

The Methodist Church

Finchley Methodist Church

Circuit Number 35/35

Registered Charity Number 1133907

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 August 2021**

TRUSTEES 2020-21

M	Wellings	Chair [1]	M	Sparks [2]
D	Newton	Minister	T	Gossett
		[3]		
S	Sanders	Minister	L	Thangaraj
		[3]		
B	Twumasi	Minister	H	Yong
		[3]		
W	Turl	Ct Steward	A	Varghese
H	Lynch	Steward		
	Shyllon			
H	Forde	Treasurer		
D	Lynch	Steward		
	Shyllon			
L	Lewis	Steward		
R	Vijeratnam	Steward		
E	Ogunyemi	Steward		
E	French			
S	Vijeratnam			
D	Crawford			
M	Campbell			

[1] Chair and Superintendent Minister.

[2] Died January 2021.

[3] Ministers appointed to the Circuit and ex officio trustees.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

David Evans
38 Galley Lane,
Arkley,
Herts.,
EN5 4AJ.

BANKERS

HSBC plc
333 Vauxhall Bridge Road
London
SW1V 1EJ

Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church
9 Bonhill Street
London
EC2A 4PE

INVESTMENT BANKERS

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
Central Buildings
Oldham Street
Manchester, M1 1JQ

CHURCH OFFICE

227 Ballards Lane, Finchley, London, N3 1NB

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021. These have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Finchley Methodist Church is a constituent Society of the Barnet and Queensbury Methodist Circuit, based in the London Borough of Barnet.

The activities of the Church are governed by *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church* which incorporates the Methodist Church Act 1976. The governing body is the Church Council, whose members are the ministers (presbyters and deacons) appointed to the Circuit by the Methodist Conference, officers and representatives elected annually by the General Church Meeting, a Circuit Steward, and co-opted members. The Superintendent Minister chairs the Church Council.

The Church Council meets a minimum of twice a year and agrees on the broad strategy and areas of activity for the Church, including consideration of grant making, investment, reserves and risk management policies and performance. The more detailed management of the Church is entrusted to the Church Stewards, elected annually by the General Church Meeting, and responsible with the Minister in pastoral charge for the day-to-day life and work of the Church.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal objective of the Church is 'the advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of the Methodist Church' (Section 4a Methodist Church Act 1976). This is done for as many people as possible within the geographical area the Church serves. In addition, the Methodist Church Act allows for the advancement of other charitable purposes 'for the time being' of any subsidiary unit of the Methodist Church. (Sections 4b – 4d Methodist Church Act 1976)

Based on the above objectives, with due consideration of the Charities Commission guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on the charities for the advancement of religion, the Church has the following aims:

- The provision of Christian worship, spiritual development and pastoral care both to the members of the Church and to the wider community in which it is located;
- To raise funds so as to make grants to advance the Christian Faith, or for other charitable purposes as for the time being the Church Council deems appropriate, both locally, nationally and internationally;
- To support the advancement of the Christian Faith through ecumenical liaison with other Christian groups.

The majority of the aims fall within the charitable activity 'mission and ministry' (i.e., the overall advancement of the Christian Faith) with a small amount of grant funding being for other charitable purposes.

In support of these aims The Methodist Church owns property in the form of church premises, and manses for staff accommodation. The Custodian Trustees, who hold legal title to these properties are: The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JQ. The Managing Trustees for church premises are the Church Council members of the local Society.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The Church Council has established a reserves policy that ensures that Finchley Methodist Church can continue to support its commitments in the event of a downturn in the Church's income and can support its more immediate obligations in the event of a delay in the receipt of committed funding. The policy also addresses the trustees' responsibility for the maintenance of extensive premises, most of which are more than one hundred years old.

Investment Policy

In common with other Methodist Circuits and Churches, funds not required for immediate use are deposited with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ['CFB']. This produces a good level of return while maintaining minimal risk and a high degree of liquidity.

Overview of Income and Expenditure

The Church's income is provided by contributions from members of the congregation, the letting of premises to external organisations and rental of 1 and 3 Essex Park (four flats). In 2021 the total income, including investment income was £90,426 (2020 £127,814). Total expenditure for the year was £166,033 (2020 £133,596).

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Church Council regularly reviews and assesses the risks that affect the wellbeing of the Church and its finances. Action is taken to mitigate risks where appropriate. The main financial risks identified are as follows:

- Loss of income from property lettings
- Unexpected property repairs to churches resulting in an inability to pay circuit assessment

The Church Council considers that the current level of reserves is sufficient to meet any unplanned expenditure in the event of the above and when planning the budget for future years will consider the need to include an element to build up the reserves.

TRUSTEES

The members of the Church Council are appointed in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church. The trustees on page 2 are those who served during the reporting year or were serving at the date the balance sheet was signed.

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the Church, specifically the leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to all new Church Council members as induction to their role as trustees.

The Trustees are also committed to ensuring that the Connexional Safeguarding Policy is implemented in accordance with government legislation, to provide a safe environment for young people and vulnerable adults,

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE ACCOUNTS

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Finchley Methodist Church and of the results for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- 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;

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Circuit will continue to function; and
- comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice on accounting and reporting by charities issued in 2015.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Church. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the above requirements and responsibilities.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PERFORMANCE AND FUTURE PLANS

Worship and prayer

Our emphasis is on providing services that will enable a wide section of the community to engage in worship. During the pandemic online worship and the circulation of printed 'Worship at Home' resources have helped people to stay connected even while buildings have been closed.

Community engagement and pastoral care

Our premises provide a significant community resource which is used by a wide range of groups such as Girl Guides, dance classes, health and fitness groups, youth and adult education groups, and learning disability support services.

We support local food banks, asylum seeker and refugee support groups and Homeless Action in Barnet. We have established links with other faith groups and belong to the Barnet Multi Faith Forum.

Ecumenical links

We have strong ecumenical links through Churches Together in Finchley.

Church Policies

The Church Council reviews its SAFEGUARDING and GDPR Policies each year, and these items are on each Church Council agenda for reporting and updating.

Mission Plan and Circuit Renewal

A comprehensive review of the Circuit, including property, fellowship, finances, worship, mission, ecumenical links etc. was completed in spring 2019. Finchley Methodist Church engaged fully in this process.

COVID 19

Since March 2019 COVID 19 has severely impacted the activities of the Church. It meant that for a significant part of the year the premises had to be closed for all activities including worship and prayer. Sunday services moved online and printed worship material was sent out by post for those who could not access online resources.

COVID 19 led to a complete cessation of all lettings on church premises, resulting in a substantial loss of income. In addition, rents for the Essex Park flats were reviewed, and in some cases reduced, to support tenants suffering income loss due to COVID 19. The Church has planned for these challenges to continue into 2021-22.

Finchley Methodist Church Trustees' Report & Accounts 2020-21

Receipts and Payments Account	2021	2020
Section A - Receipts		
Offerings and Tax Recovered	20,455	36,959
Bank and CFB Interest	571	3,260
Lettings	16,166	23,807
Rental Income	53,015	52,971
Other Receipts	219	10,818
Total Receipts	90,426	127,814
Section B - Payments		
Circuit Assessment	42,700	42,100
Donations	1,360	775
Repairs and Maintenance	63,880	21,115
Utilities	10,973	11,143
Salaries	13,027	14,309
Other Payments	34,093	44,154
Total Payments	166,033	133,596
Net Payments	(75,607)	(5,781)

Section C - Net Funds	2021	2020
Total Funds brought forward	501,478	507,259
Net Payments	(75,607)	(5,781)
Total Funds Carried forward	425,871	501,478

Section D - Money Raised and Passed on	2021	2020
Offerings/Gifts received for other organisations	1,360	512
Offerings/Gifts passed to external organisations	1,360	512
Balance Still to be Paid	0	0

Section F - Statement of Assets & Liabilities	2021	2020
Cash in Hand		
Bank Current Account	28,571	92,049
Bank Deposit Account	0	0
Central Finance Board	281,549	293,836
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	115,752	115,594
Other Funds	0	0
Total Funds	425,871	501,478

Finchley Methodist Church Trustees' Report & Accounts 2020-21

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021 that are set out below.

Responsibilities and basis of opinion

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (The Act).

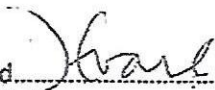
I report in respect of my examination of the Trustees accounts carried out under Section 145 of The Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given to me by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of The Act.

Independent Examiners Statement

I have completed my examination and confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination, that give cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by Section 130 of The Act.
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed 

Name: David Evans

Address: 38 Galley Lane, Arkley, Herts, EN5 4AJ

Date: 14th July 2022

Section G - Other Assets and Liabilities	2021	2020
Land and Buildings		
Other Assets	3,993,785	3,993,785
Loans (Amounts Outstanding at Year End)	0	0
Other Liabilities	0	0
Total Funds	3,993,785	3,993,785

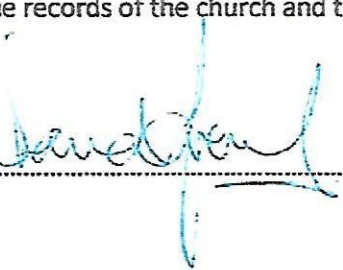
Finchley Methodist Church Trustees' Report & Accounts 2020-21

Name of Church: Finchley Methodist Church

Charity Number: 1133907

Declarations and Scrutiny

I can confirm that these receipts and payments based accounts for the year to 31st 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: 14th July 2022

Name: David French

Address: 39 Fernwood Crescent, Whetstone, London, N20 0RP

Presentation to the Trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st August 2021 were presented to the meeting of the Trustees held on 29/6/2022

Signature of the Chair of Meeting: 

Name of Chair of Meeting: Martin Wellings