

Charity registration number: 1133699

Poynton Methodist Church

Annual Report and Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Poynton Methodist Church

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Poynton Methodist Church

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Rev. Dr. G Edwards, Chair S Bradley, Secretary J Robson, Treasurer C Ding, Steward A Batterton, Steward J Ridgeway, Steward J Turner, Pastoral Secretary R Drinkwater, Finance Committee G Freeman, Safeguarding officer D Holmes, Property M Hawkyard, Worship J Drinkwater S Verghese B Dooley R Ratcliffe Z Dawson D Dippie R Baker
Other Officers	A Price, Circuit Steward
Principal Office	The Civic Hall car park Park Lane Poynton Cheshire SK12 1RB
Charity Registration Number	1133699
Bankers	Co-operative Bank Plc
Independent Examiner	JP Roper McKellens Chartered Accountants 11 Riverview The Embankment Business Park Vale Road, Heaton Mersey Stockport Sk4 3GN

Poynton Methodist Church

Trustees' Report

The trustees present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024.

This was the first year when the Church Family was able to come together and worship, study and socialise in the Church building free from the restrictions and fears of Covid 19. As time went by, more and more of our members and others forming part of that family returned, feeling more relaxed mixing with others without the inhibitions of social distancing and face masks.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The Church has a Mission Statement which states that our Church Family encourages everyone:

- to come to worship God who loves us
- to follow Jesus Christ our Saviour
- to grow in fellowship, joy and love, and
- to go out, share the Good News and serve in the World

The Objects of the Charity:

To provide a place of worship, learning and caring, service, and evangelism in the town of Poynton, in accordance with the general purposes of the Methodist Church.

To maintain a suite of premises suitable for the spiritual, educational and social needs of the congregation and the wider community.

Objectives, strategies and activities

Staffing:

During the year Poynton Methodist Church initially employed two staff on a part time basis.

There is currently a cleaner who works 15 hours per week and a church administrator/secretary who is contracted for 8 hours per week.

The Church relies on an army of volunteers for day-to-day operations. Many of these are highly skilled and knowledgeable. Much of the Church maintenance is carried out by some of those volunteers. If a financial value were to be placed on the time given freely by the many volunteers it would amount to a significant sum.

Provision of Facilities:

Room hire is managed by the Room Bookings Secretary, who also assists the many users of the premises. Room hire provides a significant proportion of the Church's income, as well as providing a venue for many local organisations. These include:

3rd Poynton Guides, 2nd and 7th Poynton Brownies, 2nd Poynton Rainbows, Epiphany music group, Kids Zone (after school and school holiday provision for children), Peak Pony Club, Poynton Male Voice Choir, Sing Zest (adult choir), Poynton Youth Brass band, East Cheshire Eye Society and National Childbirth Society, Bloom Baby, Tiny Talk, Baby Yoga (relaxation class for pregnant women) and the Peak Audax Cycling Club, Vox-X (Church singing group) and the Church Film Club.

The premises are also used by our local Medical Partnership for staff training.

Poynton Methodist Church

Trustees' Report (continued)

Working with Children and Young People:

The area at the back of the church is arranged to provide a space for families with young children to stay together in Church. It is furnished with child sized furniture and sofas with toys, books and musical instruments. Recently, on Sundays when children are present, there is an area at the front of the Church where children's activities take place, to enable those adults engaged with the children to participate in worship. If families attend Church on a Sunday when there is no formal teaching, there is always a volunteer arranged on a rota, to be ready to engage and ensure a welcome to families and children.

Breakfast church has now been running for three years. The idea of an early service is to ensure that church is available for families even on Sundays when children have other activities which may pull them away. Families are able to enjoy a craft, breakfast, Bible story and chat, song and short prayer. Anyone is welcome. There are currently four regular families which is great, but we would love more.

Muddy church has continued on the third Sunday of each month with around 3-4 families attending each time. We have enjoyed being outdoors together, crafting and sharing stories to celebrate St Patrick's day, Easter, Pentecost and our return to school in September.

We are part of the Circuit Methodist Families Together led by our Circuit Family Worker, whose support group has a representative from Poynton Methodist Church. As a Circuit there are regular events for families and children at different churches within the circuit, including a Messy Church one Saturday each month and regular holiday events. Families from Poynton have attended events at other churches and are encouraged to do so. Members from PMC support the team delivering the Circuit events.

As always, we are very grateful to all those who help in our children's work.

Safeguarding

Many people within the church work with, or regularly come into contact with, those who might be considered vulnerable. These groups include children, the elderly and those who have problems and come to church for help, perhaps in a weakened emotional state. The church has stringent Safeguarding policies and training in place to ensure that all those who have contact with the church may be treated with dignity and respect, in a safe and caring environment.

As an extension of safeguarding, anyone who deals with people in an official capacity, or is instrumental in the decision-making processes of the Church, must participate in training by completing an Equality, Diversion and Inclusivity course run by the Methodist Connexion.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Poynton Methodist Church

Trustees' Report (continued)

Achievements and performance

Place in the Community: The church is involved with Christian education, welfare and fellowship for all ages within the Church family and offers a wide variety of programmes and activities centred on the premises. The church stewards and various committees monitor the activities of the groups, which meet both on and off the premises.

Visiting speakers are arranged for special events and services during the year.

The Church supports the Churches Together in Poynton group.

We seek to engage with all non-church-based groups who use our premises, and for those groups using them on a regular basis.

The church members have created a Community Garden in two areas around the Church. There are benches for use by anyone wanting to meet with friends or just take time out to relax.

Membership

The Church membership has reduced during the past year and at the 8th October 2024 stood at 123. During the year four members have died, one has transferred membership to another church and seven have ceased to meet here. Incoming, we have had one new member, three who transferred their membership into Poynton Methodist Church from elsewhere, plus two who have chosen to have their membership reinstated.

Pastoral Oct 2023 – Oct 2024

Importantly, the pastoral care within the church is a joint undertaking between ordained ministry and teams of lay members. As quite frequently happens, the latest year has seen the not-unexpected slight change in the organisation of the team. The overall lay team remains at about 21 in number.

The function of the group is to maintain a link between the church, its members and close friends and others who may no longer be able to attend worship, and to bring to the notice of the minister any who may need ministerial visits. Pastoral team members are expected to attend safeguarding training courses (and/or refresher courses) at appropriate times and intervals to ensure that a high standard of care is being offered. The church has its own safeguarding officer who supervises the relevant training in conjunction with external organisers (ie. at circuit or district level).

Most of the church news – in particular about services and significant events continues to be spread via the website and social media and also displayed within the church premises. We are fortunate to be able to reach a good level of distribution in this way; and there still remains a small group who receive hand deliveries.

Opportunities for Worship and study:

The regular patterns of worship have been continued. the main act of worship taking place on Sunday at 10.30am. There is a crèche for very young children, which enables parents to participate in the service knowing that their children are being well cared for. Tea/coffee are served after the Service and a time of fellowship enjoyed.

Also once a month an afternoon Service is offered at 2.30pm. This provides worship for those who find an afternoon service easier to attend. This takes the form of a short traditional service followed by tea and cake and a time of fellowship.

Poynton Methodist Church

Trustees' Report (continued)

On one Sunday a month we hold Breakfast Church aimed at families at 9.00am and a Muddy Church, again aimed at families where environmental issues are considered and craft activities offered.

We hold a monthly mid-week service at 12 noon on Wednesdays, followed by lunch. This is a more informal style of worship, led by local preachers. Prayer groups and study groups continue to meet. There is a new prayer group which meets on Tuesday evenings. This group is currently concentrating on a revival scheme for the life and growth of the church.

There is a regular coffee morning every Wednesday, giving the members the chance to socialise.

The online presence for worship and study has continued.

Financial review

The Charity recorded a profit of £20831 on its unrestricted funds for the year and a loss for the year of £174 on its restricted funds and we are pleased to report that this is an improvement over the previous few years. This is due in part to a generous bequest and in part to an increase in room bookings, although there continues to be significant financial pressures, notably the ongoing energy costs.

Unrestricted funds have increased to £161047.

Restricted Funds - Restricted reserves amounted to £9817, specifically to assist with the Flower Fund (£259) and bequests for specific purposes (£9558). The Community Garden Project restricted reserve fund has now been fully utilised and the balance of expenditure and ongoing maintenance have been (and will continue to be) funded by the Church.

Policy on reserves

It is the policy of the church to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the church, at a level which equates to at least six months unrestricted expenditure in order to provide sufficient funds to cover management, administration and support costs in the immediate future. We therefore aim to have no less than £52,000 in reserves at any time. The reserves policy is based on Methodist guidelines, and is reviewed from time to time.

Principal funding sources

Donations from the congregation, room hire fees and bequests.

Investment policy and objectives

The Charity invests surplus funds with the Methodist Church investment scheme

Poynton Methodist Church

Trustees' Report (continued)

Plans for future periods

Plans for future periods – Managing Change

2024/2025 is a challenging year for all the Churches in the Macclesfield Circuit. In the summer of 2024, the minister with responsibility for Poynton, along with the churches in Prestbury and Broken Cross, announced that she was taking early retirement from the ministry, effective from the 31st August 2024. At the same time, an announcement was made that the Circuit Superintendent, who also has pastoral responsibility for the churches at Macclesfield, and the rural churches at Gawsorth and Langley, had accepted an academic appointment at Cliff College, Derbyshire.

In order that the Macclesfield Circuit would not be left totally bereft of presbyterial support, he generously offered to spend half his time at Cliff College, and the other half continuing his role as Circuit Superintendent.

This has caused some changes to the patterns of worship at all the churches in the circuit, with more services being taken by local preachers and on one Sunday each month all the churches worshipping together either at Poynton or Macclesfield.

Some Sundays have been designated on the circuit plan as "Own Arrangements." These services are led by members of the congregation, supported by local preachers and musicians. They often bring a different perspective to the worship and life of the Church which has been well received.

We look to the future with hope for growth, and it was a joy to learn recently that there will be two new full-time ministers joining the circuit from 1st September 2025. One will be based in Poynton, but will also have responsibility for Prestbury and Broken Cross.

Our Future Story

One of the aims stated in our Mission Statement is to "Go out, share the Good News, and serve in the world." It is acknowledged that evangelism is an integral part of our calling. Another part is the deepening of our own faith and dedication to follow and serve Christ.

As numbers decline in all the established churches, it is seen as vital that we do not only pay lip service to our Mission Statement, but also that we should have a mission plan, to effectively share the Good News which Jesus brought with those outside the Church. Before this can be achieved, we need to look inwards and see whether our faith and trust in God is sufficiently deep to share it with others.

We believe that we cannot undertake this mission in our own strength. Much prayer and inspired planning is required, and this planning is initially being led by our Tuesday evening prayer group. The Methodist Church Connexional mission website has much helpful material and tools with which churches can work and plan for mission.

Innovative ideas are required to enable us to engage with those not used to our Christian traditions and forms of worship. We are only at the start of that journey. It may be a long one, but the Trustees believe that unless we embark on the journey, then we are only planning for "palliative care" for our Church.

Poynton Methodist Church

Trustees' Report (continued)

Update

In January 2024, the above-mentioned prayer group decided, after in-depth discussion, that we should approach our worshippers, both members and non-members, with our own questionnaire designed to obtain their views of what was good and not-so-good about our Church, specifically asking what they thought we should do about mission. This was enthusiastically completed by over 70 worshippers and covered 4 categories of church life - worship, evangelism, learning and caring and lastly, service. Collating the responses led to the formation of a Strategic Plan (effectively a mission plan). It was sub-divided into 3 Tactical Plans, each spanning approximately 6-8 months over a 2 year time period. These Tactical Plans contain specific actions, with the now completed 1st plan covering mainly practical, administrative actions. The 2nd plan contains a mix of further administrative actions, and actions to find ways of bringing our Church family together in prayer, bible study and pastoral care. The 3rd plan will cover mainly outreach.

Finally, it was decided right from the start, that if just one person is brought into God's Kingdom during this mission process, then we would take that as a mark of 'success', but at the very least, as we go through this process, the deepening of our faith will bring much joy to all involved.

Eco Church Group

The Eco Church Group is comprised of 7 members of the congregation and the minister, which met twice in 2024.

Eco Church Awards.

We reached bronze level in late 2022 and received our silver award on 5th May 2023. We are currently quite close to the gold level.

Activities

Several actions have been taken over 2024:

- Talk by Melanie Baker during morning worship on Sunday 18th February when she talked about her PhD, studying the introduction of Beavers at Hatchmere by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust.
- Butterfly Cloud mobile installation at church during Creationtide (September 1st to October 4th) and then at Poynton Baptist Church (8th - 18th November)
- Annual Climate Service on 8th September 2024 which was also a Circuit Service.
- Fund-raising concert with Epiphany on 29th September. Two performances raised a total of £453.30 divided equally between our Eco Church Charities – Ocean Clean Up, Christian Aid and Cheshire Wildlife Trust.
- Continuing inclusion of regular eco-tips in the Newsletter and on slides before worship.
- Richard Baker has led eco-themed worship at Poynton, Broken Cross, Prestbury and Marple Ridge and led workshops for Hope in North East Cheshire's Seasons of Creation programme and at Gawsforth Methodist Church.

Future Plans

The group have reviewed our progress towards a gold award and, whilst challenging, think this could be achievable by summer of 2025. The main area we need to address is Community and Global Engagement where a particular issue is that there does not appear to be much green activity within Poynton with which to engage. We are thus proposing a twin track approach. In early 2025 we will be focussing on several small initiatives that can be achieved internally. Later in 2025, we would like to try and stimulate and engage with some green activities within the local community. We hope this will result in a large Eco Fair to be held in the late spring or early summer building on the success of the Eco Festival in 2023.

Poynton Methodist Church

Trustees' Report (continued)

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The Methodist Church is constituted under the Methodist Church Act 1976. The local church is part of the national Methodist Church. The local church's property is held on the Model Trusts by the Custodian Trustee, The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes. Management of that property, and responsibility for the local church's spiritual financial affairs, is delegated to the local Church Council to act as Managing Trustees.

Poynton Methodist Church was granted charitable status on 30 December 2008 under Charity Number 1133699, and registered on 22 January 2010.

The Trustees are aware that these are challenging times for churches of most denominations. We live in a secular society where people live busy lives, and there is little interest in matters of faith. However, the Trustees believe that Poynton Methodist Church is well equipped both financially and spiritually to meet that challenge.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Some members are appointed to Church Council by virtue of the office they hold within the life of the church. The Church Council is responsible for making such appointments. The Church Stewards and representatives of the congregation are appointed at the Annual Church Meeting held in the summer each year.

Induction and training of trustees

Trustees are periodically reminded of their legal obligations under charity law.

Organisational structure

The Church Council as Managing Trustees administer the Charity. They meet at least twice a year. There is a Finance Committee which has delegated powers to deal with finance and audit, plus other sub-committees which meet regularly. A proportion of the Trustees are appointed each year by those attending the Annual Church Meeting, held usually in July, and at which all members are entitled to attend and vote. According to the rules and regulations of the Methodist Church such Trustees normally serve for a period not exceeding 6 years. However, there are exceptions where posts would otherwise remain unfilled.

Poynton Methodist Church

Trustees' Report (continued)

Major risks and management of those risks

The Church Council has a range of policies, which are updated regularly, covering the following areas:
Safeguarding, and working with children and vulnerable adults.

Health & Safety

Financial & Office systems

Hazards - fire etc.

These policies are reviewed by the Trustees on a regular basis.

Financial instruments

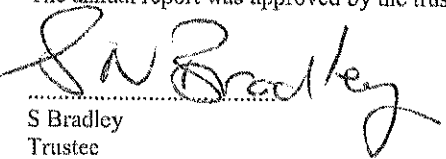
Objectives and policies

The charity's activities expose it to a number of financial risks including credit risk, cash flow risk and liquidity risk. The use of financial derivatives is governed by the charity's policies approved by the board of trustees, which provide written principles on the use of financial derivatives to manage these risks. The charity does not use derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Credit risk

The charity's principal financial assets are bank balances and cash, trade and other receivables, and investments. The charity's credit risk is primarily attributable to its trade receivables. The amounts presented in the balance sheet are net of allowances for doubtful receivables. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 11 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



S Bradley
Trustee

Poynton Methodist Church

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.


The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 11 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
S Bradley
Trustee

Poynton Methodist Church

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Poynton Methodist Church

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Poynton Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of Poynton Methodist Church you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

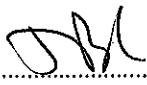
I report in respect of my examination of the Poynton Methodist Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Poynton Methodist Church as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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


.....
Paul Roper
Independent Examiner
McKellens
11 Riverview
The Embankment Business Park
Vale Road, Heaton Mersey
Stockport
Sk4 3GN

Date: 19/3/25

Poynton Methodist Church

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

2024	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies		63,133	95	-	63,228	57,854
Other trading activities		5,057	-	-	5,057	2,182
Investment income	4	6,117	-	-	6,117	3,739
Other income		<u>49,640</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>49,640</u>	<u>44,538</u>
Total Income		<u>123,947</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>124,042</u>	<u>108,313</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		(79,635)	(268)	-	(79,903)	(84,856)
Other expenditure	8	<u>(23,479)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(23,479)</u>	<u>(24,911)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(103,114)</u>	<u>(268)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(103,382)</u>	<u>(109,767)</u>
Net movement in funds		20,833	(173)	-	20,660	(1,454)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		<u>140,212</u>	<u>9,991</u>	<u>1,327</u>	<u>151,530</u>	<u>152,987</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u><u>161,045</u></u>	<u><u>9,818</u></u>	<u><u>1,327</u></u>	<u><u>172,190</u></u>	<u><u>151,533</u></u>

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Poynton Methodist Church

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

2023	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies		57,504	350	-	57,854	66,457
Other trading activities		2,182	-	-	2,182	1,283
Investment income	4	3,739	-	-	3,739	422
Other income		<u>44,538</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44,538</u>	<u>36,739</u>
Total Income		<u>107,963</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>108,313</u>	<u>104,901</u>
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		(81,978)	(2,878)	-	(84,856)	(87,452)
Other expenditure	8	<u>(24,911)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(24,911)</u>	<u>(18,319)</u>
Total Expenditure		<u>(106,889)</u>	<u>(2,878)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(109,767)</u>	<u>(105,771)</u>
Net movement in funds		1,074	(2,528)	-	(1,454)	(870)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		<u>139,139</u>	<u>12,521</u>	<u>1,327</u>	<u>152,987</u>	<u>153,858</u>
Total funds carried forward	14	<u>140,213</u>	<u>9,993</u>	<u>1,327</u>	<u>151,533</u>	<u>152,988</u>

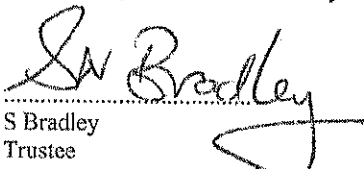
All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.


The notes on pages 15 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Poynton Methodist Church
(Registration number: 1133699)
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets			
Debtors	10	19,366	17,975
Investments	11	10,883	10,883
Cash at bank and in hand	12	<u>142,845</u>	<u>123,743</u>
		173,094	152,601
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(904)</u>	<u>(1,068)</u>
Net assets		<u>172,190</u>	<u>151,533</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Endowment		1,327	1,327
Restricted		9,818	9,993
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted		<u>161,045</u>	<u>140,213</u>
Total funds	14	<u>172,190</u>	<u>151,533</u>

The financial statements on pages 12 to 21 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 11 March 2025 and signed on their behalf by:


 S Bradley
 Trustee


 J Robson
 Trustee

Poynton Methodist Church

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Poynton Methodist Church meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Poynton Methodist Church

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Current asset investments

Current asset investments are included at the lower of cost and net realisable value / market value.

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for services performed and are recognised at the transaction price.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

The church has a permanent endowment fund which it is entitled to spend the income arising but not to reduce the capital amount held.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and legacies;				
Donations from individuals	43,804	95	43,899	47,371
Legacies	9,000	-	9,000	-
Gift aid reclaimed	10,329	-	10,329	10,483
	<u>63,133</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>63,228</u>	<u>57,854</u>

Poynton Methodist Church

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

3 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2024	2023
		£	£
Sales of goods and services	2,140	2,140	271
Fundraising	2,917	2,917	1,911
	<u>5,057</u>	<u>5,057</u>	<u>2,182</u>

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2024	2023
		£	£
Bank Interest	5,562	5,562	3,411
TMCP Funds interest	555	555	328
	<u>6,117</u>	<u>6,117</u>	<u>3,739</u>

5 Other income

	Unrestricted		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2024	2023
		£	£
Fees	2,780	2,780	1,772
Rental income	41,481	41,481	37,336
Feed in tariff	5,379	5,379	5,430
	<u>49,640</u>	<u>49,640</u>	<u>44,538</u>

Poynton Methodist Church

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted		Total	Total
		General	Restricted	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
Payments to Circuit		47,208	-	47,208	56,250
Employment costs		16,707	-	16,707	15,027
Pension costs		-	-	-	841
Materials		798	268	1,066	955
Youth Work		1,021	-	1,021	530
Music		424	-	424	498
Outreach & Ministry		936	-	936	1,751
PA & Equipment		7,097	-	7,097	2,921
Telephone		533	-	533	676
Charitable Donations		3,861	-	3,861	4,368
Credit card charges		23	-	23	18
Credit card charges		19	-	19	17
CTIP		-	-	-	50
Governance costs	7	1,008	-	1,008	954
		<u>79,635</u>	<u>268</u>	<u>79,903</u>	<u>84,856</u>

7 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Independent examiner fees			
Examination of the financial statements	1,008	1,008	954
	<u>1,008</u>	<u>1,008</u>	<u>954</u>

Poynton Methodist Church

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

8 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted		
	General	Total	Total
	£	2024	2023
		£	£
Sundry expenses	492	492	389
Administration of investments	31	31	31
Repairs and maintenance	6,804	6,804	9,274
Computer software and maintenance costs	71	71	208
Light, heat and power	10,468	10,468	7,332
Insurance	2,602	2,602	2,575
Printing, postage and stationery	377	377	344
Cleaning	1,173	1,173	1,045
Gardening	1,361	1,361	3,597
Legal and professional fees	100	100	116
	<u>23,479</u>	<u>23,479</u>	<u>24,911</u>

9 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

10 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments	12,156	11,802
Other debtors	7,210	6,173
	<u>19,366</u>	<u>17,975</u>

11 Current asset investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash deposits	<u>10,883</u>	<u>10,883</u>

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash on hand	216	126
Cash at bank	15,671	23,420
Short-term deposits	126,958	100,197
	<u>142,845</u>	<u>123,743</u>

Poynton Methodist Church

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other taxation and social security	204	114
Other creditors	324	557
Pension scheme creditor	276	235
Accruals	100	162
	<u>904</u>	<u>1,068</u>

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Unrestricted					
<i>General funds</i>					
General Fund	120,978	120,884	(102,133)	(3,653)	136,076
Parent & Toddler group	829	2,283	(591)	(976)	1,545
Ladies Fellowship	320	471	(195)	(371)	225
VOX Singing Group	-	309	(195)	-	114
Total General Funds	<u>122,127</u>	<u>123,947</u>	<u>(103,114)</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>137,960</u>
<i>Designated funds</i>					
Property Fund	18,085	-	-	5,000	23,085
Total Designated Funds	<u>18,085</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>23,085</u>
Total unrestricted	<u>140,212</u>	<u>123,947</u>	<u>(103,114)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>161,045</u>
Restricted Funds					
Bequests	9,558	-	-	-	9,558
Flower Fund	433	95	(268)	-	260
Restricted	<u>9,991</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>(268)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,818</u>
Endowment					
Permanent	1,327	-	-	-	1,327
Total funds	<u>151,530</u>	<u>124,042</u>	<u>(103,382)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>172,190</u>

Poynton Methodist Church

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Unrestricted					
<i>General funds</i>					
General Fund	124,628	105,977	(105,975)	(3,810)	120,820
Parent & Toddler group	851	1,614	(591)	(887)	987
Ladies Fellowship	575	372	(323)	(303)	321
Total General Funds	<u>126,054</u>	<u>107,963</u>	<u>(106,889)</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>122,128</u>
<i>Designated funds</i>					
Property Fund	13,085	-	-	5,000	18,085
Total Designated Funds	<u>13,085</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>18,085</u>
Total unrestricted	<u>139,139</u>	<u>107,963</u>	<u>(106,889)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>140,213</u>
Restricted Funds					
Bequests	9,558	-	-	-	9,558
Flower Fund	451	252	(268)	-	435
Community Garden Project	-	98	(2,610)	-	(2,512)
Restricted	<u>10,009</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>(2,878)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,481</u>
Endowment					
Permanent	1,327	-	-	-	1,327
Total funds	<u>150,475</u>	<u>108,313</u>	<u>(109,767)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>149,021</u>

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds
	General £	Designated £	Permanent £	at 31 August 2023 £
Current assets	138,864	23,085	1,327	173,094
Current liabilities	(904)	-	-	(904)
Total net assets	<u>137,960</u>	<u>23,085</u>	<u>1,327</u>	<u>172,190</u>

16 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

17 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.