



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			T o	Period end date		
	Day 1	Month Sept	Year 2022		Day 31	Month Aug	Year 2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Central Methodist Church
Other names charity is known by	Lune Street Methodist Church
Registered charity number (if any)	1131157
Charity's principal address	Lune Street
	Preston
	Postcode PR1 2NL

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1 Rev Barbara Pettitt	Minister/Chair		
2 Davina Hinchliffe			General Church Meeting
3 Ruth Millward-Hopkins	Church Steward		General Church Meeting
4 Julia Blackett	Church Steward		General Church Meeting
5 Susan Burgess	Church Steward		General Church Meeting
6 Olwen Swindlehurst	Pastoral Secretary		General Church Meeting
7 Paul Blackett	Treasurer		General Church Meeting
8 Peter Johnstone			General Church Meeting
9 Maureen Abson			General Church Meeting
10 Peter Abson			General Church Meeting
11 Ronald Bosworth			General Church Meeting
12 Richard Billingham			General Church Meeting
13 Sheena Rhodes			General Church Meeting
14 Naseerah Patel	Secretary		General Church Meeting
15 Valerie Waterhouse	Secretary		General Church Meeting
16 Geoff Tyson	Safeguarding Officer		General Church Meeting
17 Sarah O'Halloran	Safeguarding Officer / Resources Chair		General Church Meeting
18			General Church Meeting
19			General Church Meeting
20			

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Deed of Union 1932
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed annually by the General Church Meeting

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Central Methodist Church forms part of the Preston Ribble Methodist Circuit, which falls under the governance of the Lancashire Methodist District. Nationally Central Methodist Church is part of the Methodist Connexion.

The church was governed by the church council which consisted of 17 elected members from across the life of the church. The Church Council met 4 times in the year.

A resources committee was responsible for overseeing the property and finance with recommendations made to the church council for approval. Separate committees met to oversee church life, mission and the pastoral care of the congregation and adherents.

Church stewards are appointed annually at the General Church Meeting to have oversight with the minister of the whole life and mission of the church.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

'Loving God, Serving People, Changing Lives'.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Loving God

- We offer public Christian worship on Sundays at 10.30am and Wednesdays at 1pm which is inclusive and diverse and aims to engage a wide range of different people. Other public worship is offered during the Christian seasons such as Holy Week and Christmas. Our Sunday worship is available online via zoom for those unable to be with us in person.
- We are also involved with our ecumenical partners in offering worship in the city centre on Remembrance Sunday, Advent and Good Friday
- We provide opportunities for prayer, Bible study and learning
- We are open 7 days a week when possible, offering opportunities to share the love of God with others throughout the week, including through the community coffee shop.

Serving People

- Our building serves the local community in a number of ways – the Olive Grove Community Coffee Shop is open 4 days a week, offering a space for friendship, support and inclusion. The continued employment of our Coffee Shop Project Manager by the Preston Ribble Methodist Circuit ensures that the building is available to community groups such as the Preston Macular Society, Preston Friendship Group, Peer Talk (mental health support group) and others.
- We continue to build good relationships with the local shops and businesses, through visits, church newsletters and offering prayer and support.
- We also serve the congregation, the coffee shop customers and the local community through social media, our website and various publications.

Changing Lives

- We support one sponsored child in Mexico
- We remain committed to recruiting, training and supporting volunteers across the whole range of the charity's activities

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The church and Olive Grove Coffee Shop are staffed almost entirely by volunteers. During the year there were approximately 50 people volunteering across the range of the church's life and ministry. Volunteers undergo interviews and DBS checks as required for the role and have safeguarding training.

The Minister, Project Manager and Cleaner received remuneration from Preston Ribble Methodist Circuit.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The main achievements in 22/23 were:

- Continued our support of Ribbleton Avenue Methodist Junior School. The church continues to raise funds for vulnerable families at the school.
- Christmas 'shoe boxes' filled with gifts for children and young people in poorer countries were provided and delivered by the International Aid Trust charity.
- With the help of our Project Manager, we have increased the use of our building to the local community/charities and visiting groups.
- Continuation of the good work we do with the Olive Grove Community Coffee Shop and providing a service in the city centre.
- We continued to be good stewards of the building to ensure that the life and mission of the church will continue into the future.
- Pastoral care for all volunteers and members was continued via phone, email and post with some face to face visits.
- The Olive Branch Gift offers a range of Fair Trade and Christian related books and gifts not available nearby.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

In the absence of any income, the sum identified to pay necessary assessments, insurances and utilities payments over a 6 month period has been identified as £38,000. This reserve will be sufficient to enable Central Methodist Church to maintain an effective city-centre ministry in the heart of Preston during times of financial stress.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Income is gained through two principal sources, a surplus from the operation of the Olive Grove Coffee Shop and the direct giving of the membership and adherents.

The expenditure supports the mission statement of the church through the 'circuit assessment payments' to Preston Ribble Methodist Circuit, maintenance and ongoing utility payments required for the upkeep of the premises.

The church currently holds general funds in the current account and further funds are on call at the Central Finance Board.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above on 14th May 2023 at the General Church Meeting.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Jane Wild

Valerie Waterhouse

Full name(s)

Rev Jane Wild

VALERIE WATERHOUSE

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Secretary

Date

12/5/23

Name of Church : Preston Central Methodist Church

No: 21/11

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 CLARE OYENDÉN

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner MICB

Name of firm (where appropriate) HCO BOOKKEEPING

Address 4 ROYALTY GARDENS, NEW LONGTON

..... Post Code PR4 4JW

Date 28/11/23

* delete or circle as appropriate