in the foreseeable future. The Church Council continues to monitor the situation closely and will respond to developments as they arise. In the meantime, the Church will continue to reach out and support the wider community through worship, prayer and practical support where needed.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Four Oaks Methodist Church is an unincorporated charity which achieved charitable status on 21 July 2009 (registered number 1130630).

Four Oaks Methodist Church is governed by a Deed of Union dated 1932 and by the Methodist Church Act 1976.

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

Trustees must be Members of the Methodist Church and are recruited to reflect the diversity of the Church's activities within the local community. Appointment as a trustee follows informal meetings with the current Trustees.

Organisational structure

The members of Four Oaks Methodist Church Council consists of the Charity's Trustees which comprise the Church office holders, Ministers and representatives appointed by the Church at the Annual Church Meeting.

The Charity is organised so that its Church Council meets regularly to manage its affairs and formulate policy. Day to day management of the Church is undertaken by the Church Leadership team along with the Ministers.

Induction and training of new Trustees

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the church, specifically the leaflet "The Role of a Trustee in the Methodist Church", is given to all new church Trustees as part of their induction as a trustee.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Key management remuneration

In the Trustees' opinion, the key management personnel of the Charity responsible for the direction, control, running and operation of the Charity on a day-to-day basis consists of the Church Council

Key management personnel – Church Council

In most instances, all Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the Charity or remuneration received by Trustees from the Charity are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Remuneration for staff is reviewed annually and normally increased based upon the position of the Charity's finances and the cost of living in general.

Related parties

Four Oaks Methodist Church is part of the Sutton Coldfield Circuit which is part of the Birmingham District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The internal organisations linked to the church are the Monday Fellowship, the Flower Guild, the Ladies Friendship Club, the Luncheon Club and Home Missions.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks that the Charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that necessary steps can be taken to lessen these risks. Particular case has been taken to carry out a Coronavirus risk assessment for the premises and to put in place suitable safeguards and procedures to minimise and manage these risks.

Income and expenditure is monitored and compared with the approved annual budget after at least every 3 months to detect trends as part of the risk management process and to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Fundraising

The majority of our income comes from voluntary donations from our membership and from other supporters. Through the fundraising efforts of our members and supporters we are generating the financial resources to enable us to provide our services.

Our Church Council is deeply committed to building relationships and trust with our members and supporters and is committed to the strengthening of oversight and assurance concerning our fundraising efforts and in ensuring compliance and best practice in these areas.

We are particularly aware of the need to protect vulnerable individuals in any fundraising we undertake. Our vulnerable persons' policy sets out the standards we commit to meet.

We continue to be committed to addressing any expression of dissatisfaction on the part of our members and supporters to examining ways to improve the levels of our service to them.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number
1130630

Registered office
155 Lichfield Road
Sutton Coldfield
B74 2UU

Trustees and Key Lay Workers

Ministers

Reverend Stephen Froggatt
Deacon Marilyn Slowe

Lay Workers

Peter Cashmore
Susannah Timney

Church Treasurer

David Bowater

Church Stewards

Annette Ashford	Lynette Jones
Ian Bosman	Julie Ann Read
Janet Darke	Chris Shaw

Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Anne Thompson

Sutton Park Circuit representatives

Malcolm Oliver
Naomi Jones (resigned 31 August 2021)
Deborah Majola (appointed 1 September 2021)

Church representatives (other members of the Church Council)

Madeline Ballantine	Juliet Lees
Diana Bosman	Nicola Murcott
Angela Cliff	Carolyn Nicholl
Angela Constantine	Sarah Steel (resigned 18 April 2021)
Glyn Constantine (resigned 2 December 2020)	Sue Stewart
James Hart (resigned 31 st August 2021)	Jane Sweetman
Sue Hayden	Margaret Thomas (resigned 31 August 2020)
Bill Humpherson	Rodney Thompson
Carolyn Humpherson	Marion Watts
Tracy Jennens (resigned 1 November 2021)	Tom Watts
Peter Johansen	Rachel Williamson

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (continued)

Independent examiner

P E Smith ACA

J W Hinks LLP

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

19 Highfield Road

Edgbaston

Birmingham

West Midlands

B15 3BH

Bankers

HSBC plc

289 Lichfield Road

Four Oaks

Sutton Coldfield

B74 4BY

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church

9 Bonhill Street

London

EC2A 4PE

Investment manager

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

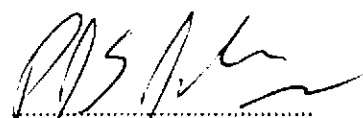
Central Buildings

Oldham Street

Manchester

M1 1JQ

Approved by order of the Church Council, on 25 January 2022 and signed on the Church Council's behalf by:



Peter Johansen
Trustee

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2021 which are set out on pages 11 to 24.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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.
4. the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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



Peter Smith ACA
J W Hinks LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
19 Highfield Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 3BH

25 January 2022

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes to The Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £
Income						
Offerings		53,185				53,185
Legacies		37,225				37,225
Donations and grants		5,118		2,223		7,341
Gift aid		12,121		321		12,442
Interest and investment income		395				395
Income from investment properties		8,745				8,745
Internal organisations		538				538
Other charitable income	4	25,168				25,168
Total income		142,495	-	2,544	-	145,039
Expenditure						
Circuit assessment or share		63,048				63,048
Grants and donations		817				817
Property maintenance	7	7,222		5,062		12,284
Insurance. Utilities etc.		14,372				14,372
Office expenses	8	5,892				5,892
Other expenditure	9	26,999		20	73	27,092
Internal organisations		827				827
Total charitable expenditure		119,177	-	5,082	73	124,332
Gains/(losses) on monetary investments	10				3,872	3,872
Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
Net income/(expenditure)		23,318	-	(2,538)	3,799	24,579
Transfers between funds	11	-		-		-
Other gains/(losses)						-
Net movement in funds		23,318	-	(2,538)	3,799	24,579
Total funds brought forward	18	59,919	6,000	45,025	36,686	147,630
Total funds carried forward	18	83,237	6,000	42,487	40,485	172,209

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

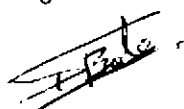
	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £
Income						
Offerings		55,977				55,977
Donations and grants		2,024		2,725		4,749
Gift aid		14,702		681		15,383
Interest and investment income		814				814
Income from investment properties		9,300				9,300
Internal organisations		4,894				4,894
Other charitable income	4	23,785				23,785
Total income		111,496	-	3,406	-	114,902
Expenditure						
Circuit assessment		61,506				61,506
Grants and donations		654				654
Property maintenance	7	3,787		31,433		35,220
Insurance. Utilities etc.		13,834				13,834
Office expenses	8	6,264				6,264
Other expenditure	9	22,910		50	74	23,034
Internal organisations		5,456				5,456
Total charitable expenditure		114,411	-	31,483	74	145,968
Gains/(losses) on monetary invested	10				(219)	(219)
Gains/(losses) on investment properties						-
Net income/(expenditure)		(2,915)	-	(28,077)	(293)	(31,285)
Transfers between funds	11	(100)		100		-
Other gains/(losses)						-
Net movement in funds		(3,015)	-	(27,977)	(293)	(31,285)
Total funds brought forward	18	62,934	6,000	73,002	36,979	178,915
Total funds carried forward	18	59,919	6,000	45,025	36,686	147,630

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets							
Church building and other property							
Investment properties							
Investments		-	-	-	40,485	40,485	36,686
Total Fixed Assets		-	-	-	40,485	40,485	36,686
Current Assets							
Debtors and prepayments	12	18,990				18,990	16,736
Loans by the Churches						-	-
Investments with TMCP						-	-
Central Finance Board Deposits		56,169	6,000	39,479		101,648	59,407
Cash at Bank and in hand		10,479		9,000		19,479	65,573
Total Current Assets		85,638	6,000	48,479	-	140,117	141,716
Current Liabilities							
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	15	2,401		5,993		8,394	30,772
Grants payable within 2020-21						-	-
Total Current Liabilities		2,401	-	5,993	-	8,394	30,772
Net Current Assets/Liabilities		83,237	6,000	42,486	-	131,723	110,944
Long Term Liabilities							
(due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2020-21						-	-
Loans to the Church						-	-
Net Assets		83,237	6,000	42,486	40,485	172,208	147,630
Funds of the Church							
General Fund (Unrestricted)	16.1	83,237				83,237	59,919
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	16.2		6,000			6,000	6,000
Total Unrestricted Funds		83,237	6,000	-	-	89,237	65,919
Restricted Funds	17			42,486		42,486	45,025
Endowment Funds	17				40,485	40,485	36,686
Total Funds		83,237	6,000	42,486	40,485	172,208	147,630

Signed



David Bowater
Church Treasurer

25 January 2022

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Cash from operating activities		
New cash (used)/generated in operating activities	(12,993)	(30,288)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	9,140	10,114
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		
Purchase of intangible assets		
Proceeds from the sale of investments		
Purchase of investments		
Other		
Net cash provided by investing activities	9,140	10,114
Cash flows from financing activities		
New borrowings		
Repayment of borrowings		
Net cash used in financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	(3,853)	(20,174)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	124,980	145,154
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	121,127	124,980
<u>Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities</u>		
Net income for the reporting period (as per statement of financial activities)	24,578	(31,285)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation and amortisation charges		
Profit on the sale of fixed assets		
Loss on the sale of fixed assets		
(Gains)/losses on investments	(3,799)	293
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(9,140)	(10,114)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(2,254)	4,482
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(22,378)	6,336
Net cash used in operating activities	(12,993)	(30,288)
<u>Analysis of cash and cash equivalent</u>		
Cash in hand	101,648	65,573
Short term deposit (less than 3 months)	19,479	59,407
Total cash and cash equivalents	121,127	124,980

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

1 Accounting framework and accounting policies

i Accounting framework

The financial statements of the Charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) "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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)", Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

ii Public benefit entity

Four Oaks Methodist Church (FOMC) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes below.

iii Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year, on the accruals basis to show a true and fair view of the Church's financial position and activities.

iv Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in £ Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound.

v Going concern

Based on the monetary assets and human resources available at 31 August 2021, the Trustees believe that the Church is a going concern.

vi Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will accrue to FOMC. No attempt is made to measure the value of services donated by volunteers.

Individual amounts categorised as *Other income* in the SOFA will be shown separately if they are considered material.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the time of volunteers is not recognised. Further information on this matter is provided in the Trustees' Annual Report.

vii Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

viii Grants

Grants are recognised in full when the award is made once the Church accepts that there is a legal or constructive obligation to make the payment and that such payment is probable.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

ix VAT

Since the Church is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers except for some qualifying expenditure where the input VAT can be recovered under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme.

x Tangible fixed assets

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and individually cost at least £1,000.

xi Investments

The investments of FOMC are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA and in Note 18 below.

xii Receivables and Payables; Bank and Cash

Debtors are stated at the amounts owed to the Church or prepaid. Creditors are initially recognised at settlement amount after any trade discounts, where normal credit terms apply, or amount advanced to the Church. Subsequently creditors that are current liabilities are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid. The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

xiii Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanations of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

xiv Pensions costs and other post-retirement benefits

Contributions to the personal pension schemes of certain employees are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which they relate. The assets of these personal pension schemes are held separately from those of the Charity in independently administered funds.

xv Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the Charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the Charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

xvi Critical accounting judgements and estimates

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

The estimates and underlying assumption are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

2 Glossary of terms

CFB: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain and provides investment advice to those entities

Church: a group of members from fewer than 10 to more than 300

Circuit: a group of Methodist Churches near each other, typically between 10 and 30

CMTF: Circuit Model Trust Fund

Connexion: The Methodist Church in GB which includes the Head Office at Methodist Church House, all Methodist Districts, Circuits and Churches in Great Britain

District: a group of contiguous Circuits, usually between 15 and 30

FOMC: Four Oaks Methodist Church ("the Church")

FRS: Financial Reporting Standard

NEST: National Employment Savings Trust **SOFA:** Statement of Financial Activities

SORP: Statement of Recommended Practice

TMCP: Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds

3 Trustees

Payments to Trustees

It is Church policy to offer to reimburse members and Trustees for expenditure properly incurred in carrying out their duties. All expenditure is fully receipted and reimbursed at cost.

One of the Trustees is an employee of the Church (2020: one trustee) and received remuneration of £21,293 (2020: £15,901). Expenses have been reimbursed to 7 (2020: 11) Trustees who, in aggregate, have received the sum of £4,431 (2020: £4,370) during the year.

4 Other charitable income

The Church uses its premises for other activities which generate income for charitable purposes, including letting its premises out to both Church groups and the wider community. This generated income as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Room lettings	17,670	21,877
Weddings, Baptisms & Funerals	3,746	1,512
Job Retention Scheme	2,886	-
Miscellaneous income	866	396
Total Other Charitable Income	25,168	23,785

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

5 Salaries and associated costs

Gross salaries paid to two (2019-20: two) part time employees were as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Gross pay	21,707	19,505
Employer's National Insurance contributions	1,960	1,050
Less: Employment Allowance	(1,960)	(1,050)
Employer's pension contributions to defined Contribution schemes	1,337	995
Apprenticeship levy	115	81
Total staff costs	23,159	20,581
 Total weekly contractual hours for 2 staff	 42	 32

The Church received a grant under the Government's Job Retention Scheme of £2,886 (2020 – nil) towards the employment costs of the Centre Manager who was furloughed during part of the year.

No employees received employee benefits that totalled more than £60,000. There is no accrual for holiday pay as it is immaterial; the holiday year ends on 31 August. All staff are paid at or above the living wage.

One of the two part-time employees was engaged as Four Oaks Centre Manager and the other was engaged as Secretary to the Church. The Presbyters and Deacons who served the Church during the year were engaged by the Methodist Church – Birmingham (Sutton Park) Circuit, not by Four Oaks Methodist Church.

6 Pensions

Under the Auto Enrolment regulations set out by the Pension Regulator, all employees of FOMC are auto-enrolled into an employer pension scheme, subject to eligibility. The Auto-Enrolment staging date for the Church was April 2020. The Church has chosen a defined contribution pension scheme administered through the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) and makes employer contributions at or above the levels required by law.

7 Property maintenance

	2021	2020
	£	£
Maintenance of Church and Halls	3,179	2,164
Maintenance of Church Cottage	4,043	1,623
Property Maintenance (General Fund)	7,222	3,787
Hall Development Project (Restricted Fund)	5,062	31,433
Total Property Maintenance	12,284	35,220

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

8 Office expenses (General fund)

	2021	2020
	£	£
Printing, postage and stationery	234	769
Telephone and broadband	370	366
Staffing and expenses	4,309	4,289
Bank charges	139	-
Examiner's fees	840	840
Total charge to General Fund	5,892	6,264

9 Other expenditure

	2021	2020
	£	£
Church activities	1,492	2,144
Caretaker / Cleaning Costs	24,490	19,277
Choir and music costs	1,017	1,489
Total charged to General Fund	26,999	22,910
Other (charged to Restricted Fund)	20	50
Other (charged to Endowment Funds)	73	74
Total	27,092	23,034

10 Investment management

During the year the Church paid £73 to TMCP as administration costs on the endowment funds held. (2020 - £74). The sum of £73 was levied at 0.2% on the value of the funds at the end of the year.

The sum of £3,872 (2020 - £219 loss) represents an unrealised gain in the invested funds of the Endowment Funds. More information can be found in Note 16 *Endowment Funds*.

11 Transfer between funds

£nil (2020 - £100) was transferred from the General Fund to the Benevolent Fund.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

12 Debtors and prepayments

All sums shown as debtors at 1 September 2020 were received during the following year. All sums paid in advance at 1 September 2020 were for activities that have been held during 2021. Similarly, it is expected that payments in advance at 1 September 2021 will be expensed in 2021-22.

Debtors were made up as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	-	-
	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income		
Gift aid tax and VAT receivable	8,446	6,403
Circuit assessment paid in advance	5,359	5,254
Insurance paid in advance	5,085	5,079
Pre-paid water rates	-	-
Room lettings	100	-
Total (net)	18,990	16,736

13 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

The funds that support the Church's Endowment Funds are held by TMCP in Investment Funds Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month. These are regarded as medium and long term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property. TMCP ensure that, through providing guidance and acting under their direction, the Managing Trustees comply with charity law and Methodist law and policy as determined by the Methodist Conference.

14 Central Finance Board (CFB) and Cash at Bank

The Church has one current account at HSBC plc, an authorised institution. The sums held on those accounts are immediately available. In addition the Church has one deposit account at CFB, a common deposit fund. Interest is earned on these accounts and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. These sums are viewed as being liquid.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

15 Creditors and accrued expenses

	2021 £	2020 £
Creditors:		
Donations paid in advance	1,050	-
Building repairs & maintenance	5,993	29,825
Utilities	155	-
Audit and examiner's fee	840	840
Total	8,038	30,665
Accruals:		
PAYE and pension contributions	356	107
Taxation and Social Security	356	107
Total	8,394	30,772

Maturity analysis of basic financial instruments

	Accrued at 1 Sept 2020 £	Paid in year £	Accrual made In year £	Accrued at 31 Aug 2021 £
Trade creditors				
Donations paid in advance	-	-	1,050	1,050
Building repairs and maintenance	29,825	(28,132)	4,300	5,993
Utilities	-	-	155	155
Audit and examiner's fee	840	(840)	840	840
Taxation and Social Security	107	(107)	356	356
Total	30,772	(29,079)	6,701	8,394

It is expected that all sums accrued at 31 August 2021 will be paid during the year to 31 August 2022.

16 Unrestricted Funds

16.1 General Fund – balance £83,237 at 31 August 2021 (2020: £59,919)

The purpose of the fund is for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the Church and which have not been designated for other purposes.

The general reserves policy of FOMC is to keep the undesignated general-purpose reserves at a level of no less than four months and no more than six months of our "normal" expenditure in any one year.

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

16.2 Other Designated Funds – balance £6,000 at 31 August 2021 (2020: £6,000)

Designated funds comprise a maintenance reserve to provide for future maintenance needs of the Church.

17 Restricted Funds – balance £42,486 at 31 August 2021 (2020: £45,025) Endowment Funds – balance £40,485 at 31 August 2021 (2020: £36,687)

The Church Redevelopment Project was a large-scale project to refurbish the Church premises to make them fit for purpose for the 21st century. We have redeveloped all our community rooms, and we hope that our new and much improved facilities will help us to live out our mission to be a beacon of Christ in the local area. We have vastly improved rooms for Church and local community groups to use. The balance on this fund at 31 August 2021 was £35,100 (2020: £37,619) although this is likely to be used in the current year to meet the final retention costs of the development.

The Capital Fund was established to provide income to support the upkeep of the Church's buildings and facilities. Some of this fund is included in Central Finance Board deposits (balance £7,300, 2020: £7,300) and the remainder is in endowment funds (balance £17,283 2020: £16,910).

C T Avery and Samuel A Wood trusts were established by bequests to support the ongoing work of the Church. The balances of these funds are shown in note 18 below.

18 Summary of movements on significant Individual funds

Current year movement in funds

Fund	Balance at 01-Sep-2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ Losses £	Balance at 31-Aug-2021 £
General Fund	59,919	142,495	(119,177)	-	-	83,237
Property Maintenance (Designated)	6,000	-	-	-	-	6,000
Total unrestricted funds	65,919	142,495	(119,177)	-	-	89,237
Church Development Project	37,618	2,543	(5,062)	-	-	35,099
Capital Fund	7,300	-	-	-	-	7,300
Small Funds (<£500 each)	107	-	(20)	-	-	87
Total restricted funds	45,025	2,543	(5,082)	-	-	42,486
Capital Fund	17,083	-	(34)	-	234	17,283
C T Avery – Trust A	3,882	-	(8)	-	720	4,594
C T Avery – Trust B	1,552	-	(3)	-	289	1,838
Samuel A Wood Trust	14,169	-	(28)	-	2,629	16,770
Total endowment funds	36,686	-	(73)	-	3,872	40,485
Total Funds	147,630	145,038	(124,332)	-	3,872	172,208

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Comparatives for movement in funds

Fund	Balance at 01-Sep-2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ Losses £	Balance at 31-Aug-2020 £
General Fund	62,935	111,496	(114,412)	(100)	-	59,919
Property Maintenance (Designated)	6,000	-	-	-	-	6,000
Total unrestricted funds	68,935	111,496	(114,412)	(100)	-	65,919
Church Development Project	65,645	3,406	(31,433)	-	-	37,618
Capital Fund	7,300	-	-	-	-	7,300
Small Funds (<£500 each)	57	-	(50)	100	-	107
Total restricted funds	73,002	3,406	(31,483)	100	-	45,025
Capital Fund	17,024	158	(34)	-	(65)	17,083
C T Avery – Trust A	3,951	78	(78)	-	(69)	3,882
C T Avery – Trust B	1,580	31	(31)	-	(28)	1,552
Samuel A Wood Trust	14,423	285	(285)	-	(254)	14,169
Total endowment funds	36,978	552	(428)	-	(416)	36,686
Total Funds	178,915	115,454	(146,323)	-	(416)	147,630

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combines position as follows

Fund	Balance at 01-Sep-2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains/ Losses £	Balance at 31-Aug-2021 £
General Fund	62,935	253,991	(233,589)	(100)	-	83,237
Property Maintenance (Designated)	6,000	-	-	-	-	6,000
Total unrestricted funds	68,935	253,991	(233,589)	(100)	-	89,237
Church Development Project	65,645	5,949	(36,495)	-	-	35,099
Capital Fund	7,300	-	-	-	-	7,300
Small Funds (<£500 each)	57	-	(70)	100	-	87
Total restricted funds	73,002	5,949	(36,565)	100	-	42,486
Capital Fund	17,024	230	(68)	-	97	17,283
C T Avery – Trust A	3,951	86	(86)	-	643	4,594
C T Avery – Trust B	1,580	34	(34)	-	258	1,838
Samuel A Wood Trust	14,423	313	(313)	-	2,347	16,770
Total endowment funds	36,978	663	(501)	-	3,345	40,485
Total Funds	178,915	260,603	(270,655)	-	3,345	172,208

FOUR OAKS METHODIST CHURCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

19 Connected organisations and related parties

All of the Church Trustees are members of the Church or Trustees of another Church in the Circuit.

Connected organisations include the Methodist Connexion, Circuits and Churches within the District, other Methodist Districts in Great Britain, the Methodist Ministers' Children's Relief Association, CFB and TMCP. All of these entities have their own Trustees or directors and autonomous administration such that FOMC has no significant influence over any of them, nor they over FOMC. They are, therefore, not considered related parties.

There were no related party transactions which are not otherwise disclosed in these accounts with the exception of donations received from Church members in connection with the Church Redevelopment Project. These amounted to £1,285 during the year ended 31 August 2021 (2020 £2,725).

20 Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, and Church) within the Methodist Church in GB is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. Principally this contribution is by the Stewards assisting with the services of the Church and serving on committees of the Church that deal with mission, property and finance. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment.

21 Capital commitments and contingent liabilities

There were no capital commitments or contingent liabilities at the year-end (2020 - £nil).

22 Events after the reporting period

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, the validity of which is dependent upon Four Oaks Methodist Church being able to continue to operate and come to terms with the significant impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. At the present time there are many unknown variables which makes forecasting the future results and impact on the charity challenging.

Coronavirus represents a significant event both during and since the end of the financial period. The impact of this and the countermeasures being taken to suppress it are considered to be non-adjusting post year end events and therefore have not been taken into account in preparing the Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021. Asset values continue to be subject to increased volatility due to the increased uncertainties. These factors will all impact the value of investments but a more precise estimate of the impact on asset values cannot be determined.

23 Operating Lease lessee-commitments

The Church had no commitments for leasing obligations at the year-end (2020 - £nil).

24 Independent examiner

During the year the Church re-appointed JW Hinks as Independent Examiner. Their fee for the year is £840 including VAT (2020 - £840).