

# **Independent Wesleyan Church, High St, Rushden, Northants**

## **Trustees' Report for the year ended Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 2022**

The Trustees present their Annual Report and accounts for the 12-month period up to Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 2022.

### **Charitable Object**

The charity is governed by a constitution. This was amended in May 1984, and again in June 2008 and September 2009. The Objects of the Church are:

To advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Confession of Faith in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom (or the world in the case of Mission works) as the Trustees (acting according to the will of God as discerned by the Church Members) from time to time may think fit.

To relieve sickness and financial hardship and to promote and preserve good health by the provision of funds, goods or services of any kind, including through the provision of advice and support in such parts of the United Kingdom or the world as the Trustees (acting as aforesaid) from time to time may think fit.

To advance Christian education and pursue and promote general charitable purposes consistent with the Christian faith in such ways and in such parts of the United Kingdom as the Trustees (acting as aforesaid) from time to time may think fit.

The Church occupies premises which are held by the above listed Property Holding Trustees and the Trust is entirely compatible with the above Objects.

The Church has updated/modernised our website at the date of the writing of this report - [www.weschurchrushden.org.uk](http://www.weschurchrushden.org.uk).

### **Public Benefit**

The Trustees consider that the activities of the Charity are carried out for the public benefit. In particular, two of the charitable purposes as set out by the Charity Commission in its general guidance on public benefit are met:

The advancement of education and  
The advancement of religion

An explanation of these activities is given below in the section "Objectives and Activities"

**Coronavirus Effect** – During the year, all of our activities re-commenced following the main Covid 19 period. Attendance at our Church Services, however, have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels, mainly due to the majority of children/young people who used to come to church not responding to our reminders and/or personal invitations to re-join us. Consequently, the number in Sunday School have dropped drastically, despite a keen team of teachers continuing to prepare interesting topics and activities. It is difficult to know for certain what caused this change, but it seems likely that people have simply lost the habit of going to Church. Despite these disappointments, the work of the Church has continued with most week-night meetings/activities now back in full swing.

Throughout the year, our Minister (Rev Phillip Hearson) and his family have worked hard to lead our Church-life. Services have been recorded and put on YouTube (as happened during lockdown periods); we understand that many people outside of our Church Circle have continued to tune in to watch these. We are indebted to Phil and his son Martyn for their work on this and so many other aspects of our Church-life; they have worked hard as usual on behalf of our Membership.

### **Organisational Structure and decision-making processes**

Members of the Church are accepted in accordance with our Constitution, which requires them to sincerely express their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, and to give evidence of such faith by their life and conduct. During the year covered by this report, three new adults were accepted into membership,

The Members' Meeting normally takes place four times per year and has the responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. In accordance with the Constitution, the Members appoint up to 15 Leaders (Elders) who will concentrate on the spiritual side of Church life, and up to 8 Officers (Deacons) who will concentrate on the administrative and financial aspects of the Church (acting under the authority of the Trustees).

Our membership grew a little during the year of this report, with two former Members moving back to this area and re-joining the Church. We also received two people into our membership from another local Church, increasing our Membership to 43 as at Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 2022.

We were fortunate not to lose any Members through death in the year up to Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 2022, although we were sorry to remove two Members to our "Associate" list following their non-attendance for a couple of years.

All Members are encouraged to take an appropriate part in the spiritual and practical tasks involved in the furtherance of the charitable objective.

Relevant matters may be submitted to the Church Members meeting by the Trustees for guidance, or may be raised by Members for consideration. The Constitution permits decisions to be made at Members' meetings by appropriate majorities.

The Church, although independent, is attached to the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches.

### **Objectives and Activities**

In order to achieve the principal objective which is set out above, the Church provides a variety of activities both to its membership and to the community generally. The aim is to show the love of Jesus Christ in both word and deed and to bring people into a closer relationship with Him as Living Lord. Our Mission Statement is "Seeking to love God, each other, and the wider community - through worship, discipleship, fellowship, service, and outreach"

Central to the work and witness of the Church is the provision of regular public services of Christian worship. These take place each Sunday at 10.45am. There are also occasional services at other times which are advertised both in the Church and in the local press. The Church has a website at [www.weschurchrushden.org.uk](http://www.weschurchrushden.org.uk). A children's programme operates during the morning services. The Church seeks to be a friendly and welcoming community and anybody is free to attend any of these services.

There is a Church prayer meeting on Tuesday mornings, where Members join together in one of three homes to pray for the work of the Church, and for situations & people in particular need.

A house group meets on Wednesday evenings and this seeks to encourage Members to explore together how to live a Biblically-based Christian life, and to spend time in prayer together.

A men's home-group meeting to plan events for all ages and study the Bible on alternate Sunday evenings

The Church also runs the following activities:

A short-mat bowls group meets on Tuesday afternoons.

Two youth clubs on Thursday evenings (school years 1 to 6, and years 7 to 11). These are gradually growing in numbers following the lockdown periods. The older group are enjoying discussion times about the Christian faith during their evening and as a break in the games played.

Coffee mornings on Saturdays

A new activity on Wednesday mornings was commenced during the year under the "Warm Spaces" banner (although at the time of writing, this has changed its name to "Take a Break". Although numbers fluctuate, the attendance has been encouraging, and new friendships between our Members and those outside of our Church have been formed.

The Church operates systems to ensure that all people working with children and vulnerable people are appropriately vetted with regard to the Disclosure and Barring Service and Safeguarding Agencies.

### **Achievements and Performance**

The Church does not seek to measure its success solely by headcounts of those attending, nor by financial performance, but also in less tangible areas such as fellowship and encouragement. It is appreciated that these are difficult to measure, but the Trustees consider that 2021/22 was another positive period as far as the life of the Church is concerned.

In addition to our Minister continuing to play a key part in leading and guiding the Church through the year, he has also been involved in taking assemblies at local primary schools on a regular basis. He continued to serve one of these schools as their Chair of Governors until September 2022 although he still serves as a Governor. The Trustees consider the Church very fortunate to have had such a caring and hard-working person as our spiritual leader since 2006. We look forward to the years ahead with him still serving as our Minister.

Harvest celebrations took place in October 2022, and gifts of produce and monetary donations from this day were given to The Rushden Food Bank.

The Church has active Overseas and Home Missions funds – this money being made available by allocating 5% of church collections to each of these. Gifts from these funds have been sent to various deserving causes during the year, including – from Home Missions and The Church's Benevolent Fund – a number of local people who were finding the cost-of-living situation particularly difficult.

In September 2022 our Minister conducted his first marriage service in our premises since arriving in 2006. This was between two of our Members and a reception was enjoyed in our church hall for over 120 guests, including virtually our entire membership.

### **Financial Review**

The Church continues to raise the funds which it needs to carry out its activities from within its own membership and congregation. No wider public appeal was made for funds during the year.

The financial results for the year, together with a summary of the accounting policies adopted, are set out in the accompanying statements/accounts.

### **Income**

Overall income reduced to £60,020 compared to the previous year (£86,902); however, that year's income included a gift of nearly £30,000 from an associated Church in Wellingborough which was closing; also see the "Gift Aid" factor below.

Weekly offerings averaged £604 compared to £666 last year.

The two special "Thankofferings" held during the year reduced from £4,038 in 2020/21 to £2,783 in 2021/22; this money was again placed in our "Hall Extension Fund" for use, when the building works to change and extend our hall, begin (when sale of our existing church building materialise).

The HMRC Job Retention Scheme Grant towards the cost of our Hall Manager/Caretaker being on furlough ceased during the previous year, so is not a feature of the 2021/22 income.

Gift-Aid of £8,039 was due to be refunded by the Inland Revenue, but was not claimed in time for payment due to a transfer of accounting responsibilities during the year. (2020/21 refund was £6,699).

Income from hiring out our hall to a number of local groups increased from £3,480 in 2020/21 to £11,682 in 2021/22, reflecting the return of hirers after their breaks during Covid lockdown periods.

The Investment Fund again contributed £2,160 this year towards the Minister's stipend.

Expenditure payments for the year totalled £52,966.

### **Expenditure**

Overall expenditure increased during the year 2021/22 to £57,913 (2020/21 was £52,966). The most significant areas of expenditure relate to the employment of the Minister and the Hall Manager/caretaker. However, the latter person had to retire due to ill health, following an Occupational Health Assessment and was last paid in July 2022.

### **Exceptional Items of Expenditure**

There were few major exceptional items of expenditure this year. However, increased Gas costs of £2,221 and Electricity of £2,096 reflected the high increases in these during the year (2020/21 costs were £683 and £850 respectively). Although not a major factor, the cost of “in-house” catering grew during the year as the church was again able to organise a number of special meals e.g. Easter and Harvest lunches. Our “Messy Church” food expenditure was also a minor factor as the Church again enjoyed the freedom allowed following the lockdown periods

### **Financial Reserves Policy**

The Church currently has no Reserves Policy.

### **Sale of Church building / Future Hall Extension Plans**

The Trustees and Officers have continued to meet to discuss the sale of the church building. The company who made the accepted offer (as included in the Trustee Annual Report for 2020/21) have however had great difficulty in getting the required Planning Permission for the conversion to residential units. At least one further amended plan for a reduced number of units has also met with planning objections. At the time of writing this report (June 2023), the position is largely unchanged and the Church is consequently still waiting for a final decision from the Planning Committee.

The scheme to change and extend the church hall to provide additional meeting rooms and storage space has not yet been put into action due to a lack of finance to pay for the work.

**The Year Ahead** – Although the above Sale and Extension items continue to put a hold on Church plans, a full year of activities is planned for 2022/23. One element that is planned to increase is the holding of Church buffet meals at special times of year (already held at Christmas, Easter and Harvest). These have proved to be popular during the report year, and are getting very successful “reviews” from those attending. They are also proving to be a further means of reaching out to others outside of our immediate circle of attendees, with personal invitations to friends to join us at these occasions finding some success.

# **Independent Examiner's Report**

to the

## **Trustees and members of Rushden Independent Wesleyan Church**

This report on the accounts for the year ended 31 October 2022, which are set out on the attached pages.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

As trustees of the Church Council you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and
- state whether particular matters come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Church Council and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*Hannah Rawlings*

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**H R Rawlings**

Denton Tavera Ltd  
61a High Street South  
Rushden  
Northants  
NN10 0RA

10 January 2023

**Rushden High St Independent Wesleyan Church**  
**Receipts and Payments Account for Year ended October 31st 2022**

**RECEIPTS**

	£	£	
Collections		31,418.80	Weekly avge £ 604
Thankofferings - Hall Extn Fund		2,783.00	
Donations: general	300.00		
Funeral	193.00	493.00	
Legacies & Memorials		5,200.00	
Gift Aid - Church	0.00		
Hall Extension Fund	0.00	0.00	
From Investment Fund:			
Stipend	2,160.00		
S.School prizes/costs	22.77	2,182.77	
Hall income		11,682.00	
HMRC Statutory Sick Pay		192.70	
Sundry:			
Easyfundraising	67.67		
Christmas cards, Home Missions	40.00		
Misc sundries	0.00		
Scrap metal (to Hall Extn Fund)	0.00	107.67	
Third party			
Overseas Missions donations	262.00		
Karen Baxter (Wed Fellowship)	100.00		
Harvest - Foodbank (Encompass)	63.50		
Christmas cards, Overseas Missions	40.00		
Allsorts Sponsored Child	120.00		
Funeral fees	353.00		
Gift Aid for Investment Fund	0.00	938.50	
Donations to Hall Extn Fund		268.00	
Redwood Bank interest - Church	389.50		
Hall Extension Fund	35.40	424.90	
Sale of Church items		500.00	
Bowls Club receipts		0.00	
Kitchen Fund receipts		1,367.74	
Youth Club Fund receipts		1,599.60	
Benevolent Fund receipts		861.79	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b><u>60,020.47</u></b>	

**PAYMENTS**

	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Minister - Stipend	20,003.00	
Expenses	1,242.00	
Sundry costs (MPS)	12.00	
Pension costs	1,705.78	22,962.78
Hall Manager- Salary	9,314.90	
Pension	140.94	
Occupational Health Assessment	144.00	9,599.84
Manse costs - Council Tax	2,472.86	
Water	504.00	
Insurance	233.23	
Repairs	56.97	
Boiler servicing and safety check	0.00	3,267.06
Hall & Church Property Costs:		
Rotowash service agreement	238.80	
Gas	2,221.78	
Electricity	2,096.19	
Water	552.71	
Insurance	2,553.95	
Fire ext other eqpt servicing	84.00	
Repairs	86.59	
Equipment purchases	21.23	
Waste Disposal costs	173.40	
Cleaning materials	137.24	8,165.89
Assessment - WRU HQ	1,868.50	
Circuit	280.00	2,148.50
Donations - WRU	350.00	
Other	650.00	1,000.00
Visiting Ministers		200.00
S. School - Teaching books/eqpt	22.77	
Prizes	0.00	22.77
Third Party - Overseas Missions donations	262.00	
Karen Baxter (Wed Fellowship)	100.00	
Harvest - Foodbank (Encompass)	63.50	
Christmas cards, Overseas Missions	40.00	
Allsorts Sponsored Child	120.00	
Funeral fees	353.00	
Gift Aid for Investment Fund	0.00	938.50
Sundry - Hall Registration fee	152.00	
Good News papers/Hope mags	326.20	
Auditor	160.00	
"It's Your Move" books	64.00	
New Church mobile phone	69.99	
Zionworx4 projection software	95.00	
Harvest lunch	56.65	
Pantomime tickets	650.00	
Mothers Day Flowers	30.00	
Easter refreshments	66.48	

Misc Sundry	91.73		
Offering envelopes	88.15		
Copyright Licence	340.89		
Messy Church refreshments	<u>120.94</u>	2,312.03	
Overseas Missionary Fund		1,559.69	
Sale of church costs		4,610.40	
Audio/visual equipment		1,077.58	
Youth Club Fund payments		48.00	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b><u>57,913.04</u></b>	
Excess of income		2,107.43	
Balances Brought Forward:			
Nat West	32,658.93		
Redwood Bank	<u>50,001.00</u>	82,659.93	
Timing Difference in Payments made to HMRC		-19.45	
		<b><u>84,747.91</u></b>	
Balances @ 31st Oct 2022			
Nat West	19,746.91		
Redwood Bank	<u>65,001.00</u>	<b><u>84,747.91</u></b>	
Bank Balances as above	84,747.91		
Unpaid Invoices @ 31st Oct 2022	1,906.00		
Pantomime tickets to be sold	650.00		
Due to HMRC	-215.96		
Due from HMRC (Gift Aid for year)	<u>7,986.50</u>	<b><u>95,074.45</u></b>	
Church Funds	54,278.66		Decrease of £1810.21
Legacies & Memorials Fund	13,133.17		Increase of £4122.42
Hall Extension Fund	22,845.80		Increase of £4145.40
Home Missions Fund	535.69		Increase of £535.69
Bowls Club	500.00		No change
Kitchen Fund	1,367.74		Increase of £1367.74
Youth Club Fund	1,551.60		Increase of £1551.60
Benevolent Fund	<u>861.79</u>	<b><u>95,074.45</u></b>	Increase of £861.79
			<b>Increase of £10774.43</b>



# Rushden Independent Wesleyan Church

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022

### Bank Balances

Nat West Bank	19,746.91	
Redwood Bank	<u>65,001.00</u>	84747.91

Debtors – Unpaid invoices		1,906.00
Pantomime tickets to be sold		650.00
Gift Aid for year due from HMRC		7,986.50

Creditor – Due to HMRC		-215.96
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Total		<u>95,074.45</u>
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General Church Funds	54,278.66	
Legacies & Memorial Fund	13,133.17	
Hall Extension Fund	22,845.80	
Home Missions Fund	535.69	
Bowls Club Funds	500.00	
Kitchen Fund	1,367.74	
Youth Club Fund	1,551.60	
Benevolent Fund	<u>861.79</u>	
		<u>95,074.45</u>

### Other Assets

Church Investment Fund (Accounts shown separately)

### Property

Church & Church Hall – High Street and Queen Street Rushden, Northants

Manse – 11 South Park, Rushden, Northants

### Equipment

Church organ

Electric piano

Loop system

PA system in the church

Portable PA system

Portable & wall-mounted screens

Projectors

Folding tables and chairs

Upholstered chairs

Dishwasher

Cooker

Rotowash floor cleaner

**Independent Examiner's Report  
to the  
Trustees and members of Rushden Independent Wesleyan Church**

This report on the accounts of the Investment Fund for the year ended 31 October 2022, which are set out on the attached pages.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

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*Hannah Rawlings*

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**H R Rawlings**

Denton Tavera Ltd  
61a High Street South  
Rushden  
Northants  
NN10 0RA

10 January 2023

# Investment Fund as at 31st October 2020

## (alternative statement of accounts)

<u>Investments held :</u>	<u>At Cost £</u>	<u>Nominal Value £</u>	<u>Market Value £</u>
Short-term	25686.09	20978.05	22593.69
Medium-term	18420.37	16555.90	17995.15
Long-term	987.36	732.04	832.91
Lilian Freeman Memorial Trust fund	1466.67	1207.77	1249.44
	<u>46560.49</u>	<u>39473.76</u>	<u>42671.19</u>
Cash at Bank	11344.71	11344.71	11344.71
	<b>(A) 57905.20</b>	<b>50818.47</b>	<b>54015.90</b>

### Comprising :

Donations (incl Gift-Aid) - prior years	16034.71	1
this year (Incl Gift-Aid refund)	0.00	
Total	16034.71	
Undistributed interest, dividends & investment gains/losses (incl LF Fund)		
- prior years	42797.98	
this year	-927.49 (B)	
Total	41870.49	
	<u>57905.20 (A)</u>	

### Distribution of interest, dividends and investment gains this year

Interest / dividends received	2027.46
Gains/losses on maturity of investments	-688.42 (C)
Contributions to minister's stipend	-2160.00
Auditor	-65.00
Sunday School expenditure	-41.53
<b>Undistributed this year</b>	<b><u>-927.49 (B)</u></b>

### Investments matured / purchased / sold

<u>Sold</u>	<u>proceeds £</u>	<u>Cost £</u>	<u>Gain/Loss</u>
4% Treasury Stock 2022, L. Freeman Fund	4568.06	5256.48	-688.42
	<u>4568.06</u>	<u>5256.48</u>	<u>-688.42 (C)</u>

### Purchased

(No purchases during 2021/22)

### Allocation of Total Fund:

	<u>Start of Yr 1/11/2021</u>	<u>Donations, Gift- Aid etc received</u>	<u>Investment gain/loss</u>	<u>Interest received</u>	<u>Payments made</u>	<u>End of yr 31/10/2022</u>
General Fund	45699.93	0.00	0.00	1875.72	-2225.00	45350.65
Lilian Freeman Memorial Fund	8699.86	0.00	-688.42	151.74	-41.53	8121.65
Special Purposes Fund	3928.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3928.12
Youth Holiday Fund	504.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	504.78
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58832.69</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-688.42</b>	<b>2027.46</b>	<b>-2266.53</b>	<b>57905.20</b>