

**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.

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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.

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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.

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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

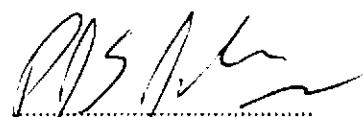
Central Buildings

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

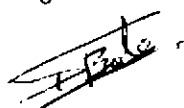
	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £
Income						
Offerings		55,977				55,977
Donations and grants		2,024		2,725		4,749
Gift aid		14,702		681		15,383
Interest and investment income		814				814
Income from 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
Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities		
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)
Analysis of cash and cash equivalent		
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).