



The Methodist Church
Finchley Methodist Church

Circuit Number 35/35

Registered Charity Number 1133907

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31 August 2022

TRUSTEES

Rev Martin Welling Chair
Barbara Heatherington
Brian Coleman
Dorothy Moir
Henry Forde
Hannah Lynch Shyllon
Annu Varghese
Dr Latha Thangari
Dr Sarada Vijeratnam
Tony Gossett
Elizabeth Ogunyemi
Dorothy Crawford
Mary Campbell
Debbie Lynch-Shyllon
Lindi Lewis
David French
Shaun Sanders
Elaine French
Ben Tsumasi

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

REGISTERED CHURCH OFFICE

Finchley Methodist Church
227 Ballards Lane
Finchley
London
N3 1NB

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022.

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

Overview of Income and Expenditure

Following a period of lower letting income during the pandemic period, combined with significant expenditure on repairs and maintenance, the charity returned to surplus in 2021/22.

Utilities expenditure did not rise as much as anticipated, which was partly due to the government support to charities.

Overall, following the pandemic, it was a solid year during which total assets rose by about 5%.

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.

The Trustees have set a policy that reserves must not fall below six months operating costs. At 31st August 2022 the Trustees had no concerns about this as the operating position had returned to surplus following the Covid-19 pandemic.

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 minimal level of return while maintaining minimal risk and a high degree of liquidity.

This is reviewed annually.

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.

**Finchley Methodist Church
Independent Examiners Report
2021-22**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2022 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 14S 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(3)(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 of:

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



David Evans

38 Galley Lane
Arkley
Herts
EN5 4AJ

14th June 2023

Declarations and Scrutiny

I can confirm that these receipts and payments based accounts for the year to 31st 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: 28th June 2023

David French

Presentation to the Trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were presented to the meeting of the Trustees held on 4th December 2022



Signature of the Chair of Meeting

28th June 2023

Martin Wellings

Profit & Loss for Period Ending 31st August 2022

	Year Ended 31st Aug 22	Year Ended 31st Aug 21
Income	24,109	19,095
Donations	18,944	0
Gift Aid	1,391	571
Interest Receivable	41,772	16,166
Lettings - Church Facilities	53,800	53,015
Rental Income	0	219
Other Income	140,016	89,066
Total Income		
Less Operating Expenses	12,944	13,027
Salaries & Payroll Expenses	43,600	42,700
Circuit Charge	800	800
Accountancy Fees	93	76
Bank Charges	2,485	2,485
Bookkeeping Fees	16,031	63,880
Repairs & Maintenance	5,848	4,800
Cleaning Contractor Fees	7,194	7,342
Estate Agent's Fees	4,701	4,500
Insurance Expense	3,109	2,862
IT Support and Telephone	7,289	10,928
Other Church Expenses	300	300
Payroll	12,001	10,973
Utilities- Gas, Water Electricity	116,396	164,673
Total Operating Expenses		
Net Profit	23,621	(75,607)

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2022

	31st Aug 2022	31st Aug 2021
Bank		
Current Accounts		
Deposit Accounts	93,687	33,183
Total Bank Balances	398,691	397,300
	492,378	430,483
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	666	0
Total Current Assets	666	0
Total Assets	493,044	430,483
Current Liabilities		
Accrued Expenditure		
Payroll	41,562	2,216
Paye and NI - Due	1,074	1,848
Pension Payable	789	605
Total Current Liabilities	128	(55)
	43,553	4,613
Total Liabilities	43,553	4,613
Total Net Assets	449,491	425,870
Funds Analysis		
Unrestricted Funds		
Restricted Funds - Benevolence Fund	447,013	423,392
Total Equity	2,478	2,478
	449,491	425,870
Movement in Funds	23,621	