

THE BRENT METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1130746

Details

Other names	THE BRENT
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2009-07-27
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Brent Methodist Church St. Vincents Road Dartford DA1 1XF
Phone	01322271738
Email	admin@brentmethodistdartford.org.uk
Website	http://www.brentmethodistdartford.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: Regular acts of Chirstian worship, Christian fellowship, Christian prayer and Christianpreaching, Christian youth and children's activities including youth fellowships, SundaySchools, children's and youth groups, holiday clubs, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, Parentand toddler groups, womens fellowships, providing fellowship and shared meals.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£95,998	£90,230	-	-
2024-08-31	£103,146	£108,804	-	-
2023-08-31	£98,497	£109,497	-	-
2022-08-31	£98,278	£105,311	-	-
2021-08-31	£93,455	£90,591	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Alexandra Jean Terrett	Chair	2022-09-01
BABATUNDE DIPITA-WILLIAMS BA, MBA		2008-08-12
BAMIDELE OREKOYA LLB HON BL		2016-06-15
Babatunde Williams		2023-09-01
GILLIAN BRATLEY		2020-03-08
IVOR FORD		2025-06-01
JOHN WILLIAM WILSON		2011-04-29
Karen Dudley		2018-04-15
LORNA MARY WILSON		2011-04-29
MR EDRIC DAVIES		2011-04-29
Susan Waterman		2016-03-20

THE BRENT METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1130746

Accounts

BRENT METHODIST CHURCH – DARTFORD

Annual Report

And

Financial Statement

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Ministers

Reverend Alex Terrett

Bank:

**Santander UK PLC
Bridle Road
Bootle
Merseyside
GIR 0AA**

Independent Examiner:

**Nichols & Co.
Unit 7
Mulberry Place
Pinnell Road
Eltham SE9 6AR**

BRENT METHODIST CHURCH DARTFORD - TRUSTEES REPORT

The address of the Church is Brent Methodist Church, St Vincent's Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 1XF.

Structure, Governance and Management

Brent Methodist Church forms part of the North Kent Circuit (36/21) within the South-East District and is governed by the Constitutional Practice and Disciplines of the Methodist Church.

Extracts from the Methodist Constitutional Practice and Discipline state that the church stewards are corporately responsible with the ministers exercising pastoral responsibility in relation to the Local Church for giving leadership and help over the whole range of the church's life and activity. Such activities are managed, agreed upon and executed by the "Managing Trustees" of the local church who are all members of the Church Council. The Church Council has authority and oversight over the whole area of the ministry of the church, including the management of its property. Aims and methods, the determination and pursuit of policy and the deployment of available resources form part of its responsibilities. In many cases it will appoint committees which will have authority, in their own areas of responsibility, to initiate action, co-ordinate the work done in the church, advise the Church Council and report to it, being subject to its authority and oversight.

The stewards are appointed and recruited during the annual general church meeting. Eligible voting members of the meeting nominate and present to the minister such names seven days before the meeting and these names are voted on during the meeting. Other members who want to serve as trustee representatives can also be nominated by a voting member to be voted on during the meeting. The other officers such as the treasurer, communion stewards, pastoral secretary, class leaders, council secretary and other officers or committees as the council requires are selected and approved by the church council members during church council meetings.

The members of the Church Council are the Trustees of the Church. Those who served as Managing Trustees during the year from 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025 are as follows:

Name	Role	Date Appointed/ (Resigned)
Alex Terrett	Minister	September 2022
Gillian Bratley	Council Member	March 2020
Edric Davies	Council Member	March 2011
Ivor Ford	Steward	June 2025
Tunde Dipita-Williams	Acting Treasurer	August 2023
Karen Dudley	Steward	(June 2025)
John Wilson	Council Member	March 2011
Lorna Wilson	Council Member	May 2023
Karen Dudley	Council Member	June 2025
Tunde Williams	Senior Steward	September 2023
Susan Waterman	Council Member	March 2016
Dele Orekoya	Pastoral Committee Sec.	March 2019

Finance and Property Committee is a sub-committee of the Church Council, to which it reports.

Objectives and Activities

- The fellowship's core objectives remain unchanged: proclaiming the Gospel, extending God's Kingdom locally and globally, and promoting spiritual growth through worship, teaching, and community engagement.
- The principle of giving 10% of income to charitable causes continues to guide financial stewardship, though this is applied only when the church is not in deficit, ensuring responsible financial management.
- Key activities continue to include missionary support, community outreach programmes, youth engagement, and local partnership working.

Public Benefit Compliance

- Trustees confirm compliance with Charity Commission public benefit guidance.
- The church continues to offer open and accessible worship, community outreach (including Messy Church, Dartford Food Larder, and Craft & Fellowship), and pastoral support to all, regardless of background or faith.

Looking Back

- With the departure of Deacon Elizabeth and no immediate replacement, the church has adapted by increasing the number of local arrangement services. These have included creative formats such as “Favourite Hymns” services, mini Bible study fellowships, and shared worship with Spital Street Methodist Church. On other occasions, the congregation has joined online circuit services.
- The church continues to benefit from visiting ministers and local preachers, who bring a variety of worship experiences and encouragement to the congregation.
- Volunteer engagement has increased, with more members stepping into service roles, though there remains scope for additional help.
- Karen Dudley stepped down as Senior Steward and now represents The Brent as a Circuit Steward Representative, a transition met with gratitude for her leadership and continued service.
- Building works this year included repairs to the fire exit, roof maintenance, and broader improvements to ensure full fire safety compliance.

- A highlight of the summer was a coach trip to Broadstairs, shared with Gravesend and Spital Street churches, a joyful time of fellowship, worship, and sunshine by the sea.
- A new Craft & Fellowship group was launched in September 2024 and has since grown steadily. Meeting fortnightly, it provides a welcoming space where people can bring creative projects, share conversation, and enjoy tea, coffee, and biscuits in a relaxed, therapeutic environment.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Festival took place on 13th October 2024, led by Reverend Alex Terrett. As in previous years, donations were given to the local foodbank, and the church was decorated with displays of fruit, vegetables, and flowers to celebrate God's provision. The service followed the lectionary reading from Job 23:1-9, 16-17, reminding us of faith and perseverance. Following worship, fellowship continued over a bring-and-share lunch.

CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season was a joyful highlight once again. A Nativity formed part of the Carol Service, complete with realistic sheep noises, delighting both children and adults. The service was led by Rev. Alex Terrett, with music once again provided by the Steel Pan Drums. An earlier-than-usual Christmas Day service, also led by Rev. Alex, enabled families to celebrate together before the rest of the day's festivities. The church was beautifully decorated, and refreshments were shared in warm fellowship after each service.

LENT

During Lent we followed the "Soul Food" study series produced by the Methodist Church, meeting weekly for five weeks. Holy Week was shared ecumenically:

- Maundy Thursday service at Emmanuel Baptist Church

- Good Friday service at St Andrew's Church, followed by worship in Dartford Town Centre
- Easter Sunday Holy Communion at The Brent, with the option for members to attend a Sunrise Service at Bluebell Hill joined by others from around the district.

These gatherings deepened our reflection on Christ's journey to the cross and resurrection.

Giving

We suspended the 10% giving for this financial year due to church finances being in deficit. We did set aside a sum of money that could be used should there be any special projects or local charities that made requests for support throughout the year.

We continue to use our benevolent fund to support members in times of urgent need and distress.

Members Spiritual Growth

Attendance has remained steady throughout the year. The Craft and Fellowship Group, launched in September 2024, has continued to enrich members' spiritual and social wellbeing, providing a relaxed setting for conversation and creativity. No new discipleship groups have been introduced, but the church continues to encourage faith development through worship, fellowship, and service.

Prayer Ministry

During the year, changes in the prayer-ministry team have led to a pause in fortnightly prayer ministry after services and reduced frequency of the Prayer and Fellowship Group. Nevertheless, the Prayer Chain remains strong and active, offering immediate intercession and pastoral support when needs arise. We continue to thank those who sustain this vital ministry of prayer.

Evangelism

Evangelism and outreach remain a key part of the Brent's life and mission. In addition to Messy Church, Film and Fellowship, Craft and Fellowship, Prayer Fellowship, and Leisure Hour, we have hosted café-style services and breakfast before the service gatherings, welcoming both members and newcomers into relaxed fellowship. These creative formats have provided fresh opportunities for relationship-building and for gently sharing the Good News with our wider community.

Messy Church

Messy Church has continued to meet monthly with enthusiasm and faithfulness. Themes explored during the year have been: Who is God?; Elijah; Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego; Christmas; The workers in the vineyard; Beatitudes; Soldier's faith; Easter; Emmaus; Paul and persecution; Baptism. We always try to have a range of activities to suit the difference ages.

Attendance has been mixed this year, ranging from 3 to 28, with an average of 15 per Messy Church (children and adults). Some families have been coming to Messy Church for some years, but we have also welcomed a few new families. There are about ten regular helpers in the Messy Church team leading the activities and preparing and serving the food; everyone's commitment and enthusiasm is greatly valued. Not everyone is able to help each month, but God ensures we always have enough help to run each Messy Church. One helper has stepped down, but we have welcomed a new helper to the team. The families always enjoy going into the church for the

time of worship. Thanks to Rev Alex, Ian Packham and Tracey Burch for leading the worship.

The team once again ran Stay and Play sessions during the summer holidays, providing fun, creative family time and outreach to local families.

Film and Fellowship

This group continues to meet monthly, offering hospitality, light refreshments, and enjoyable film screenings that encourage community connection. Attendance typically ranges from around 8 to 15 people. Some of the films shown included War Horse, Wicked, The Greatest showman, Westside story and much more.

Dartford Foodbank

The Dartford Foodbank is now known as the Dartford Larder which opened in its new premises in June 2025. Dartford Council is funding it but our clients who now use it are asked to pay a small fee a week. Depending on their circumstances some can pay less. Our homeless clients do not pay anything. The criteria to use the Larder is our clients pay their council tax to Dartford Council. Churches are still donating plus schools at our harvest period. We also receive donations from Sainsburys every week.

The Healthy Living centre have organised cooking courses which are 6 weeks long to help and advise how to prepare meals and that seems to be a success. These courses are held within the Larder premises.

We still have volunteers but also 3 paid people (who were volunteers).

The Larder is giving our clients more choice of items and all of them like the new format. It is now open on 3 days instead of 1-all-day day.

Pathfinders

Pathfinders continue to meet fortnightly during Sunday services, serving primary-aged children (4–11 years). Sessions remain based on Scripture Union's X-Stream resources.

Pathfinders has 1 leader and 1 helper. We have 3 definite young people each session and at times there can be up to 6 young people when families visit.

Equipping and Training

While no new worship leaders have been commissioned this year, there has been an encouraging increase in behind-the-scenes volunteers supporting Sunday services and administration. Musicians have become more regularly involved, helping to enhance worship even without a full music team.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding continues to be a top priority. There are two safeguarding officers who lead on safeguarding matters in the church, but safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Church Council have updated volunteer roles so there is greater clarity in what the role requires and what safeguarding measures need to be in place. There are currently 24 volunteers in a variety of roles that need DBS check and / or safeguarding training; all checks and training are up to date.

The policy is reviewed annually and displayed within church premises. There have been a few safeguarding issues during this year that have been logged as appropriate and are no longer active.

Flower Ministry

We continue to decorate our church on special occasions such as Christenings, Remembrance Sunday, Easter and Christmas. In addition to the usual decorations for major festivals, the church was adorned beautifully for Harvest Festival 2024, reflecting the abundance of God's creation.

We have some indoor plants and artificial flowers for a constant display in the weeks when there are no fresh flowers. We feel it is important for nature to be present in the church to remind us of God's creations.

Pastoral Visitors

The pastoral-visiting scheme continues to offer valued contact and care to church members through cards, calls, and visits.

There have been no new memberships, or baptisms since September 2024 to August 2025.

Unfortunately, there have been two deaths during that time period.

The pastoral visitors remain committed to offering love and support to worshippers at the Brent and are looking grow their team to increase their capacity to connect with much more people, more often.

Looking Ahead

Our vision for 2025/26 remains one of:

- Growth, stability, and a vibrant, thriving community centred on worship, service, and fellowship.
- We pray for more volunteers to step forward into currently vacant roles, especially property steward and church stewards.
- Financially, the church continues to monitor expenditure carefully; the 10 % giving has been paused while we address the current deficit.
- Building maintenance continues as part of caring for our ageing facilities, with a particular focus on long-term property management following the departure of our previous property steward.
- As we start a new year, we give thanks to Rev. Alex Terrett for her continued leadership and have faith in the knowledge that as we look forward, we trust in God's provision and guidance as we work together in unity and organisation to sustain and grow the ministry of The Brent.

BRENT METHODIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF YEAR ENDING 31st August 2025

Full details of the Church Accounts are contained at the end of this review.

The surplus overall for the year was £5,768.62 which represents a significant decrease of about **-202%** on last year's deficit of **-£5,658.67**. The positive figure is in contrast to the approved budget which had a deficit of **-£10,386.00**. The reason for the positive figure is partly due to the reduction in budgeted expense by 19% and refund of the pension fund donation of £3000 + interest, given the previous year. A significant reduction in the expenses in certain giving categories contributed to the final figure.

Looking further into this year's surplus of £5,768.62 would highlight a lot of the categories with significant changes from last year's report which would make for better understanding of the accounts by anyone interested and which can be attributed once again to the period of changes in behavior and activities due to the current climate.

The year has seen a mixture of highs and lows in both income and expense categories. Figures from the income category show a **7%** decrease in income compared to the previous year, with some of the below major changes explaining this position:

- a. Total offering decreased by 16%.
- b. Gift Aid Recovered decreased by 100% (This will be reclaimed in the new financial year).
- c. Flat Rent decreased by 73%. (Flat empty currently)
- d. Internet Service Income decreased by 69%.
- e. Ground Rent decreased by 100% (Will be reclaimed in the new financial year).
- f. Playgroup Rent increased by 25%
- g. Church Funds decreased by 39%.

Figures from the expenses on also show a significant decrease in total resources expended by **17%** from last year with some of the below major changes explaining this position:

- a. Ministerial expenses decreased by 65%.

- b. Lay Minister's Salary decreased by 100% (No diaconal payments this year)
- c. Messy Church expenses decreased by 24%.
- d. Property Window Cleaning increased by 100%.
- e. Giving Flowers & Presents decreased by 49%
- f. Gifts made by the church decreased by 100%. (This was suspended this year).
- g. Flat commission decreased by 66%.
- h. Flat Repairs decreased by 96%.
- i. Houses Insurance decreased by 29%.
- j. Houses Repairs decreased by 76%
- k. Property Utilities Electrics decreased by 78%.
- l. Property Utilities Gas decreased by 95%.
- m. Property Utilities Telephone & Broadband increased by 64%.
- n. Sunday School decreased by 100%.
- o. Catering decreased by 21%.
- p. Photocopier Rental & Service Costs increased by 24%.
- q. Property repairs and renewals increased by 45%.

The financial state of the Church remains healthy with positive bank and deposit balances starting the new financial year. The operational budget for the new financial year however, shows a deficit of **-£16,545.00**. It is hoped that normal services will continue for most of the weeks for the foreseeable future with not too many interruptions anticipated. It is also hoped that as usual, some of the other budgeted expenses might not be utilised which would in turn have a positive impact on the deficit figure. In addition, church workers and trustees with various responsibilities are always made aware to continue in their efforts to both watch and manage expenses in order to keep these at a reasonable level.

With the anticipated effective expense management and God's guidance and favour, it is hoped for a positive end to the financial year.

The Church has two main Trust Funds as follows:

Sale of House Trust Fund holding **£23,648.62** as of 31st August 2025. This money has come from the sale of one of the houses left to the Church by Mrs Westcombe in the year 2002 and also proceeds from the premium received on the leasehold extension on Colney road flat. These houses were left to us for

the ‘benefit, continuation and furtherance of Methodism in the Newtown area of Dartford.’ The funds within this account are deemed to be restricted and Church Council has agreed that this capital fund should be used for outreach projects. TMCP have confirmed this fund can also be used for Property Schemes or for the promotion of the work of God. The interest from this account is transferred to the Deposit Account.

The Hodson Trust fund (**£1,200.00**).

This is a permanent endowment fund, whereby only the interest can be used and is credited to the Deposit account. The capital sum cannot currently be spent but with the adjustment in charity law and due to the amount of the endowment fund, future consideration of its liquidation will be looked into.

The Church has two other accounts (Current Account and Deposit Account). These accounts are used for the day to day running expenses of the Church, such as Circuit Assessment, salary of the cleaner, utilities etc.

Depreciation Policy

Church Council has agreed the following depreciation policies on new equipment:

Five years for electrical equipment at 20% for each year.

Ten years for furniture etc. at 10% for each year.

Property Valuations

The letting agent provides property valuations on the three houses and flat in August of each year. They are provided on the basis that the properties are being sold on the open market as unoccupied.

Reserves Policy

The Charity’s Reserves Policy deals with:

Our General Fund (Current Account and Deposit Account)

Other Funds also held which are NOT covered by our reserves are:

-Sale of House (Westcombe Fund) CFB12815

-The Hodson Trust CFB17346

Our Reserves

Our General Fund

The trustees aim ideally to hold in reserve sufficient money in our general funds to cover six month's budgeted expenditure i.e. £55,265.00.

The reason for this is two-fold:

- a. The church needs around one month's expenditure in reserve as working capital to cover normal monthly running costs which is £9,210.83 of our total year's budgeted expense of £110,530.00
- b. To cover six months of circuit assessment (£22,362.50) and emergency or unexpected repairs to the Church and the houses not in the budget set at £5,000. The general fund is currently sufficient to fulfil these needs.

Other Funds held for specific purposes:

Sale of House (Westcombe Fund) CFB12815

This fund holds the legacy from the Houses given to the Brent by Mrs Westcombe 'for the benefit, continuation, and furtherance of Methodism in the Newtown area of Dartford' in addition to the premium received from the leasehold extension request on the Colney Road flat. Church Council has agreed to fulfil the spirit in which the legacy was given and use this money for Outreach Projects. This is held by The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as a restricted fund. TMCP have confirmed this fund can also be used for Property Schemes or 'for promotion of the work of God in the relevant organisation'.

The Hodson Trust CFB17346

This is an Endowment Fund and therefore we can only use the interest which is credited to the general fund.

Risks

The risks facing the church are reviewed at each Property & Finance and Council Committee meetings and include:

Loss or Damage to Buildings: This risk is addressed through insurance cover.

Personal Liability of Managing Trustees (i.e. members of the Church Council: This risk has been addressed through Trustee Indemnity Insurance.

Legal and Reputational Risks associated with working with children: The Methodist Church has a Connexional ‘Safeguarding Policy to which Brent Methodist Church subscribes. There is a continuous programme to ensure that up to date checks are made via the Disclosure and Barring Service on anyone in regular contact with young people through Church activities.

Health and Safety: The risk is addressed by members of the Property Committee carrying out regular health and safety checks. Additional precautions as a result of changes in Fire Regulations have been implemented.

Financial loss which is addressed through appropriate financial controls and procedures.

In summary, the trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate the Charity’s exposure to major risks.

Investment Policy

A low-risk policy is maintained. The Deposit Fund administered by the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church is utilised to deposit any funds surplus to the Brent’s immediate requirements.

Statement of Trustees Responsibility

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

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

State whether applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting by Charities have been followed.

Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that activities will continue.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of Brent Methodist Church and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church and the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for taking reasonable steps to safeguard the assets of the Church and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Position (e.g.
Secretary,
Chair, etc.)

Date

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Brent Methodist Church - Dartford	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2025

NORTH KENT 1130746	Circuit	Circuit no.	36/21
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1130746
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If not a registered charity His Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number	
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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Reverend Alex Terrett

Church Stewards:

Tunde Williams - Senior Church Steward
Karen Dudley - Steward
Ivor Ford - Steward

Treasurer:

Tunde Dipita-Williams

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	21,118		21,118	31,336
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	1,818	1,163	2,981	3,424
a4	Lettings	22,043		22,043	19,620
a5	Other receipts	49,856		49,856	48,766
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	94,835	1,163	95,998 (a7)	103,146

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	47,080		47,080	44,000
b3	Donations				3,750
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	20,674		20,674	16,403
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	8,601		8,601	20,491
b6					
b7	Other payments	13,794	81	13,875	24,160
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	90,149	81	90,230 (b9)	108,804

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR (a6-b8)	4,686	1,082	5,768	(5,658)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	61,608	24,849	86,457 (c6)	92,115
c3	Sub total (c1+c2)	66,294	25,931	92,225	86,457
c4	Transfers and adjustments	1,082	(1,082)		(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c3+c4)	67,376	24,849	92,225 (c8)	86,457 (c6)

SECTION D			
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS			
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)	£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year		
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		337
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		337
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)		

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**SECTION E****Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page**

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

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS		Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1	Ladies Leisure Hour	215	227	(12)		490	478
e2	Messy Church	153	179	(26)		43	17
e3	Keep Fit	340	340				
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	708	746	(38)		533 (e11)	495 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	95,998 (a7)	90,230 (b9)	5,768	(c7)	86,457 (c6)	92,225 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	96,706	90,976	5,730		86,990 (x)	92,720 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2025**

		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand	16	16
f2	Bank Current Account	23,561	25,252
f3	Bank Deposit Account		
f4	Central Finance Board	38,031	42,108
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	24,849	24,849
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	86,457 (c6)	92,225 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	533 (e11)	495 (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	86,990 (x)	92,720 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

		At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,192,500	1,212,500
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

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

Declarations and Scrutiny

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

Signature of treasurer Date.....

Name and address of treasurer

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

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Brent Methodist Church

Charity Number 1130746

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

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 (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

I have/~~have not~~* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner

Name of independent examiner

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address

..... Post Code

Date

* delete or circle as appropriate

THE BRENT METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1130746

Accounts

BRENT METHODIST CHURCH – DARTFORD

Annual Report

And

Financial Statement

For the year ended 31 August 2024

Ministers

**Reverend Alex Terrett
Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet**

Bank:

**Santander UK PLC
Bridle Road
Bootle
Merseyside
GIR 0AA**

Independent Examiner:

**Nichols & Co.
Unit 7
Mulberry Place
Pinnell Road
Eltham SE9 6AR**

BRENT METHODIST CHURCH DARTFORD - TRUSTEES REPORT

The address of the Church is Brent Methodist Church, St Vincent's Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 1XF.

Structure, Governance and Management

Brent Methodist Church forms part of the North Kent Circuit (36/21) within the South-East District and is governed by the Constitutional Practice and Disciplines of the Methodist Church.

Extracts from the Methodist Constitutional Practice and Discipline state that the church stewards are corporately responsible with the ministers exercising pastoral responsibility in relation to the Local Church for giving leadership and help over the whole range of the church's life and activity. Such activities are managed, agreed upon and executed by the "Managing Trustees" of the local church who are all members of the Church Council. The Church Council has authority and oversight over the whole area of the ministry of the church, including the management of its property. Aims and methods, the determination and pursuit of policy and the deployment of available resources form part of its responsibilities. In many cases it will appoint committees which will have authority, in their own areas of responsibility, to initiate action, co-ordinate the work done in the church, advise the Church Council and report to it, being subject to its authority and oversight.

The stewards are appointed and recruited during the annual general church meeting. Eligible voting members of the meeting nominate and present to the minister such names seven days before the meeting and these names are voted on during the meeting. Other members who want to serve as trustee representatives can also be nominated by a voting member to be voted on during the meeting. The other officers such as the treasurer, communion stewards, pastoral secretary, class leaders, council secretary and other officers or committees as the council requires are selected and approved by the church council members during church council meetings.

The members of the Church Council are the Trustees of the Church. Those who served as Managing Trustees during the year from 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024 are as follows:

Name	Role	Date Appointed/ (Resigned)
Alex Terrett	Minister	September 2022
Elizabeth Harfleet	Minister	(July 2024)
Gillian Bratley	Council Member	March 2020
Fiona Crowhurst	Property Secretary	(August 2024)
Edric Davies	Council Member	March 2011
Tunde Dipita-Williams	Acting Treasurer	August 2023
Karen Dudley	Steward	April 2018
John Wilson	Council Member	March 2011
Lorna Wilson	Council Member	May 2023
Tunde Williams	Steward	September 2023
Susan Waterman	Council Member	March 2016
Dele Orekoya	Pastoral Committee Sec.	March 2019

Finance and Property Committee is a sub-committee of the Church Council, to which it reports.

Objectives and Activities

The main objective of the fellowship is the proclamation of the Gospel of God concerning His Son Jesus Christ, the Lord, through preaching and teaching the Word of God.

The mission of the fellowship is to establish and to extend the Kingdom of God in Dartford, United Kingdom, and the World.

Activities to promote the objectives of the charity and for the public benefit including missionary support, community outreach programs and youth work.

To give 10% of its income to worthwhile causes and charities as a tithe.

Public Benefit Compliance

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission.

Looking Back

We give praise and thanks to God for His innumerable blessings. We continue to experience the faithfulness of our God. We continue to see new members join in our Sunday worship to grow the Kingdom of God. The church continues to be a multi-cultural church, with members of all ages, which brings diversity to worship and interactions.

We praise God for Reverend Alex Terrett and Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet, for their leadership and ministry. We will be saying goodbye to our Deacon when she leaves us in the summer to take up a new role. We will miss her calming manner and spiritual ear which have been valued and appreciated by all the church family during her five years with us at The Brent. We wish her well as she takes up a new position in September.

We are grateful to our dedicated team of volunteers, without whose hard work and devotion when working with preachers, worship leaders and those leading services, would not make it possible to hold weekly services.

We have re-introduced the role of Vestry Steward to help support with the weekly services. This has meant that some of the Steward duties are able to be shared.

It is wonderful to hear from visitors, some who are regular preachers amongst us and others who come from local charities, such as Emerge Advocacy, who share the work they do and how we can support them. All receive a warm welcome.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest service was led by Revd. Alex Terrett on 1st October and donations were made to the local food bank. Following the service, fellowship continued with a bring and share lunch. It was lovely to be able to celebrate God's creation and see displays of fruit, vegetables, and flowers around the church.

CHRISTMAS

The annual Carol service was once more able to be held this year in December and was led jointly by Rev. Alex Terrett and Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet. It was lovely to be able to decorate the church and share in fellowship after the concert with home made mince pies and refreshments being offered. We give thanks to the Steel Pan Drums who once more provided music for the Carol Concert.

Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet led us in our traditional Christmas Day morning service.

LENT

This year we held a Lent course that focused on modern day slavery. This gave us an opportunity to join with other churches and look at the impact this has on us today and how as Christians we respond to this.

Giving

Based on the biblical principle that says, “it is more blessed to give than to receive”, each year we ensure we give 10% of our income as donations to worthy causes. This amount is then distributed to missions, disaster afflicted areas and charities. The proposed beneficiaries are reviewed prayerfully each year. We have continued to support Spurgeons Academy in Kenya and the work that is carried out in our Lords name to help the children and families who live in the surrounding villages.

We also have a benevolent fund, with additional monies given by the congregation following communion services, which can be used by the Minister to respond to emergency needs.

Members Spiritual Growth

We continue to hold weekly services, and numbers have remained consistent throughout the year.

Church notices are distributed monthly, and our website has information regarding weekly services to ensure that information is available for all to access.

Pastoral visitors continue to be in regular contact with our members, some in person and others through regular telephone contact. This is always valued and appreciated by members, especially those who are not able to attend weekly church services.

Prayer Ministry

The Brent offers several different ways in which people can pray and be prayed for. During the past year the prayer chain continues to be used but we have also been able to offer prayer ministry after the service on a fortnightly basis. We are grateful to all those that provide prayer support to our congregation and members.

Prayer can also be offered and said through the internet channel when attending the online Circuit services.

The weekly house group has continued to evolve and from January this moved to meet at the church and renamed as Prayer and Fellowship. Since starting we have seen people walk in off the street to join us which has been very encouraging. On average we have 12 people attending weekly. We have seen some amazing answers to prayer and it has been a privilege to see individuals grow in confidence in their Prayer life.

Evangelism

The church runs many activities throughout the week, all of which are open to our local community and hope to reach those who would not normally come into a church environment.

We have seen people come to our groups that we wouldn't usually see on a Sunday. The church wants to build relationships, like stepping stones, with the ultimate goal of inviting people to meet Jesus and to have a living relationship with Him.

Messy Church

We have had another blessed year meeting with our Messy Church families each month. We had some new families join us during the year and had between 8 and 15 children each month.

In September we learnt about Abraham and how he and Sarah were promised by God that they would have a child and more descendants than stars in the sky. We then went on to look at Abraham's grandson Jacob, and his dream of the ladder to heaven. We had the theme of Remembrance in November and the children created a peace wall and decorated the church and outside railings with handmade poppies. We then celebrated Christmas together. We learnt about how Jesus and his first disciples became "fishers of men" followed by a theme on forgiveness and how God wipes away our sins when we ask for forgiveness. We celebrated Easter at Messy Church and decorated the cross with fingerprint and paper flowers. We have also celebrated Pentecost and looked at the Fruits of the Spirit. We finished the year celebrating the Olympics with fun games and activities.

We continue to be blessed with a team of regular helpers, and each month God ensures we have sufficient people to welcome the families, run the activities, organise the food and lead the worship. We are also thankful for Rev Alex, Deacon Elizabeth, Gill Gray, Ian Packham and Tracey Burch who have also led our times of worship during the year.

We will miss having Deacon Elizabeth as part of our Messy Church team, when she leaves us at the end of the summer. She has led worship and helped with the planning and running of sessions throughout her time with us at The Brent and will be missed by our families and children.

We continue to make good use of the Messy Magazine to support the planning, and we try to organise a range of activities that will suit the different ages, but also help us discuss different aspects of the Bible passage. We thank God for this opportunity to witness to the children and families and pray for continued blessing on our Messy Church family.

We don't have Messy Church in August, but this year we once more ran two stay and play sessions, held on two mornings in the summer holidays. We had games and activities and finished with a packed lunch. Some of our Messy Church families came, but we also had some new families too. The sessions

are very popular with our families and we hope that they will continue to join us once we resume our monthly sessions in the Autumn.

Film and Fellowship

This is a new group that meets once a month on a Friday and has been part of our growth in offering Outreach to the local community as a church. The aim in our mission plan is to reach out to non-Christians and those who are lonely and would not normally come into a church environment.

We offer refreshments, sometimes including ice cream and popcorn, just like the real cinema. Some of the films we have enjoyed watching together include Saving Mr Banks and Mrs Harris goes to Paris. We try to cater for everyone's interests. On average we see between 9 – 17 people attending each month.

Dartford Foodbank

We continue to meet at the Methodist Church in Spital Street and we feel very settled.

It's been a very busy year with most Tuesdays we have at least a 100 people coming through the door. This number is much higher than we have ever had so we struggle some weeks with our items, we do actually run almost out. We are very fortunate that Dartford Council have given us some money which helps buy items. We still have donations from Sainsbury's and Asda both Dartford and Crayford.

We are hoping Harvest donations from varying schools and churches will boost our store room.

We hear from some of our clients how difficult it is to manage from week to week and are very glad they can use the foodbank.

We serve refreshments all morning and a warm room when it starts to cool down.

We have some lovely volunteers some on a rota and some that do every week. It's a privilege to be part of the team each week and to try and make life a little easier.

Pathfinders

In January we started back up with our Sunday School. This is now called Pathfinders and we offer sessions fortnightly during our Sunday services. Most weeks we have 2-4 children attending but on occasion have had upto 6 children in the session. The sessions are aimed at children aged 4 – 11 years. Sessions are planned using X Stream from Scripture Union. Topics covered include how God created the world, Abraham's journey and his faith in God following through on his promises.

We would like to be able to offer pathfinders each week but need to have more regular helpers and leaders to keep the group going.

We continue to pray for new families to come to the Brent and join our church family.

Equipping and Training

Our Local Preachers are part of the circuit team of preachers who receive continuous training to equip them to bring God's Word to the churches. Through their preaching, members are encouraged to grow in all areas of their Christian discipleship.

We have one Worship Leader but sadly they stepped down in May which has left us more reliant on using recorded music and videos to enhance our worship, occasionally led by one or two singers.

We continue to have a small group of musicians and so we are able to offer live musical accompaniment when people are available.

Over the year we have been required to organise more Local Arrangement services, which has sometimes meant that we have joined the online Circuit Services. With the departure of our Deacon in August we anticipate having to use the online services more frequently as local arrangements continue to increase.

Stewards and musicians work together with the church family to arrange the local arrangement services, using and developing available gifts. The sound and projection volunteers are also a much-valued part of the support team.

Safeguarding

We have two Safeguarding officers who ensure that all those in volunteer roles across the church remain upto date with training and DBS checks.

The Safeguarding Policy is renewed annually in the Autumn and a copy is displayed around the church premises.

Safer Recruitment continues to be a focus for all churches and all trustees have completed the relevant paperwork to ensure we remain compliant at all times.

We are grateful to the safeguarding officers for their dedication to this very important role.

Flower Ministry

We continue to decorate our church on special occasions such as Christenings, Remembrance Sunday, Easter and Christmas. We have purchased some indoor plants and artificial flowers for a constant display in the weeks when there are no fresh flowers. We feel it is important for nature to be present in the church to remind us of Gods creations.

Pastoral Visitors

The attendance at the Brent has been steadily increasing, with numerous new visitors attending the Church over the past year. On October 1st, 2023, Reverend Alex Terrett conducted an enrolment service for ten new members of the Brent with one other member transferring membership.

Unfortunately, we have lost three cherished and devoted members of the Brent over the past year, they will be deeply missed by the Church.

The Pastoral Secretary has helped to coordinate the pastoral visitors and meets with them regularly throughout the year. All pastoral visitors remain in regular contact with the individuals on their lists through cards and phone calls. We express our gratitude to all our pastoral visitors for the outstanding work they do in reaching out to the members of our church community.

Looking Ahead

As we start a new year, as a church, we continue to face many changes and challenges not only within our community but also within the wider Circuit. We start the year with Rev. Alex Terrett continuing as our Presbyter but are now without a Deacon. We continue to look at different ways to engage with our community and through the introduction of our weekly art and craft group we hope to be able to encourage more people to join us in our weekly worship.

We continue to face a reducing number of available preachers and Ministers to lead us in our worship, which leads us to look at creative solutions to deliver more local arrangement services and ways to include all age worship on a more regular basis.

We are struggling to recruit new volunteers and we start the year with many roles vacant including property steward and church stewards. We are incredibly grateful to our members who freely give their time to support the Church in many ways, producing weekly notices, helping with the different groups and serving on committees but without more people coming forward to take up these roles, we are unsure what this will mean for the long term future of our church.

All our volunteers love of God is evident in their desire to serve the Church and wider community and we pray that throughout the coming year we welcome more families to our church and more volunteers wishing to serve God in this way.

BRENT METHODIST CHURCH FINANCIAL REVIEW OF YEAR ENDING 31st August 2024

Full details of the Church Accounts are contained at the end of this review.

The deficit overall for the year was **-£5,658.67** which represents a significant decrease of about **-94%** on last year's deficit of **-£10,999.68**. The negative figure even though high, but not as high as per the approved budget which had a deficit of **-£14,305.00**. The reason for the reduction in deficit is because we had over £12k more income than budgeted. A combination of increased income in certain giving categories and increased expenses than budgeted in several other categories contributed to the final figure.

Looking further into this year's deficit of **-£5,658.67** would highlight a lot of the categories with significant changes from last year's report which would make for better understanding of the accounts by anyone interested and which can be attributed once again to the period of changes in behavior and activities due to the current climate.

The year has seen a mixture of highs and lows in both income and expense categories. Figures from the income show a 5% increase in income compared to the previous year, with some of the below major changes explaining this position:

- a. Total offering decreased by 2%.
- b. Flat Rent increased by 25%.
- c. Internet Service Income increased by 83%.
- d. Interest income increased by 31%.
- e. Other Rent in Church Rentals decreased by 14%.
- f. Church funds decreased by 89%.

Figures from the expenses on the other hand show a slight decrease in total resources expended by 1% from last year with some of the below major changes explaining this position:

- a. Ministerial expenses increased by 87%.
- b. Gifts made by the church decreased by 35%.
- c. Flat Insurance decreased by 52%.
- d. Property Cleaning Materials decreased by 21%.

- e. Property Fire Alarm maintenance decreased by 67%.
- f. Property Utilities Electrics increased by 69%.
- g. Property Utilities Gas decreased by 34%.
- h. Property Utilities Water increased by 45%.
- i. Messy Church Expenses decreased by 63%.
- j. Catering decreased by 26%.
- k. Photocopier Rental & Service Costs increased by 55%.
- l. Rental Flat repairs decreased by 71%.
- m. Rental Houses repairs increased by 513%.
- n. Property repairs and renewals increased by 32%.

The financial state of the Church remains healthy with positive bank and deposit balances starting the new financial year. The operational budget for the new financial year however, shows a deficit of **-£10,386.00**. It is hoped that normal services will continue weekly for the foreseeable future with no further interruptions anticipated. It is also hoped that as usual, some of the other budgeted expenses might not be utilised which would in turn have a positive impact on the deficit figure. In addition, church workers and trustees with various responsibilities are always made aware to continue in their efforts to both watch and manage expenses in order to keep these at a reasonable level.

With the anticipated effective expense management and God's guidance and favour, it is hoped for a positive end to the financial year.

The Church has two main Trust Funds as follows:

Sale of House Trust Fund holding **£23,648.62** as of 31st August 2024. This money has come from the sale of one of the houses left to the Church by Mrs Westcombe in the year 2002 and also proceeds from the premium received on the leasehold extension on Colney road flat. These houses were left to us for the 'benefit, continuation and furtherance of Methodism in the Newtown area of Dartford.' The funds within this account are deemed to be restricted and Church Council has agreed that this capital fund should be used for outreach projects. TMCP have confirmed this fund can also be used for Property Schemes or for the promotion of the work of God. The interest from this account is transferred to the Deposit Account.

The Hodson Trust fund (**£1,200.00**).

This a permanent endowment fund, whereby only the interest can be used and is credited to the Deposit account. The capital sum cannot currently be spent but with the adjustment in charity law and due to the amount of the endowment fund, future consideration of it's liquidation will be looked into.

The Church has two other accounts (Current Account and Deposit Account). These accounts are used for the day to day running expenses of the Church, such as Circuit Assessment, salary of the cleaner, utilities etc.

Depreciation Policy

Church Council has agreed the following depreciation policies on new equipment:

Five years for electrical equipment at 20% for each year.

Ten years for furniture etc. at 10% for each year.

Property Valuations

The letting agent provides property valuations on the three houses and flat in August of each year. They are provided on the basis that the properties are being sold on the open market as unoccupied.

Reserves Policy

The Charity's Reserves Policy deals with:

Our General Fund (Current Account and Deposit Account)

Other Funds also held which are NOT covered by our reserves are:

-Sale of House (Westcombe Fund) CFB12815

-The Hodson Trust CFB17346

Our Reserves

Our General Fund

The trustees aim ideally to hold in reserve sufficient money in our general funds to cover six month's budgeted expenditure i.e. £55,645.50.

The reason for this is two-fold:

- a. The church needs around one month's expenditure in reserve as working capital to cover normal monthly running costs which is £9,274.25 of our total year's budgeted expense of £111,291.00
- b. To cover six months of circuit assessment (£23,540) and emergency or unexpected repairs to the Church and the houses not in the budget set at £5,000. The general fund is currently sufficient to fulfil these needs.

Other Funds held for specific purposes:

Sale of House (Westcombe Fund) CFB12815

This fund holds the legacy from the Houses given to the Brent by Mrs Westcombe 'for the benefit, continuation, and furtherance of Methodism in the Newtown area of Dartford' in addition to the premium received from the leasehold extension request on the Colney Road flat. Church Council has agreed to fulfil the spirit in which the legacy was given and use this money for Outreach Projects. This is held by The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as a restricted fund. TMCP have confirmed this fund can also be used for Property Schemes or 'for promotion of the work of God in the relevant organisation'.

The Hodson Trust CFB17346

This is an Endowment Fund and therefore we can only use the interest, which is credited to the general fund.

Risks

The risks facing the church are reviewed at each Property & Finance and Council Committee meetings and include:

Loss or Damage to Buildings: This risk is addressed through insurance cover.

Personal Liability of Managing Trustees (i.e. members of the Church Council: This risk has been addressed through Trustee Indemnity Insurance.

Legal and Reputational Risks associated with working with children: The Methodist Church has a Connexional 'Safeguarding Policy to which Brent Methodist Church subscribes. There is a continuous programme to ensure that

up to date checks are made via the Disclosure and Barring Service on anyone in regular contact with young people through Church activities.

Health and Safety: The risk is addressed by members of the Property Committee carrying out regular health and safety checks. Additional precautions as a result of changes in Fire Regulations have been implemented.

Financial loss which is addressed through appropriate financial controls and procedures.

In summary, the trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate the Charity's exposure to major risks.

Investment Policy

A low-risk policy is maintained. The Deposit Fund administered by the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church is utilised to deposit any funds surplus to the Brent's immediate requirements.

Statement of Trustees Responsibility

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

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

State whether applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting by Charities have been followed.

Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that activities will continue.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of Brent Methodist Church and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church and the Charities Act 2011. They

are also responsible for taking reasonable steps to safeguard the assets of the Church and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Position (e.g.
Secretary,
Chair, etc.)

Date

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Brent Methodist Church - Dartford	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2024

NORTH KENT 1130746	Circuit	Circuit no.	36/21
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1130746
If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number	

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

Minister:
Reverend Alex Terrett
Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet

Church Stewards:
Karen Dudley - Senior Church Steward
Tunde Williams - Steward

Treasurer:
Tunde Dipita-Williams

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	31,336		31,336	31,464
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	2,110	1,314	3,424	2,614
a4	Lettings	19,620		19,620	19,561
a5	Other receipts	48,766		48,766	44,858
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	101,832	1,314	103,146 (a7)	98,497

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	44,000		44,000	40,000
b3	Donations	3,750		3,750	5,800
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	16,403		16,403	14,114
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	20,491		20,491	20,942
b6					
b7	Other payments	24,089	71	24,160	28,641
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	108,733	71	108,804 (b9)	109,497

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(6,901)	1,243	(5,658)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		67,266	24,849	92,115 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	60,365	26,092	86,457
c4	Transfers and adjustments		1,243	(1,243)	(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	61,608	24,849	86,457 (c8)
					92,115 (c6)

SECTION D				
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS				
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		337	499
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		337	499
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)		

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**SECTION E****Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page**

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS		Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1	Ladies Leisure Hour	310	347	(37)		527	490
e2	Messy Church	213	176	37		6	43
e3	Keep Fit	320	320				
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	843	843			533 (e11)	533 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	103,146 (a7)	108,804 (b9)	(5,658)	(c7)	92,115 (c6)	86,457 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	103,989	109,647	(5,658)		92,648 (x)	86,990 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024**

		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand	16	16
f2	Bank Current Account	8,573	23,561
f3	Bank Deposit Account		
f4	Central Finance Board	58,677	38,031
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	24,849	24,849
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	92,115 (c6)	86,457 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	533 (e11)	533 (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	92,648 (x)	86,990 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

		At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,135,000	1,192,500
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

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

Name of Church: Brent Methodist Church

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer Date.....

Name and address of treasurer

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

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting Date

Independent Examiner’s Report to the Trustees of the

Brent Methodist Church

Charity Number: 1130746

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Brent Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 2 to 3. As the Church’s trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (‘the Act’).

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church: Brent Methodist Church

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 (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

I have/~~have not~~* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner *S. Nichols*

Name of independent examiner Steven Nichols

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA CTA

Name of firm (where appropriate) Nichols & Co (Accountancy) Ltd

Address Unit 7 Mulberry Place, Pinnell Road, Eltham, London

..... Post Code SE9 6AR

Date 10th February 2025

* delete or circle as appropriate

THE BRENT METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1130746

Accounts

BRENT METHODIST CHURCH – DARTFORD

Annual Report

And

Financial Statement

For the year ended 31 August 2023

Ministers

**Reverend Alex Terrett
Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet**

Bank:

**Santander UK PLC
Bridle Road
Bootle
Merseyside
GIR 0AA**

Independent Examiner:

**Nichols & Co.
Unit 7
Mulberry Place
Pinnell Road
Eltham SE9 6AR**

BRENT METHODIST CHURCH DARTFORD - TRUSTEES REPORT

The address of the Church is Brent Methodist Church, St Vincent's Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 1XF.

Structure, Governance and Management

Brent Methodist Church forms part of the North Kent Circuit (36/21) within the South-East District and is governed by the Constitutional Practice and Disciplines of the Methodist Church.

Extracts from the Methodist Constitutional Practice and Discipline state that the church stewards are corporately responsible with the ministers exercising pastoral responsibility in relation to the Local Church for giving leadership and help over the whole range of the church's life and activity. Such activities are managed, agreed upon and executed by the "Managing Trustees" of the local church who are all members of the Church Council. The Church Council has authority and oversight over the whole area of the ministry of the church, including the management of its property. Aims and methods, the determination and pursuit of policy and the deployment of available resources form part of its responsibilities. In many cases it will appoint committees which will have authority, in their own areas of responsibility, to initiate action, co-ordinate the work done in the church, advise the Church Council and report to it, being subject to its authority and oversight.

The stewards are appointed and recruited during the annual general church meeting. Eligible voting members of the meeting nominate and present to the minister such names seven days before the meeting and these names are voted on during the meeting. Other members who want to serve as trustee representatives can also be nominated by a voting member to be voted on during the meeting. The other officers such as the treasurer, communion stewards, pastoral secretary, class leaders, council secretary and other officers or committees as the council requires are selected and approved by the church council members during church council meetings.

The members of the Church Council are the Trustees of the Church. Those who served as Managing Trustees during the year from 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023 are as follows:

Name	Role	Date Appointed/ (Resigned)
Alex Terrett	Minister	September 2022
Elizabeth Harfleet	Minister	September 2019
Gillian Bratley	Council Member	March 2020
Fiona Crowhurst	Property Secretary	March 2009
Edric Davies	Council Member	March 2011
Tunde Dipita-Williams	Treasurer	(August 2023)
Karen Dudley	Steward	April 2018
John Wilson	Council Member	March 2011
Lorna Wilson	Steward	(May 2023)
Susan Waterman	Council Member	March 2016
Dele Orekoya	Pastoral Committee Sec.	March 2019
Gillian Bratley	Safeguarding Officer	May 2023

Finance and Property Committee is a sub-committee of the Church Council, to which it reports.

Objectives and Activities

The main objective of the fellowship is the proclamation of the Gospel of God concerning His Son Jesus Christ, the Lord, through preaching and teaching the Word of God.

The mission of the fellowship is to establish and to extend the Kingdom of God in Dartford, United Kingdom, and the World.

Activities to promote the objectives of the charity and for the public benefit including missionary support, community outreach programs and youth work.

To give 10% of its income to worthwhile causes and charities as a tithe.

Public Benefit Compliance

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission.

Looking Back

We give praise and thanks to God for His innumerable blessings. We continue to experience the faithfulness of our God. We have had some members move on and new members join in our Sunday worship to grow the Kingdom of God. The church continues to be a multi-cultural church, with members of all ages, which brings diversity to worship and interactions.

We praise God for Reverend Alex Terrett and Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet, for their leadership and ministry. We are grateful to our dedicated team of volunteers, without whose hard work and devotion when working with preachers, worship leaders and those leading services, would not make it possible to hold weekly services.

It is wonderful to hear from visitors, including visiting preachers, who come to the Brent, that they have received a warm welcome, enjoyed hospitality, and felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in our Church.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest service was led by Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet on 9th October and donations were made to the local food bank. It was lovely to be able to celebrate God's creation and see displays of fruit, vegetables, and flowers around the church.

CHRISTMAS

The annual Carol service was once more able to be held this year in December and was led jointly by Rev. Alex Terrett and Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet. It was lovely to be able to decorate the church and share in fellowship after the concert with home made mince pies and refreshments being offered. We give thanks to the Steel Pan Drums who once more provided music for the Carol Concert.

Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet led us in our traditional Christmas Day morning service.

LENT

This year we did not hold a specific Lent course but used the period of Lent to be able to reflect and prepare ourselves for our annual Easter Sunday service.

Giving

Based on the biblical principle that says, “it is more blessed to give than to receive”, each year we ensure we give 10% of our income as donations to worthy causes. This amount is then distributed to missions, disaster afflicted areas and charities. The proposed beneficiaries are reviewed prayerfully each year. We have continued to support Spurgeons Academy in Kenya and the work that is carried out in our Lords name to help the children and families who live in the surrounding villages.

We also have a benevolent fund, with additional monies given by the congregation following communion services, which can be used by the Minister to respond to emergency needs.

Members Spiritual Growth

We continue to hold weekly services, but numbers continue to be lower than previous years.

Church notices are distributed monthly, and our website has information regarding weekly services to ensure that information is available for all to access.

Pastoral visitors continue to be in regular contact with our members, some in person and others through regular telephone contact. This is always valued and appreciated by members, especially those who are not able to attend weekly church services.

Prayer Ministry

The Brent offers several different ways in which people can pray and be prayed for. During the past year the prayer chain continues to be used but we have also been able to offer prayer ministry after the service on a fortnightly basis. We are grateful to all those that provide prayer support to our congregation and members.

Prayer can also be offered and said through the internet channel when attending the online Circuit services.

Evangelism

We have had another blessed year meeting with our Messy Church families each month. We had some new families join us during the year and had between 8 and 20 children each month.

In September we learnt about the pillar of cloud and of fire that comforted the Israelites as they left Egypt. We then looked at how we make a difference by being salt and light. We looked on Psalm 23, and how God is always with us, in happy times and sad. We then celebrated Christmas together. We learnt about John the Baptist and how following Jesus can change us. We then learnt about the Good Samaritan and how we should love our neighbour. Following this we learnt about Ruth and Naomi and linked this with Mother's Day. Messy Church fell on Easter Saturday, so for one of the activities the families decorated the cross with flowers, that the congregation then finished decorating on Sunday morning. We then focused on the Lord's Prayer and then the story of the prodigal son. We finished the year praising God learning about Psalm 8.

We continue to be blessed with a team of regular helpers, and each month God ensures we have sufficient people to welcome the families, run the activities, organise the food and lead the worship. We are also thankful for Rev Alex who has joined the Messy Church team, and to Deacon Elizabeth, Gill Gray and Tracey Burch who have also led our times of worship during the year.

We continue to make good use of the Messy Magazine to support the planning, and we try to organise a range of activities that will suit the different ages, but also help us discuss different aspects of the Bible passage. We thank

God for this opportunity to witness to the children and families and pray for continued blessing on our Messy Church family.

We don't have Messy Church in August, but this year we ran two stay and play sessions, held on two mornings in the summer holidays. We had games and activities and finished with a packed lunch. Some of our Messy Church families came, but we also had some new families too. The sessions seemed very popular and so we will hopefully be able to run these again to further support our local community.

Dartford Foodbank

We have been at the Methodist Church in Spital Street for well over a year now and we feel very settled.

It's been a very busy year with most Tuesdays we have at least a 100 people coming through the door. This number is much higher than we have ever had so we struggle some weeks with our items, we do actually run almost out. We are very fortunate that Dartford Council have given us some money which helps buy items. We still have donations from Sainsbury's and Asda both Dartford and Crayford.

We are hoping Harvest donations from varying schools and churches will boost our store room.

We hear from some of our clients how difficult it is to manage from week to week and are very glad they can use the foodbank.

We serve refreshments all morning and a warm room when it starts to cool down.

We have some lovely volunteers some on a rota and some that do every week. It's a privilege to be part of the team each week and to try and make life a little easier.

Winter Shelter

Once again between 2022 to 2023 the support from Dartford Council had enabled the homeless in Dartford to be temporarily housed in Dartford. Therefore, the Brent and other churches in Dartford were not needed to provide shelter during the winter months. Our project worker Steve Ives continues his work with the support of Porchlight and DBC still providing help for the men in temporary accommodation.

We are hoping that any homeless people now and, in the future, will be housed either temporarily or hopefully in a more permanent setting.

Sunday School

During the past year although we continue to hold weekly services there has been no capacity to offer Sunday school. Since the pandemic we have struggled to have a regular weekly attendance from our children and young people. As a church we have looked at other ways that we can engage with our young people, and this remains a key focus for the coming year and to consider how best to support our children and young people.

We continue to pray for new families to come to the Brent and join our church family.

Equipping and Training

Our Local Preachers are part of the circuit team of preachers who receive continuous training to equip them to bring God's Word to the churches. Through their preaching, members are encouraged to grow in all areas of their Christian discipleship.

We have one Worship Leader. We now mainly use recorded music and videos to enhance our worship, occasionally led by one or two singers. We have some new musicians this year, who are being supported by our Worship Leader in using their musical gifts to enable worship. Some former musicians have returned and so we are able to offer live musical accompaniment when people are available. Over the coming year we will be required to organise more Local Arrangement services, due to the lack of

availability of preachers. Our Worship Leader and Stewards work together with the church family to arrange these services, using and developing available gifts. The sound and projection volunteers are also a much-valued part of the support team.

We have one fellowship group attended by ten members and hosted by a couple who live near the church. After a short reading or contemplation, we pray for the church family, for God's continued blessing in our services and that we would draw people to know the love of Jesus.

Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding Officer stepped down at the end of last year and for a while we were unable to recruit volunteers to this valuable post. We continued to ensure that DBS checks are kept up to date and that regular Safeguarding training is undertaken.

In May we appointed two Safeguarding officers to share this vital role, and we are grateful for the support that they have been able to give to us. Advanced Module Training has been arranged for all volunteers for the coming Autumn and an annual review of our Safeguarding Policy.

We are grateful to the safeguarding officers for their dedication to this very important role.

Flower Ministry

We continue to decorate our church on special occasions such as Christenings, Circuit Services, and where members of the church congregation are moving on. We have purchased some indoor plants and artificial flowers for a constant display in the weeks when there are no fresh flowers. We feel it is important for nature to be present in the church to remind us of God's creations.

Pastoral Visitors

The attendance at the Brent has been steadily increasing, with numerous new visitors attending the Church over the past year. On October 1st, 2023, Reverend Alex Terrett will be conducting an enrolment service for nine new

members of the Brent. We continue to pray that more families will choose to become part of our Church community.

Unfortunately, we have lost three cherished and devoted members of the Brent over the past year, they will be deeply missed by the Church.

The Pastoral Secretary has helped to coordinate the pastoral visitors and during the year a new pastoral visitor was appointed. All pastoral visitors remain in regular contact with the individuals on their lists through cards and phone calls. We express our gratitude to all our pastoral visitors for the outstanding work they do in reaching out to the members of our church community.

Looking Ahead

As we start a new year, as a church, we continue to face many changes and challenges not only within our community but also within the wider Circuit. Rev. Alex Terrett will start her second year as our Presbyter and Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet will continue as our Minister. We look forward to continuing to develop those areas of work within our Mission plan and look at different ways to engage with our community. As we face a reducing number of available preachers and Ministers to lead us in our worship, we will look at creative solutions to deliver more local arrangement services and ways to include all age worship on a more regular basis.

We continue to pray for those taking membership on 1st October 2023 and that they will bring a vibrancy to our church.

We are incredibly grateful to our members who freely give their time to support the Church in many ways, producing weekly notices, helping with the different groups and serving on committees. Their love of God is evident in their desire to serve the Church and wider community.

BRENT METHODIST CHURCH

FINANCIAL REVIEW OF YEAR ENDING 31st August 2023

Full details of the Church Accounts are contained at the end of this review.

The deficit overall for the year was **-£10,999.68** which represents an increase of **-56%** on last year's deficit of **-£7,032.77**. The negative figure is very high compared to what was expected in the budget. The year's budget had indicated a surplus of £641.00 but unfortunately there were important works that the church needed to carry out on the rental properties, the quinquennial inspections of all of the mentioned properties and the hike in the Energy Gas and Electric rates that was anticipated last year. A combination of increased income in certain giving categories and increased expenses than budgeted in several other categories contributed to the final figure.

Looking further into this year's deficit of **-£10,999.68** would highlight a lot of the categories with significant changes from last year's report which would make for better understanding of the accounts by anyone interested and which can be attributed once again to the period of changes in behavior and activities due to the current climate.

The year has seen a mixture of highs and lows in both income and expense categories. Figures from the income show a relatively stable figure when compared to last year with just about £8 increase on last year's with some of the below major changes explaining this position:

- a. Total offering decreased by 9%.
- b. Anniversary and Gift Day income increased by 153%.
- c. Internet Service Income increased by 350%.
- d. Interest income increased by 629%.
- e. Other Rent in Church Rentals increased by 41%.
- f. Phone and Photocopier Income increased by 35%.

Figures from the expenses on the other hand show an increase in total resources expended by 4% from last year with some of the below major changes explaining this position:

- a. Gifts made by the church decreased by 41%.
- b. Property equipment increased by 421% with the replacement of the Church's laptop.
- c. Property Cleaning Materials increased by 172%.
- d. Property Fire Alarm maintenance increased by 179%.
- e. Property Utilities Electrics increased significantly by over 3000%.
- f. Property Utilities Gas increased significantly by 622%.
- g. Property Utilities Water increased by 63%.
- h. Messy Church Expenses increased by 153%.
- i. Catering increased by 1029%.
- j. Miscellaneous expenses decreased by 73%.
- k. Photocopier Rental & Service Costs increased by 475% with a replacement device.
- l. Rental Flat repairs increased by 750% due to redecoration.
- m. Rental Houses repairs decreased by 59%.
- n. Property repairs and renewals decreased by 67%.

The financial state of the Church remains healthy with positive bank and deposit balances starting the new financial year. The operational budget for the new financial year however, shows a deficit of **-£14,305.00**. It is hoped that the Energy prices will drop further to give the church a lower overall cost for the new financial year. It is also hoped that normal services will continue weekly for the foreseeable future with no further interruptions anticipated. It is also hoped that as usual, some of the other budgeted expenses might not be utilised which would in turn have a positive impact on the deficit figure. In addition, church workers and trustees with various responsibilities are always made aware to continue in their efforts to both watch and manage expenses in order to keep these at a reasonable level.

With the anticipated effective expense management and God's guidance and favour, it is hoped for a positive end to the financial year.

The Church has two main Trust Funds as follows:

Sale of House Trust Fund holding **£23,648.62** as of 31st August 2023. This money has come from the sale of one of the houses left to the Church by Mrs Westcombe in the year 2002 and also proceeds from the premium received on the leasehold extension on Colney road flat. These houses were left to us for the 'benefit, continuation and furtherance of Methodism in the Newtown area of Dartford.' The funds within this account are deemed to be restricted and Church Council has agreed that this capital fund should be used for outreach projects. TMCP have confirmed this fund can also be used for Property Schemes or for the promotion of the work of God. The interest from this account is transferred to the Deposit Account.

The Hodson Trust fund (**£1,200.00**).

This a permanent endowment fund, whereby only the interest can be used and is credited to the Deposit account. The capital sum cannot currently be spent but with the adjustment in charity law and due to the amount of the endowment fund, future consideration of it's liquidation will be looked into.

The Church has two other accounts (Current Account and Deposit Account). These accounts are used for the day to day running expenses of the Church, such as Circuit Assessment, salary of the cleaner, utilities etc.

Depreciation Policy

Church Council has agreed the following depreciation policies on new equipment:

Five years for electrical equipment at 20% for each year.

Ten years for furniture etc. at 10% for each year.

Property Valuations

The letting agent provides property valuations on the three houses and flat in August of each year. They are provided on the basis that the properties are being sold on the open market as unoccupied.

Reserves Policy

The Charity's Reserves Policy deals with:

Our General Fund (Current Account and Deposit Account)

Other Funds also held which are NOT covered by our reserves are:

-Sale of House (Westcombe Fund) CFB12815

-The Hodson Trust CFB17346

Our Reserves

Our General Fund

The trustees aim ideally to hold in reserve sufficient money in our general funds to cover six month's budgeted expenditure i.e. £52,645.00.

The reason for this is fourfold:

- a. The church needs around one month's expenditure in reserve as working capital to cover normal monthly running costs which is £8,774 according to our current budget.
- b. To cover our commitment to the Diaconal payments of £7,500
- c. To cover six months of circuit assessment (£22,000) and emergency or unexpected repairs to the Church and the houses of (£5,000).
- d. To support the gifting of 10% of Church Income to worthy causes currently set at £7,400 for this year.

The general fund is currently sufficient to fulfil these needs.

Other Funds held for specific purposes:

Sale of House (Westcombe Fund) CFB12815

This fund holds the legacy from the Houses given to the Brent by Mrs Westcombe 'for the benefit, continuation, and furtherance of Methodism in the Newtown area of Dartford' in addition to the premium received from the leasehold extension request on the Colney Road flat. Church Council has agreed to fulfil the spirit in which the legacy was given and use this money for Outreach Projects. This is held by The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as a restricted fund. TMCP have confirmed this fund can also be used for Property Schemes or 'for promotion of the work of God in the relevant organisation'.

The Hodson Trust CFB17346

This is an Endowment Fund and therefore we can only use the interest, which is credited to the general fund.

Risks

The risks facing the church are reviewed at each Property & Finance and Council Committee meetings and include:

Loss or Damage to Buildings: This risk is addressed through insurance cover.

Personal Liability of Managing Trustees (i.e. members of the Church Council): This risk has been addressed through Trustee Indemnity Insurance.

Legal and Reputational Risks associated with working with children: The Methodist Church has a Connexional ‘Safeguarding Policy to which Brent Methodist Church subscribes. There is a continuous programme to ensure that up to date checks are made via the Disclosure and Barring Service on anyone in regular contact with young people through Church activities.

Health and Safety: The risk is addressed by members of the Property Committee carrying out regular health and safety checks. Additional precautions as a result of changes in Fire Regulations have been implemented.

Financial loss which is addressed through appropriate financial controls and procedures.

In summary, the trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate the Charity’s exposure to major risks.

Investment Policy

A low-risk policy is maintained. The Deposit Fund administered by the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church is utilised to deposit any funds surplus to the Brent’s immediate requirements.

Statement of Trustees Responsibility

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

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

State whether applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting by Charities have been followed.

Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that activities will continue.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of Brent Methodist Church and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church and the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for taking reasonable steps to safeguard the assets of the Church and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Position (e.g.
Secretary,
Chair, etc.)

Date

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Brent Methodist Church - Dartford	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2023

NORTH KENT 1130746	Circuit	Circuit no.	36/21
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1130746

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

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

Minister:

Reverend Alex Terrett
Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet

Church Stewards:

Karen Dudley - Senior Church Steward
Lorna Wilson - Steward

Treasurer:

Tunde Dipita-Williams

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	31,464		31,464	34,422
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	1,826	788	2,614	359
a4	Lettings	19,561		19,561	17,427
a5	Other receipts	44,858		44,858	46,070
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	97,709	788	98,497 (a7)	98,278

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	40,000		40,000	40,000
b3	Donations	5,800		5,800	9,900
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	14,114		14,114	29,510
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	20,942		20,942	6,672
b6					
b7	Other payments	28,570	71	28,641	19,229
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	109,426	71	109,497 (b9)	105,311

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(11,717)	717	(11,000)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		78,265	24,850	103,115 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	66,548	25,567	92,115
c4	Transfers and adjustments		718	(718)	(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	67,266	24,849	92,115 (c8)
					103,115 (c6)

SECTION D				
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS				
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		499	711
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		499	711
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)		

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**SECTION E****Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page**

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS		Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1	Ladies Leisure Hour	353	567	(214)		741	527
e2	Messy Church	238	323	(85)		12	(73)
e3	Keep Fit	260	260				
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	851	1,150	(299)		753 (e11)	454 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	98,497 (a7)	109,497 (b9)	(11,000)	(c7)	103,115 (c6)	92,115 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	99,348	110,647	(11,299)		103,868 (x)	92,569 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2023**

		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand	16	16
f2	Bank Current Account	24,616	8,573
f3	Bank Deposit Account		
f4	Central Finance Board	53,633	58,677
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	24,850	24,849
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	103,115 (c6)	92,115 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	753 (e11)	454 (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	103,868 (x)	92,569 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

		At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,120,000	1,135,000
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

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

Name of Church: Brent Methodist Church

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer Date.....

Name and address of treasurer

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

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting Date

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 which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

Signature of independent examiner *S. Nichols*

Name of independent examiner Steven Nichols.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA CTA.....

Name of firm (where appropriate) ...NICHOLS AND CO (ACCOUNTANCY) LIMITED.....

Address UNIT 7 MULBERRY PLACE, PINNELL ROAD.....

.....ELTHAM, LONDON..... Post Code ...SE9 6AR...

Date 16 / 02 / 2024.....

THE BRENT METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1130746

Accounts

BRENT METHODIST CHURCH – DARTFORD

Annual Report

And

Financial Statement

For the year ended 31 August 2022

Ministers

**Reverend Tony Graff
Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet**

Bank:

**Santander UK PLC
Bridle Road
Bootle
Merseyside
GIR 0AA**

Independent Examiner:

**Nichols & Co.
Unit 7
Mulberry Place
Pinnell Road
Eltham SE9 6AR**

BRENT METHODIST CHURCH DARTFORD - TRUSTEES REPORT

The address of the Church is Brent Methodist Church, St Vincent's Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 1XF.

Structure, Governance and Management

Brent Methodist Church forms part of the North Kent Circuit (36/21) within the South-East District and is governed by the Constitutional Practice and Disciplines of the Methodist Church.

Extracts from the Methodist Constitutional Practice and Discipline state that the church stewards are corporately responsible with the ministers exercising pastoral responsibility in relation to the Local Church for giving leadership and help over the whole range of the church's life and activity. Such activities are managed, agreed upon and executed by the "Managing Trustees" of the local church who are all members of the Church Council. The Church Council has authority and oversight over the whole area of the ministry of the church, including the management of its property. Aims and methods, the determination and pursuit of policy and the deployment of available resources form part of its responsibilities. In many cases it will appoint committees which will have authority, in their own areas of responsibility, to initiate action, co-ordinate the work done in the church, advise the Church Council and report to it, being subject to its authority and oversight.

The stewards are appointed and recruited during the annual general church meeting. Eligible voting members of the meeting nominate and present to the minister such names seven days before the meeting and these names are voted on during the meeting. Other members who want to serve as trustee representatives can also be nominated by a voting member to be voted on during the meeting. The other officers such as the treasurer, communion stewards, pastoral secretary, class leaders, council secretary and other officers or committees as the council requires are selected and approved by the church council members during church council meetings.

The members of the Church Council are the Trustees of the Church. Those who served as Managing Trustees during the year from 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022 are as follow:

Name	Role	Date Appointed/ (Resigned)
Tony Graff	Minister	(July 2022)
Elizabeth Harfleet	Minister	September 2019
Gillian Bratley	Council Member	March 2020
Fiona Crowhurst	Property Secretary	March 2009
Edric Davies	Council Member	March 2011
Tunde Dipita-Williams	Treasurer	August 2008
Karen Dudley	Steward	April 2018
Patrick Marie	Senior Steward	(March 2022)
John Wilson	Council Member	March 2011
Lorna Wilson	Steward	March 2016
Susan Waterman	Council Member	March 2016
Dele Orekoya	Pastoral Committee Sec.	March 2019

Finance and Property Committee is a sub-committee of the Church Council, to which it reports.

Objectives and Activities

The main objective of the fellowship is the proclamation of the Gospel of God concerning His Son Jesus Christ, the Lord, through preaching and teaching the Word of God.

The mission of the fellowship is to establish and to extend the Kingdom of God in Dartford, United Kingdom and the World.

Activities to promote the objectives of the charity and for the public benefit including missionary support, community outreach programs and youth work.

To give 10% of its income to worthwhile causes and charities as a tithe.

Public Benefit Compliance

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission.

Looking Back

We give praise and thanks to God for His innumerable blessings. We continue to experience the faithfulness of our God even more so at times such as this. We were able to resume weekly services from September 2021 although we still utilized online services at times when local preachers were not available. We have had some members move on and new members join in our Sunday worship to grow the Kingdom of God. The church continues to be a multi-cultural church, with members of all ages, which brings diversity to worship and interactions.

We praise God for Reverend Tony Graff and Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet, for their leadership and ministry. We are grateful to our dedicated team of volunteers, without whose hard work and devotion when working with preachers, worship leaders and those leading services, would not make it possible to hold weekly services.

It is wonderful to hear from visitors, including visiting preachers, who come to the Brent, that they have received a warm welcome, enjoyed hospitality, and felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in our Church.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest service was led by Rev. Tony Graff on 3rd October and donations were made to the local food bank. This was one of the first festivals that we were able to celebrate face to face after nearly two years of having restrictions in place. It was lovely to be able to celebrate God's creation and see displays of fruit, vegetables, and flowers around the church.

CHRISTMAS

The annual Carol service was once more able to be held this year in December and was led by Rev. Tony Graff. It was lovely to be able to decorate the church and share in fellowship after the concert with home made mince pies and

refreshments being offered. We give thanks to the Steel Pan Drums who provided music for the Carol Concert.

Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet led us in our traditional Christmas Day morning service.

LENT

This year we did not hold a specific Lent course but used the period of Lent to be able to reflect and prepare ourselves for our annual Easter Sunday service.

Giving

Based on the biblical principle that says, “it is more blessed to give than to receive”, each year we ensure we give 10% of our income as donations to worthy causes. This amount is then distributed to missions, disaster afflicted areas and charities. The proposed beneficiaries are reviewed prayerfully each year. We also have a benevolent fund, with additional monies given by the congregation following communion services, which can be used by the Minister to respond to emergency needs.

Members Spiritual Growth

Although weekly services have resumed, we still see the impact on church life that the pandemic has had with numbers continuing to be lower than previously.

Church notices are distributed monthly, and our website has information regarding weekly services to ensure that information is available for all to access.

Pastoral visitors continue to be in regular contact with our members, some in person and others through regular telephone contact. This is always valued and appreciated by members, especially those who are not able to attend weekly church services.

Prayer Ministry

The Brent offers several different ways in which people can pray and be prayed for. During the past year the prayer chain continues to be used but we have also been able to offer prayer ministry after the service on a fortnightly basis. We are grateful to all those that provide prayer support to our congregation and members.

Prayer can also be offered and said through the internet channel when attending the online Circuit services.

Evangelism

In September we returned to Messy Church in person. It was wonderful to see the families again and they were happy to be back at church. Seeing how much the children had grown really emphasised how long we'd been apart. We made some adjustments to the structure initially to keep everyone safe, with the families doing the activities, and eating a packed tea at separate family tables, and remaining in the Westcombe Hall for the time of worship. After a couple of months everyone felt it was time to go back to the more normal organisation for Messy Church, and to worshipping again in the main church. Most of the families have returned to Messy Church, but not all. Some may be due to children being that much older now, and two families have moved out of the area. A text is sent to families to remind them when Messy Church is on, and they appreciate this contact.

The year started with a focus on 'new beginnings', with a passage from Isaiah. We learnt about Bartimaeus and trusting in God, how we should care for God's creation, and celebrated Christmas together. We learnt about Jesus as a boy in the temple, and when he was in the temple as an adult and protected the woman who was going to be stoned. Following this we looked at the parable of the mustard seed and then Easter. After Easter we learnt about Peter and Tabitha, and then focused on Paul for two sessions; when he was changed on the road to Damascus, and when he was in prison with Silas.

The Messy Magazine is used to support with the planning, and we try to organise a range of activities that will suit the different ages, but also help us discuss different aspects of the Bible passage. The families all share a meal together after the time of worship. Our thanks go to Deacon Elizabeth

Harfleet, Gill Gray, Ian Packham, Tracey Burch and Bart Woodhouse who have led our times of worship during the year.

The families really enjoy Messy Church - hearing and discussing stories from the Bible. We have a dedicated team of regular helpers; each month God ensures we have sufficient people to run the activities and to lead the worship, and we are grateful to everyone that helps. We thank God for this opportunity to witness to the children and families and pray for continued blessing on our Messy Church family.

Dartford Foodbank

The Dartford Foodbank has changed venue in February 2022. We are now based in the Methodist Church in Spital Street. It's so much better being inside again and the premises are great. We have room to be able to offer refreshments and sit and chat with our clients. We have more volunteers which are great. Our donations are still being collected from Dartford and Crayford Sainsbury also Asda at Greenhithe. We have also been given a monetary donation from Dartford Borough Council which is amazing so we can buy items which we are doing every week.

We had help when moving from our old premises from Bellway and one of our volunteers is a builder and helped paint the storeroom where we keep most of our donations etc.

We have noticed in the last month that our numbers of clients have increased from about 70 to last Tuesday we had about 100 which highlights the times we are going through.

As mentioned, before we have some amazing volunteers who tirelessly come each week without fail.

Winter Shelter

Once again between 2021 to 2022 the support from Dartford Council had enabled the homeless in Dartford to be temporarily housed in Dartford. Therefore, the Brent and other churches in Dartford were not needed to provide shelter during the winter months. Our project worker Steve Ives continues his work with the support of Porchlight and DBC still providing help for the men in temporary accommodation.

Looking forward

We are hoping that any homeless people now and, in the future, will be housed either temporarily or hopefully in a more permanent setting.

Sunday School

During the past year although we have resumed to weekly services there has been no capacity to offer Sunday school. Since the pandemic we have struggled to have a regular weekly attendance from our children and young people. As a church we have looked at other ways that we can engage with our young people, and this remains a key focus for the coming year and to consider how best to support our children and young people.

We continue to pray for new families to come to the Brent and join our church family.

Equipping and Training

Our Local Preachers are part of the circuit team of preachers who receive continuous training to equip them to bring God's Word to the churches. Through their preaching, members are blessed and reminded of their responsibilities as followers of Christ.

For most of the past year, we have had 2 Worship Leaders, one of whom plays guitar, but due to Covid, we have only had one other singer and no other musicians to supplement the leading of worship. In the summer of 2021, one of our Worship Leaders moved out of the area, which is a sad loss to the worship team. We now mainly use recorded music and videos to enhance our worship, occasionally led by one or two singers. Over the coming year we will be required to organise more Local Arrangement services, due to the lack of availability of preachers. Our Worship Leader and Stewards will work together with the church family to arrange these services, using and developing available gifts. The sound and projection volunteers are also a much-valued part of the support team.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we have continued to use Zoom as another means of worshipping together, with a Maundy Thursday service, occasional worship group sessions and regular fellowship groups - one daytime and one in the evening, both fortnightly. An Advent Course was led by Deacon

Elizabeth Harfleet and Mrs Ann Matthews, and we were joined by friends from Spital Street Methodist Church and St Andrew's United Reformed Church.

The Worship Conference organised by Mission Worship was held online in March and a few of our members attended virtually.

Safeguarding

We are blessed with two Safeguarding officers sharing the vital role, although this has found to be more challenging this year due to work constraints which has meant we continue to look for additional support in this role. We are grateful for the additional support that has meant that DBS checks have kept up to date but without further support this may impact on future checks facing delays.

Over the past year the Safeguarding officers have ensured that:

- The policy was reviewed and approved by the church council members.
- Relevant contact details have been placed in clear vicinity for all church users.
- Information with regards to working guidelines, support, and expectations of volunteers is kept up to date.
- Advanced Module Training for all volunteers has been requested to Circuit.

We are grateful to the safeguarding officers for their dedication to this very important role.

Flower Ministry

During 2021 and 2022 there has been no fresh flowers in the church on a regular basis because of the lack of arrangers and less people in our congregation to donate. However, on special occasions the church has donated money for flower arrangements such as Christenings, Circuit Services, and where members of the church congregation are moving on. In the last AGM it was suggested that some individuals would like to purchase an indoor plant or artificial flowers for a constant display in the weeks when there are no fresh flowers. We feel it is important for nature to be present in the church to remind us of Gods creations

Pastoral Visitors

In the last year regular church services resumed and the church is gradually filling up, with parishioners and visitors again. Although quite a few of our regular members still appear to be worshipping online which is a good thing, but we miss seeing them in person.

The pastoral secretary has helped to coordinate the pastoral visitors and organised meetings as required for the important role they play in the life of the church. The pastoral visitors are the first point of contact for members, who through them ensure information needing urgent attention is passed on to the Minister. The pastoral visitors have also been in regular contact with people on their lists through personal visits, phone calls/texts, letters, and cards.

Sadly, in the past year we lost, Keith Dear a long-standing faithful member of the Church, who held many posts in the church. We also lost Mervyn Waterman the husband of Sue Waterman a very active member of the church and Don Hillier the father of former members of the church. Both men served the Lord faithfully and dutifully in many ways. May the souls of the dearly departed rest in perfect peace.

In September Reverend Alex Terrett joins the church and the pastoral visitors look forward to working closely with her and to developing new ways of reaching out to the church congregation.

Looking Ahead

As we start a new year, as a church we continue to face many changes and challenges. We welcome our new Presbyter Rev. Alex Terrett and all that she may bring to us not only as a church but also to the wider community we serve. Alex will have responsibility for 4 churches within the Circuit and this will place its own demands on time available for services and commitments to The Brent. Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet will continue as our Minister, and we look forward to continuing to develop those areas of work within our Mission plan and look at different ways to engage with our community.

We continue to pray that our members will return to church along with new members joining and bringing a vibrancy to our church once more.

We are incredibly grateful to our members who freely give their time to support the Church in many ways, producing weekly notices, helping with the different groups and serving on committees. Their love of God is evident in their desire to serve the Church and wider community.

BRENT METHODIST CHURCH FINANCIAL REVIEW OF YEAR ENDING 31st August 2022

Full details of the Church Accounts are contained at the end of this review.

The deficit overall for the year was **-£7,032.77** which represents a significant decrease of about **-346%** on last year's surplus of £2,863.94 to a negative figure. The negative figure is very high compared to what was expected in the budget. The year's budget had indicated a surplus of £1,247 but unfortunately there were important works that the church needed to carry out in addition to reduced offerings, no ECC assessment contribution and a contribution to Methodist Pension funds. A combination of increased income in certain giving categories and increased expenses than budgeted in several other categories contributed to the final figure.

Looking further into this year's deficit of **-£7,032.77** would highlight a lot of the categories with significant changes from last year's report which would make for better understanding of the accounts by anyone interested and which can be attributed once again to the period of changes in behavior and activities due to the current climate following the Covid-19 pandemic.

The year has seen a mixture of highs and lows in both income and expense categories. Figures from the income show an increase in total income from last year of 6% with some of the below major changes explaining this position:

- a. Total offering decreased by 11%.
- b. Rents received from Rental Houses increased by 20%
- c. Benevolence gifts received decreased to 0% as none received
- d. Interest income increased by 114%
- e. Other Rent in Church Rentals increased by 244%
- f. Phone and Photocopier Income decreased by 93%

Figures from the expenses on the other hand show a significant increase in total resources expended by 17% from last year with some of the below major changes explaining this position:

- a. Gifts made by the church increased by 230% (includes donation to Methodist Pension Funds and 10% giving)
- b. Stationery decreased to 0% as there was none

- c. Ministerial expenses increased by 215%
- d. Miscellaneous expenses increased by 882% (Queen's Jubilee 2022)
- e. Photocopier paper decreased by 56%
- f. Copyright permission increased by 40%
- g. Gardening decreased by 51%
- h. Property repairs and renewals increased by 136%
- i. Window cleaning increased by 100%
- j. Publicity decreased to 0% as there was none
- k. Rental Houses repairs decreased by 66%
- l. Flowers and presents increased by 203%

The financial state of the Church remains healthy with positive bank and deposit balances starting the new financial year. The operational budget for the new financial year shows a surplus of £641 which remains a positive. However, it is worthy to note that with the uncertainty in the Energy sector, there is likely to be a significant change in the costs of Gas and Electricity provided to the church. It is also hoped that normal services will continue weekly for the foreseeable future with no further interruptions anticipated. It is also hoped that as usual, some of the other budgeted expenses might not be utilised which would in turn have a positive impact on the surplus figure. In addition, church workers and trustees with various responsibilities are always made aware to continue in their efforts to both watch and manage expenses in order to keep these at a reasonable level.

With the anticipated effective expense management and God's guidance and favour, it is hoped for a positive end to the financial year.

The Church has two main Trust Funds as follows:

Sale of House Trust Fund holding **£23,648.62** as of 31st August 2022. This money has come from the sale of one of the houses left to the Church by Mrs Westcombe in the year 2002 and also proceeds from the premium received on the leasehold extension on Colney road flat. These houses were left to us for the 'benefit, continuation and furtherance of Methodism in the Newtown area of Dartford.' The funds within this account are deemed to be restricted and Church Council has agreed that this capital fund should be used for outreach projects. TMCP have confirmed this fund can also be used for Property Schemes or for the promotion of the work of God. The interest from this account is transferred to the Deposit Account.

The Hodson Trust fund (**£1,200.00**).

This is a permanent endowment fund, whereby only the interest can be used and is credited to the Deposit account. The capital sum cannot currently be spent but with the adjustment in charity law and due to the amount of the endowment fund, future consideration of its liquidation will be looked into.

The Church has two other accounts (Current Account and Deposit Account). These accounts are used for the day to day running expenses of the Church, such as Circuit Assessment, salary of the cleaner, utilities etc.

Depreciation Policy

Church Council has agreed the following depreciation policies on new equipment:

Five years for electrical equipment at 20% for each year.

Ten years for furniture etc. at 10% for each year.

Property Valuations

The letting agent provides property valuations on the three houses and flat in August of each year. They are provided on the basis that the properties are being sold on the open market as unoccupied.

Reserves Policy

The Charity's Reserves Policy deals with:

Our General Fund (Current Account and Deposit Account)

Other Funds also held which are NOT covered by our reserves are:

-Sale of House (Westcombe Fund) CFB12815

-The Hodson Trust CFB17346

Our Reserves

Our General Fund

The trustees aim ideally to hold in reserve sufficient money in our general funds to cover six month's budgeted expenditure i.e. £44,657.00

The reason for this is fourfold this year:

- a. The church needs around one month's expenditure in reserve as working capital to cover normal monthly running costs which is £7,443 according to our current budget.
- b. To cover our commitment to the Diaconal payments of £7,500
- c. To cover six months of circuit assessment (£20,000) and emergency or unexpected repairs to the Church and the houses of (£5,000).
- d. To support the gifting of 10% of Church Income to worthy causes currently set at £5,800 for this year.

The general fund is currently sufficient to fulfil these needs.

Other Funds held for specific purposes:

Sale of House (Westcombe Fund) CFB12815

This fund holds the legacy from the Houses given to the Brent by Mrs Westcombe 'for the benefit, continuation, and furtherance of Methodism in the Newtown area of Dartford' in addition to the premium received from the leasehold extension request on the Colney Road flat. Church Council has agreed to fulfil the spirit in which the legacy was given and use this money for Outreach Projects. This is held by The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as a restricted fund. TMCP have confirmed this fund can also be used for Property Schemes or 'for promotion of the work of God in the relevant organisation'.

The Hodson Trust CFB17346

This is an Endowment Fund and therefore we can only use the interest, which is credited to the general fund.

Risks

The risks facing the church are reviewed at each Property & Finance and Council Committee meetings and include:

Loss or Damage to Buildings: This risk is addressed through insurance cover.

Personal Liability of Managing Trustees (i.e. members of the Church Council: This risk has been addressed through Trustee Indemnity Insurance.

Legal and Reputational Risks associated with working with children: The Methodist Church has a Connexional ‘Safeguarding Policy to which Brent Methodist Church subscribes. There is a continuous programme to ensure that up to date checks are made via the Disclosure and Barring Service on anyone in regular contact with young people through Church activities.

Health and Safety: The risk is addressed by members of the Property Committee carrying out regular health and safety checks. Additional precautions as a result of changes in Fire Regulations have been implemented.

Financial loss which is addressed through appropriate financial controls and procedures.

In summary, the trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate the Charity’s exposure to major risks.

Investment Policy

A low-risk policy is maintained. The Deposit Fund administered by the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church is utilised to deposit any funds surplus to the Brent’s immediate requirements.

Statement of Trustees Responsibility

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

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

State whether applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting by Charities have been followed.
Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that activities will continue.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of Brent Methodist Church and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church and the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for taking reasonable steps to safeguard the assets of the Church and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Signature(s)	_____	_____
Full name(s)	_____	_____
Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc.)	_____	_____
Date	_____	_____

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Brent Methodist Church - Dartford	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2022

NORTH KENT 1130746	Circuit	Circuit no	36/21
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1130746

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

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

Ministers:

Reverend Tony Graff
Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet

Church Stewards:

Karen Dudley - Senior Church Steward
Lorna Wilson - Steward
Patrick Marie - Steward

Treasurer:

Tunde Dipita-Williams

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	34,422		34,422	37,585
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	242	117	359	167
a4	Lettings	17,427		17,427	13,135
a5	Other receipts	46,070		46,070	42,568
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	98,161	117	98,278 (a7)	93,455

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	40,000		40,000	40,000
b3	Donations	9,900		9,900	3,000
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	29,510		29,510	13,982
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	6,672		6,672	8,158
b6					
b7	Other payments	19,158	71	19,229	25,451
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	105,240	71	105,311 (b9)	90,591

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(7,079)	46	(7,033)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		85,296	24,852	110,148 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	78,217	24,898	103,115
c4	Transfers and adjustments		48	(48)	(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	78,265	24,850	103,115 (c8)
					110,148 (c6)

SECTION D				
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS				
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			123
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		711	107
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		711	230
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)		

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**SECTION E****Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page**

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS		Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances	
e1	Ladies Leisure Hour	422	346	76		665		741
e2	Messy Church	259	287	(28)		40		12
e3	Ebbsfleet Community Church	7,916	24,082	(16,166)		16,166		
e4	Keep Fit	255	255					
e5								
e6								
e7								
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	8,852	24,970	(16,118)		16,871	(e11)	753 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	98,278 (a7)	105,311 (b9)	(7,033)	(c7)	110,148 (c6)		103,115 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	107,130	130,281	(23,151)		127,019 (x)		103,868 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS					

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2022**

		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand	16	16
f2	Bank Current Account	30,937	24,616
f3	Bank Deposit Account		
f4	Central Finance Board	54,343	53,633
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	24,852	24,850
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	110,148 (c6)	103,115 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	16,871 (e11)	753 (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	127,019 (x)	103,868 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

		At 1 September 2021	At 31 August 2022
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,020,000	1,120,000
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

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

Name of Church ...BRENT METHODIST CHURCH - DARTFORD... No1130746.

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer Date.....

Name and address of treasurer

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

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 19th October 2022.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Brent Methodist Church - Dartford

Charity Number 1130746

Responsibilities and basis of report

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/08/2022**.

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

Signature of independent examiner

Name of independent examiner STEVEN NICHOLS.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA CTA.....

Name of firm (where appropriate) ...NICHOLS AND CO (ACCOUNTANCY) LIMITED.....

Address UNIT 7 MULBERRY PLACE, PINNELL ROAD.....

.....ELTHAM, LONDON..... Post Code ...SE9 6AR.....

Date

THE BRENT METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1130746

Accounts

BRENT METHODIST CHURCH – DARTFORD

Annual Report

And

Financial Statement

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Ministers

**Reverend Tony Graff
Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet**

Bank:

**Santander UK PLC
Bridle Road
Bootle
Merseyside
GIR 0AA**

Independent Examiner:

**Nichols & Co.
Unit 7
Mulberry Place
Pinnell Road
Eltham SE9 6AR**

BRENT METHODIST CHURCH DARTFORD - TRUSTEES REPORT

The address of the Church is Brent Methodist Church, St Vincent's Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 1XF.

Structure, Governance and Management

Brent Methodist Church forms part of the North Kent Circuit (36/21) within the South-East District and is governed by the Constitutional Practice and Disciplines of the Methodist Church.

Extracts from the Methodist Constitutional Practice and Discipline state that the church stewards are corporately responsible with the ministers exercising pastoral responsibility in relation to the Local Church for giving leadership and help over the whole range of the church's life and activity. Such activities are managed, agreed upon and executed by the "Managing Trustees" of the local church who are all members of the Church Council. The Church Council has authority and oversight over the whole area of the ministry of the church, including the management of its property. Aims and methods, the determination and pursuit of policy and the deployment of available resources form part of its responsibilities. In many cases it will appoint committees which will have authority, in their own areas of responsibility, to initiate action, co-ordinate the work done in the church, advise the Church Council and report to it, being subject to its authority and oversight.

The stewards are appointed and recruited during the annual general church meeting. Eligible voting members of the meeting nominate and present to the minister such names seven days before the meeting and these names are voted on during the meeting. Other members who want to serve as trustee representatives can also be nominated by a voting member to be voted on during the meeting. The other officers such as the treasurer, communion stewards, pastoral secretary, class leaders, council secretary and other officers or committees as the council requires are selected and approved by the church council members during church council meetings.

The members of the Church Council are the Trustees of the Church. Those who served as Managing Trustees during the year from 1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021 are as follow:

Name	Role	Date Appointed/ (Resigned)
Tony Graff	Minister	September 2020
Elizabeth Harfleet	Minister	September 2019
Gillian Bratley	Council Member	March 2020
Fiona Crowhurst	Property Secretary	March 2009
Edric Davies	Council Member	March 2011
Keith Dear	Council Member	(July 2021)
Tunde Dipita-Williams	Treasurer	August 2008
Karen Dudley	Steward	April 2018
Patrick Marie	Senior Steward	March 2016
Sarah Adomah	Steward	(July 2021)
John Wilson	Council Member	March 2011
Lorna Wilson	Steward	March 2016
Susan Waterman	Council Member	March 2016
Dele Orekoya	Pastoral Committee Sec.	March 2019

Finance and Property Committee is a sub-committee of the Church Council, to which it reports.

Objectives and Activities

The main objective of the fellowship is the proclamation of the Gospel of God concerning His Son Jesus Christ, the Lord, through preaching and teaching the Word of God.

The mission of the fellowship is to establish and to extend the Kingdom of God in Dartford, United Kingdom and the World.

Activities to promote the objectives of the charity and for the public benefit including missionary support, community outreach programs and youth work.

To give 10% of its income to worthwhile causes and charities as a tithe.

Public Benefit Compliance

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission.

Looking Back

We give praise and thanks to God for His innumerable blessings. Each year brings its own challenges, and this year has seen one not dissimilar to last year as the COVID-19 pandemic has continued. We continue to experience the faithfulness of our God even more so at times such as this. We have had some members move on and new members join in our Sunday worship to grow the Kingdom of God. The church continues to be a multi-cultural church, with members of all ages, which in itself brings diversity to worship and interactions.

We praise God for Reverend Tony Graff and Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet, for their leadership and ministry. We are grateful to our dedicated team of worship leaders, for their hard work and devotion when working with preachers and leading services. This has been even more noticeable having had to lead worship without members of the congregation being able to sing out loud due to national restrictions being in place.

It is wonderful to hear from visitors, including visiting preachers, who come to the Brent that they have received a warm welcome, enjoyed hospitality and felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in our Church.

Harvest last year was a virtual service led by our Worship Leaders.

ADVENT COURSE

Ann Matthews and Deacon Elizabeth ran an Advent Course which started on the 1st of December, 2020 for four weeks.

The course was entitled "Singing the story" an advent Bible study by John Birch. This study was a series of theological reflections based on well-known Christmas Carols listed below.

- Come Thou long expected Jesus.
- The Angel Gabriel from heaven.
- God rest you merry gentlemen.

- Let heaven and earth combine

CHRISTMAS

The annual Carol service was not able to be held this year unfortunately, but restrictions were able to be lifted temporarily to allow us to hold a service on 20th December led by Gill Gray and a traditional service on Christmas Day led by Deacon Elizabeth. After the Christmas Day service there was an opportunity for all to join in the open-air carol singing led by Fiona & Elizabeth. It was very successful. Fiona was also instrumental in organising carol singing for the elderly and housebound members within our local community.

LENT

We wish to thank Ann Matthews and Fiona for running The Lent Course entitled, " Methodist Way of Life".

A Methodist Way of Life encourages us to grow together and to explore themes focusing on Worship, Evangelism and Learning and Caring and Service. Bart Woodhouse also offered another online course during Lent entitled "Talking Jesus"

Both courses were very successful and engaged with at least 14 of our church members.

Giving

Based on the biblical principle that says "it is more blessed to give than to receive", each year we ensure we give 10% of our income as donations to worthy causes. This amount is then distributed to missions, disaster afflicted areas and charities. The proposed beneficiaries are reviewed prayerfully each year. We also have a benevolent fund, with additional monies given by the congregation following communion services, which can be used by the Minister to respond to emergency needs.

Members Spiritual Growth

The effect of COVID-19 on church life has continued to see us having to think differently about how we worship and how we ensure we continue to provide pastoral support to our members and local community.

Connexion set up online worship which is led by the Circuit and has meant we can all continue to enjoy regular Sunday worship via the internet. As part of our pastoral support a small team of volunteers have been sending weekly emails to members which include the links to the online services, prayer bulletins and “Pause for thought”, a reflection on the week written by members of the congregation or Deacon Harfleet. For those members of our church who are not able to access the internet, paper copies have been delivered/posted to ensure that we keep in touch with everyone. Our Pastoral Visitors have been keeping in touch with people by telephone and our prayer chains have continued by text message.

The Oasis Fellowship Group

Our thanks go to Deacon Elizabeth & Fiona for leading this small fellowship group which regularly meets on Wednesdays at 2 pm where there is meditation on a Christian theme.

The stewards would also like to convey their thanks to various people who are contacting members by phone. This pastoral service is crucial for housebound members and others because of the provision of personal and individual "touch " of this approach.

Prayer Ministry

The Brent offers several different ways in which people are able to pray and be prayed for. During the past year much of the prayer requests have come through the telephone and text chain due to worshipping remotely.

Prayer can also be offered and said through the internet channel when attending the online Circuit services.

Evangelism

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we were not able to hold Messy Church during this year. We kept in touch with our families and posted suggestions of activities on the church website each month – ‘Messy Church at home’. The central Messy Church organisation has been very helpful by adapting materials to make them suitable for use by the families at home.

For Christmas we put together ‘Messy Christmas in a bag’ for the families, with the materials for activities and ideas for a celebration at home. It was lovely to see the families when they came to pick up the bags – they are missing Messy Church, and it was really good to see them in person. We repeated the Messy Church in a bag for Easter and for the summer holidays.

We continue to pray for our Messy Church families, that they are safe and well and know God’s love. We also pray for God’s guidance as we prepare to restart Messy Church in September.

Methodist Women in Britain

As with many of our projects within the church, MWIB has been affected by the Corona virus over the last eighteen months. We would normally be hosting two or three fundraising events each year such as ploughman’s lunch and cream teas.

Very sadly our Dear friend and Treasurer Sylvia Durrant passed away in January 2020. She was a valued member of our team and will be missed very much. Unfortunately, we are now needing to decide if we can continue with only four team members who are all in our latter years.

Dartford Foodbank

We have carried on operating outside handing out ready-made bags but with each client given the choice of 3 extra items of their choice. We have also been blessed with donations from Asda, Sainsbury Dartford and Crayford. Also been given quite a lot of money which we use every week to replace the popular items such as oil, washing powder, nappies to name but a few.

We are still seeing a lot of people and numbers vary from 50 to 75 all with some similar stories and needs.

Our team of volunteers have been amazing turning up each and every week and we were fortunate that the weather during the winter was mild and not much rain and also, we all kept Covid free.

Not sure about the future but we are hoping we will be moving to new premises.

Winter Shelter

Since the beginning of 2020 the support from Dartford Borough Council had enabled the homeless in Dartford to be temporally housed both in Gravesend and Dartford, Due to the Covid virus.

Therefore, the Brent and other churches in Dartford were not needed to provide shelter during the winter months. Our project worker Steve Ives continues his work with the support of Porchlight and DBC still providing help for the men in temporary accommodation.

Looking forward - As restrictions are being lifted due to lower risks of Covid, most of the men are now back on the streets of Dartford. We therefore may need to provide some kind of service for them during the coming winter months at the Brent.

Sunday School

During the past year because of the continuing Pandemic Sunday School has not been able to take place but we continue to support our children and young people to grow in their faith through our prayers and pastoral support to the families.

We have continued to use the resources from Roots to offer activities and worksheets to our families throughout this period when we are unable to meet in person. The church website is updated weekly with links to activity sheets and resources following the Roots theme for children and parents to be able to follow at home.

We pray for God's guidance to show us ways in which we can support our children and young people as we start to think about returning to weekly services and hope that we are able to provide Sunday School once more for our young people.

We thank the leaders and helpers for all their hard work in preparing sessions and helping with Sunday School. We continue to pray for new families to come to the Brent and join our church family.

Equipping and Training

Our Local Preachers are part of the circuit team of preachers who receive continuous training to equip them to bring God's Word to the churches. Through their preaching, members are blessed and reminded of their responsibilities as followers of Christ.

For most of the past year, we have had 2 Worship Leaders, one of whom plays guitar, but due to Covid, we have only had one other singer and no other musicians to supplement the leading of worship. In the summer of 2021, one of our Worship Leaders moved out of the area, which is a sad loss to the worship team. We now mainly use recorded music and videos to enhance our worship, occasionally led by one or two singers. Over the coming year we will be required to organise more Local Arrangement services, due to the lack of availability of preachers. Our Worship Leader and Stewards will work together with the church family to arrange these services, using and developing available gifts. The sound and projection volunteers are also a much-valued part of the support team.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, we have continued to use Zoom as another means of worshipping together, with a Maundy Thursday service, occasional worship group sessions and regular fellowship groups - one daytime and one in the evening, both fortnightly. An Advent Course was led by Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet and Mrs Ann Matthews and we were joined by friends from Spital Street Methodist Church and St Andrew's United Reformed Church.

The Worship Conference organised by Mission Worship was held online in March and a few of our members attended virtually.

Safeguarding

We are blessed with two Safeguarding officers sharing the vital role. They liaise with the Circuit Safeguarding officer to ensure everyone attends safeguarding training as appropriate. Over the last year, the team has:

- Worked collaboratively with the circuit safeguarding superintendent to provide relevant training sessions for members of the church.
- Attended Circuit information sharing workshop.
- Reviewed and approved the church safeguarding policy document.
- Ensured relevant contact details have been placed in clear vicinity for all church users.
- Collated the DBS list of post holder certificates (currently 95% are up to date).
- Relayed updated information with regards to working guidelines, support, and expectations of volunteers.

We are grateful to the safeguarding officers for their dedication to this very important role.

Flower Ministry

Because of Covid restrictions, from March 2020 the Brent was closed for worship for the rest of the Methodist year, therefore there was no need for flowers in the church. Looking forward, we are hoping to start a new Rota for flower donations in the new year of 2022 when we will be able to bring God's beautiful creations back into our church once again.

Pastoral Visitors

It has felt to be a long 12 months due to restricted services continuing throughout the pandemic, but it is great to have been able to be back worshipping and singing these past couple of months. Over the past few months, the church has welcomed a few visitors and one visitor is now a regular attendee coming to church with his children. It is so nice to hear children's laughter in church once again.

More good news - a regular worshipper at Church decided to transfer her membership from another church to the Brent.

Unfortunately, five of our dear members have died earlier in the year, may their gentle souls rest in perfect peace.

John Newton had been a member for many years and had made a great contribution to the development of the church and its members over the years. John had personally supported many families in need in the community and had been a great neighbour, on whom we could rely.

Sylvia Durrant was a very long-standing member of the church. She was always willing to actively take part in the running of the Sunday services. She had contributed to the church "local arrangement services" and until fairly recently, she was on the reading rota, a member on whom you could rely. For many years, Sylvia was also the Brent's Treasurer for 'Methodist Women in Britain'. This organisation is involved in raising funds for numerous deserving causes, one of which is providing funds for a group of destitute women in India.

Both John and Sylvia will be fondly remembered by us all.

We sadly remember Edith Lawrence who also passed away during the year. She was a lovely, quiet and dutiful member of the church, who contributed in various ways. She was a member of the prayer team, offering prayers to members of the congregation that required personal prayers after the church service. Edith also led a house group. She will be missed by everyone.

Other names that must be mentioned are Fetsum Robson and Mary Ticehurst. Fetsum passed away in January. Fetsum, affectionately called Lily, was involved, occasionally, in making meals for the Winter Shelter. Mary passed away later on in the year. She was a quiet member of the church. She was devoted in her worship and attended the services regularly. They both will be sadly missed by all.

Also, a long standing and a very active member of the church withdrew his membership from the Brent.

In the last year, the Pastoral Secretary has helped to coordinate the Pastoral Visitors and organised virtual meetings as required for the important role they play in the life of the church. The Pastoral Visitors are the first point of contact for members, who through them ensure information needing urgent attention

is passed on to the Minister. The Pastoral Visitors continue to be in contact with members/ non-members through phone calls, cards and visits.

Due to the COVID restrictions which were only recently eased, there have been no baptisms or marriages conducted in the church yet.

We hope in the coming year, as the church returns to weekly services that we will have more people joining us and hopefully some guests will decide to become members of the Brent.

Looking Ahead

As we start a new year, as a church we continue to face many changes and challenges in the way that we will worship but we are hopeful that with the reduction of national restrictions that we are able to resume weekly services. On Sunday 5th September 2021 we will move from fortnightly to weekly services and will be able to sing and worship together once more. Through the use of technology we will utilize the ability to have virtual sermons from local preachers and Ministers some of whom are still unsure as to resuming preaching in person but it will still be in the presence of God.

Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet will continue as our Minister with Rev. Tony Graff supporting as our Presbyterian. We are one of six churches that Rev. Graff has responsibility for so this will bring its own challenges to our Leadership team when planning services.

We pray that God will guide our Leadership team in the decisions being taken with regards to continuing to worship on a weekly basis with an ever-decreasing number of volunteers able to assist with all the various tasks that are required to ensure the church is open and all runs smoothly each week.

We continue to pray that our members will return to church along with new members joining and bringing a vibrancy to our church once more.

We are incredibly grateful to our members who freely give their time to support the Church in many ways, producing weekly notices, helping with the different groups and serving on committees. Their love of God is evident in their desire to serve the Church and wider community.

Ebbsfleet Community Church (ECC), as a Class of The Brent Methodist Church

Church Life Update

As the pandemic has eased, we have begun to meet in person outdoors around the community garden project. This has enabled us to meet most Sundays from June. We have continued our online prayer meeting each Sunday evening and our two Connect Groups. The Friday Connect Group has been meeting in person since the end of June. We had a successful church fellowship meal at the beginning of September and plan to make “table fellowship” a significant part of our pattern of church going forwards.

Mission Update

The Community Garden Project has continued to be a focal point for us engaging with several members of the wider community and will be the foundation of other missional opportunities going forwards now the restrictions have eased. The Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC) is keen for the church to take on the management of future communal garden and allotment space within the wider development in the next 18-24 months.

We are running an Alpha Course in the Hive shopping area (Northfleet) and reaching out to the community in that area. We have gathered a group of 10 people doing the course. We are also in conversation with Rochester Prison to resume delivering Alpha there from January 2022 and plan to support Strood Methodist Church and Gravesend Methodist Church in delivering an Alpha course again in the early part of 2022. As a church plant in Ebbsfleet we will have a second “in person” course running alongside the courses at Strood and Gravesend with a view to a joint Holy Spirit Day sometime in March.

We also ran the “Talking Jesus” Course in the circuit as a Lent Course in early 2021.

We ran a successful Christmas Food Hamper give away in partnership with Manor Primary School Swanscombe in 2020, supplying 30 generous boxes of food and treats to families in need or crises linked to the school. We plan to work with the school again this year to see if a similar project is needed and can be delivered again.

Financial Update

Detailed Financial Update can be obtained by contacting Simon Pooley.

N.B. We have given £7200 into Circuit funds as a recognition of our informal membership and £1143 in various donations to predominantly Christian charities but also small amounts to those in hardship linked to the Dartford Foodbank.

BRENT METHODIST CHURCH FINANCIAL REVIEW OF YEAR ENDING 31st August 2021

Full details of the Church Accounts are contained at the end of this review.

The surplus overall for the year was £2,863.94 which represents a significant decrease of about 504% on last year's deficit of -£711.60 to a positive figure. The surplus figure is a welcome and positive development compared to what was expected in the budget. The year's budget had indicated a deficit of -£22,368.26 which was partly due to the expected renovation works at 46 Blenheim Road. However, a combination of increased income in certain giving categories and reduced expenses than budgeted in several other categories contributed to the final figure.

Looking further into this year's surplus of £2,863.94 would highlight a lot of the categories with significant changes from last year's report which would make for better understanding of the accounts by anyone interested and which can be attributed once again to the period of restricted activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The year has again seen a significant negative trend of lows in both income and expense categories. Figures from the income show a decrease in total income from last year of 5% with some of the below major changes explaining this position:

- a. Anniversary and Gift Day decreased by 100% as none received.
- b. Gift Aid Recovered from HMRC decreased by 24%
- c. Benevolence giving decreased by 81%
- d. Church Funds decreased by 100% as none received
- e. Gift Aid giving decreased by 100% as none received
- f. Playgroup Rent increased by 101%
- g. Interest income decreased by 76%
- h. Other Rent in Church Rentals decreased by 60%
- i. Phone and Photocopier Income increased by 973%

Figures from the expenses also show a decrease in total resources expended by 9% from last year with some of the below major changes explaining this position:

- a. Messy Church expenses decreased by 46%
- b. Stationery increased by 78%
- c. Flat repairs increased by 500%
- d. 10% giving decreased by 65%
- e. Ministerial expenses decreased by 75%
- f. Miscellaneous expenses decreased by 38%
- g. Photocopier rental and service costs decreased by 56%
- h. Photocopier paper increased by 50%
- i. Cleaning services decreased by 100% as none was required
- j. Cleaning materials decreased by 45%
- k. Copyright permission decreased by 66%
- l. Gardening increased by 29%
- m. Property repairs and renewals decreased by 33%
- n. Window cleaning decreased by 50%
- o. Publicity increased by 54%
- p. Treasurer's expenses decreased by 24%
- q. Church Utilities - Electricity decreased by 42%
- r. Church Utilities - Water increased by 109%
- s. Church Telephone increased by 86%
- t. Flowers and presents decreased by 69%
- u. Benevolence fund decreased by 74%
- v. Rented Houses repairs increased by 340%
- w. Rented Houses Insurance increased by 75%
- x. Rented Houses Council Tax increased by 2312%

The financial state of the Church remains healthy with positive bank and deposit balances starting the new financial year. The operational budget for the new financial year shows a surplus of £1,247 which is a positive when compared to last year's deficit budget. A factor that has contributed to this surplus is the expectation that normal services will continue weekly for the foreseeable future with the expected continued ease on the pandemic restrictions. It is also hoped that as usual, some of the other budgeted expenses might not be utilised which would in turn have a positive impact on the surplus figure. In addition, church workers and trustees with various responsibilities are always made aware to continue in their efforts to both watch and manage expenses in order to keep these at a reasonable level.

With the anticipated effective expense management and God's guidance and favour, it is hoped for another positive end to the financial year.

The Church has two main Trust Funds as follows:

Sale of House Trust Fund holding **£23,648.62** as of 31st August 2021. This money has come from the sale of one of the houses left to the Church by Mrs Westcombe in the year 2002 and also proceeds from the premium received on the leasehold extension on Colney road flat. These houses were left to us for the 'benefit, continuation and furtherance of Methodism in the Newtown area of Dartford.' The funds within this account are deemed to be restricted and Church Council has agreed that this capital fund should be used for outreach projects. TMCP have confirmed this fund can also be used for Property Schemes or for the promotion of the work of God. The interest from this account is transferred to the Deposit Account.

The Hodson Trust fund (**£1,200.00**).

This a permanent endowment fund, whereby only the interest can be used and is credited to the Deposit account. The capital sum cannot currently be spent but with the adjustment in charity law and due to the amount of the endowment fund, future consideration of it's liquidation will be looked into.

The Church has two other accounts (Current Account and Deposit Account). These accounts are used for the day to day running expenses of the Church, such as Circuit Assessment, salary of the cleaner, utilities etc.

Depreciation Policy

Church Council has agreed the following depreciation policies on new equipment:

Five years for electrical equipment at 20% for each year.

Ten years for furniture etc. at 10% for each year.

Property Valuations

The letting agent provides property valuations on the three houses and flat in August of each year. They are provided on the basis that the properties are being sold on the open market as unoccupied.

Reserves Policy

The Charity's Reserves Policy deals with:

Our General Fund (Current Account and Deposit Account)

Other Funds also held which are NOT covered by our reserves are:

-Sale of House (Westcombe Fund) CFB12815

-The Hodson Trust CFB17346

Our Reserves

Our General Fund

The trustees aim ideally to hold in reserve sufficient money in our general funds to cover six month's budgeted expenditure i.e. £46,628.00

The reason for this is fourfold this year:

- a. The church needs around one month's expenditure in reserve as working capital to cover normal monthly running costs which is £7,228 according to our current budget.
- b. To cover our commitment to the Diaconal payments of £7,500
- c. To cover six months of circuit assessment (£20,000) and emergency or unexpected repairs to the Church and the houses of (£5,000).
- d. To support the gifting of 10% of Church Income to worthy causes currently set at £6,900 for this year.

The general fund is currently sufficient to fulfil these needs.

Other Funds held for specific purposes:

Sale of House (Westcombe Fund) CFB12815

This fund holds the legacy from the Houses given to the Brent by Mrs Westcombe 'for the benefit, continuation, and furtherance of Methodism in the Newtown area of Dartford' in addition to the premium received from the leasehold extension request on the Colney Road flat. Church Council has agreed to fulfil the spirit in which the legacy was given and use this money for Outreach Projects. This is held by The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as a restricted fund. TMCP have confirmed this fund can also be used for Property Schemes or 'for promotion of the work of God in the relevant organisation'.

The Hodson Trust CFB17346

This is an Endowment Fund and therefore we can only use the interest, which is credited to the general fund.

Risks

The risks facing the church are reviewed at each Property & Finance and Council Committee meetings and include:

Loss or Damage to Buildings: This risk is addressed through insurance cover.

Personal Liability of Managing Trustees (i.e. members of the Church Council: This risk has been addressed through Trustee Indemnity Insurance.

Legal and Reputational Risks associated with working with children: The Methodist Church has a Connexional ‘Safeguarding Policy to which Brent Methodist Church subscribes. There is a continuous programme to ensure that up to date checks are made via the Disclosure and Barring Service on anyone in regular contact with young people through Church activities.

Health and Safety: The risk is addressed by members of the Property Committee carrying out regular health and safety checks. Additional precautions as a result of changes in Fire Regulations have been implemented.

Financial loss which is addressed through appropriate financial controls and procedures.

In summary, the trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate the Charity’s exposure to major risks.

Investment Policy

A low-risk policy is maintained. The Deposit Fund administered by the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church is utilised to deposit any funds surplus to the Brent’s immediate requirements.

Statement of Trustees Responsibility

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

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

State whether applicable accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting by Charities have been followed.

Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that activities will continue.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of Brent Methodist Church and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church and the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for taking reasonable steps to safeguard the assets of the Church and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Position (e.g.
Secretary,
Chair, etc.)

Date

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Brent Methodist Church - Dartford	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2021

NORTH KENT 1130746	Circuit	Circuit no	36/21
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1130746

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

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

Ministers:

Reverend Tony Graff
Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet

Church Stewards:

Patrick Marie - Senior Church Steward
Lorna Wilson - Steward
Karen Dudley - Steward
Sarah Adomah - Steward

Treasurer:

Tunde Dipita-Williams

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
		£	£	£		£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		37,585		37,585	47,028
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		84	83	167	703
a4	Lettings		13,135		13,135	10,056
a5	Other receipts		42,568		42,568	40,052
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		93,372	83	93,455 (a7)	97,839

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		40,000		40,000	40,000
b3	Donations		3,000		3,000	8,500
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		13,982		13,982	21,100
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		8,158		8,158	8,810
b6						
b7	Other payments		25,401	50	25,451	20,141
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		90,541	50	90,591 (b9)	98,551

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	2,831	33	2,864	(712)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		82,119	24,849	106,968 (c6)	107,572
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	84,950	24,882	109,832	106,860
c4	Transfers and adjustments		346	(30)	316 (c7)	108
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	85,296	24,852	110,148 (c8)	106,968 (c6)

SECTION D						
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS						
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)			£	£	
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			123	270	
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			107	1,133	
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			230	1,280	
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)				123	

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**SECTION E** Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

	INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1	Ladies Leisure Hour					665	665
e2	Messy Church					40	40
e3	Ebbsfleet Community Church	16,943	13,218	3,725		12,441	16,166
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	16,943	13,218	3,725		13,146 (e11)	16,871 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	93,455 (a7)	90,591 (b9)	2,864	316 (c7)	106,968 (c6)	110,148 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	110,398	103,809	6,589	316	120,114 (x)	127,019 (y)
	Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021**

		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand	16	16
f2	Bank Current Account	12,375	30,937
f3	Bank Deposit Account		
f4	Central Finance Board	69,729	54,343
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	24,848	24,852
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	106,968 (c6)	110,148 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	13,146 (e11)	16,871 (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	120,114 (x)	127,019 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,020,000
g3	Other Assets	
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	
g5	Other Liabilities	

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

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

Name of Church: Brent Methodist Church - Dartford Charity No 1130746

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer Date.....

Name and address of treasurer

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

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Brent Methodist Church

Charity Number 1130746

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Brent Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages 1 to 5. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

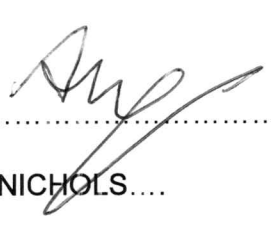
Name of Church: Brent Methodist Church - Dartford Charity No 1130746

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 which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

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

Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner ...STEVEN NICHOLS....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA.....CTA.....

Name of firm (where appropriate) NICHOLS & CO (ACCOUNTANCY) LTD...

Address ...Unit 7 Mulberry Place, Pinnell Road.....

.....Eltham, London..... Post Code ...SE9 6AR

Date 28/01/2022.....