

**Sherwood Methodist Church**  
(Registered charity, number 1133934)  
**Financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

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# **Sherwood Methodist Church**

## **Trustees' annual report**

### **for the year ended 31 August 2022**

**Full name** Sherwood Methodist Church

**Registered charity number** 1133934

**Principal address**

Sherwood Methodist Church, Devon Drive, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 2EN

**Trustees**

Rev. Richard Byass, from 01/10/22

Brian Shaw, Treasurer, from 08/11/22

Paul Lewis, Secretary

Marguerite Carter

Robert Chandler

Julie Compton

Richard Cooper

Jane Edwards

Jane Lewis

Alice McGregor

Stephen Paling

Robert Rattigan

David Slinger

Gregory White

Josephine Williams

Susan Cooper, from 29/09/21

Anthony Farr, from 29/09/21

Paul Osborne, from 29/09/21

Jennifer Turner, from 29/09/21

Maurice Turner, from 29/09/21

Jane Whiting, from 29/09/21

Thomas Boakye, until 29/09/21

Anthony Brunt, until 29/09/21

Brenda Nix, until 29/09/21

John Saxton, until 29/09/21

Colin Wignall, until 29/09/21

Rachel Tavener, until 24/07/22

Katherine Thomas, until 24/07/22

Rev. John Wiseman, until 01/10/22

Robert Thomas, until 08/11/22

**Independent examiner**

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

**Governance and management**

The charity is operated under the rules of its Deed of Union (1932) and The Methodist Church Act (1976).

Some trustees are appointed by being approved into specific positions of office by either the General Church Meeting or the Church Council; other trustees are elected from the church membership at the General Church Meeting.

**Objectives and activities**

The purposes of the Methodist Church are the advancement of:

- The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist church;
- Any charitable purpose for the time being of any connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist church;
- Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist church;
- Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary to the Methodist church.



## **Sherwood Methodist Church**

### **Public benefit statement**

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

### **Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit**

As one of the largest Christian faith congregations within the community of Sherwood, SMC provides the major focus in the local community for the spiritual needs and development of local people.

- By actively promoting values of inclusiveness and tolerance, SMC encourages the enhancement of integration within the local community and the minimisation of conflict;
  - By making its building available at modest cost to the wider public and local groups, SMC enables community groups to function and flourish and provides a centre for community activities;
  - By its support for people in need, such as through the Food Bank and the Nourish Community food program, it helps reduce the impact of poverty in the neighbourhood;
  - We offer a wide variety of acts of public worship. These include, traditional, contemporary, reflective, All Age, communion services and worship associated with our Messy Church at various times during the week, with the main 10.30am worship attracting a congregation of approximately 50-60 people. This is compared to an average of 85 before the pandemic;
  - Pre-pandemic, more than 12 different groups for children and young people met regularly (almost all weekly) at the church, providing for their spiritual and developmental needs. Whilst the uniformed organisations have restarted, together with our church run groups (albeit at reduced numbers), many of our former bookings from user groups offering services for local children have not returned;
  - Events were organised to focus on specific needs and charities, operating locally or world-wide, and money raised to support their work;
  - Pre-pandemic, more than 45 groups were hosted at the church providing for a wide variety of local needs, e.g. Sharing Sherwood, guide dog trainers, healthy eating group, ME support group, Ghanaian Fellowship, various choirs, several health-based initiatives, an after-school education program, craft group, knit and natter (making prayer shawls). A large percentage of these have returned together with some new booking from user groups;
  - The church premises are made available for the local community to hire at modest rates for social gatherings, with children's birthday parties being the most popular;
  - As a Christian body we encourage and embrace diversity. This is demonstrated by the wide range of our community in terms of age (1yr-100yrs), physical ability and ethnic background (Ghanaian Fellowship) who regularly attend activities and worship at our church;
- The church relies on and receives tremendous levels of voluntary support from members and friends so that its ministry and service to the community can be delivered at the level that it is;



## **Sherwood Methodist Church**

- A number of church members are actively involved in the meetings and work of Nottingham Citizens, a multi-faith and multi-agency group that campaigns on subjects and issues of social justice on behalf of the residents of Nottingham;
- Through the provision of training to appropriate volunteers and staff, the church is able to maintain its high level of commitment to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

### **Summary of the main achievements during the period**

Like all churches our activities during the past 12 months have continued to be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Although our church buildings have reopened for worship and use by community groups, this has been a gradual process with people still understandably hesitant about returning for a variety of reasons.

The church has played a central role in providing paper worship material not just for our own members but also across the circuit. This has included 350 printed acts of worship each week that have been delivered or posted to our members. These acts of worship have also been available on our circuit website as well as being distributed by our extensive email links. This written worship material is still being provided but only to those who are housebound and unable to access worship services in person.

Zoom worship that had been used extensively to allow people to worship and enjoy fellowship together in a virtual space has now been stopped in an attempt to encourage people to return to worship in person. This online medium is still used by at least one house group that has found it easier to continue to meet in this way.

Due to a decreased number of active local preachers available post-pandemic, the church has seen an increased number of local arrangements taking place. This has helped to broaden the scope of worship styles available, empowered members of the congregation to use their gifts and talents, and resulted in one of our congregation members asking for a note to preach, the first steps in becoming an accredited local preacher within the Methodist Church.

Our pre-pandemic series of 10 weekly house groups has struggled to restart again. This provided not just a source of people being able to share faith and fellowship but also provided an invaluable pastoral link within our church. As a result of realising that this was no longer a viable way to assist with our pastoral care, we have revised the way in which this is now carried out and a new pastoral care system has just been launched.

A large amount of work has been undertaken to ensure that the church complies with all the regulations regarding data protection and safeguarding. This is a continuing process.

Our Junior Church/Messy Church team have continued to work tirelessly to provide a safe space in which our children/teenagers could meet to continue their faith journey and also to maintain friendship links. Numbers are much less than pre pandemic levels but there are signs of new growth appearing.



## **Sherwood Methodist Church**

We have continued to be a driving force in providing worship materials specific to Advent and Lent across the circuit which have been very well received.

The new Mission plan for the church, originating out of an extended house group that met on Zoom throughout the pandemic, was launched and continued to be developed and implemented. This has been based in part on the calling of the Methodist Church and also the Methodist Way of Life.

Our church continues to act as a drop-off point for collections for our local food bank. This has helped to maintain our link with the local community and also to assist those struggling with food poverty. Together with several other local churches members of our community set up and ran a food initiative called Nourish which provided freshly cooked meals to those in the community who were struggling with isolation/food poverty. As the cost of living crisis hits many people, this continues to be a much needed resource within the local community.

Work has been progressing within the church to try and achieved the Gold standard Eco church award with an audit and assessment of the use of our building together with a promotion of ecologically friendly ways that our individual members can help to reduce their carbon footprint.

As part of our creative outreach we have continued to improve our Quiet Garden to offer a space of refuge and reflection for members of the church, user groups and local community. We have continued to use and develop our roadside notice boards to offer messages of hope and light during what have been dark and difficult times for all.

As a church we continue to reach out into a community to be a visible sign of God's grace and love. We are an active part of Nottingham Citizens with members of our congregation participating in their three current areas of concern.

### **Financial review**

The financial position appears to be strong, even though the outgoings exceeded income during the period. Income from church members dropped during the latter months of lockdown. Income from lettings, which had been stopped by the closure of the building during lockdown, is recovering well. Expenditure has increased, especially due to the rise in the cost of utilities and the increase in the Circuit Assessment. The Church's reserves are still at a healthy level.

### **The charity's policy on reserves**

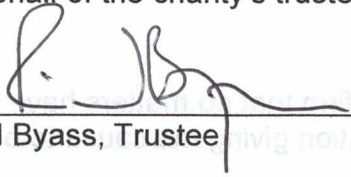
The church's policy on reserves is to aim to hold a level of uncommitted free reserves equating to six months of General Fund expenditure. These reserves are held in case of unbudgeted expenditure on repairs to property, replacement of damaged or faulty equipment, or additional investment in church activities and initiatives. Reserves are also required in case of a short term shortfall in income. The policy is reviewed annually.

## Sherwood Methodist Church

### Financial risks

Reduction in income due to members leaving or having reduced circumstances, or an increase in outgoings which are most likely to be due to unexpected repairs to buildings or equipment.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed   
Rev. Richard Byass, Trustee

Date 19/2/23

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
Sherwood Methodist Church  
for the year ended 31 August 2022**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sherwood Methodist Church (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2022.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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 charity'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 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 the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
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 should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed  Date 21/2/23  
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE  
Employee of Community Accounting Plus




**Sherwood Methodist Church**  
**Receipts & payments account**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

2021			2022
Total		Unrestricted	Restricted
Funds		Funds	Funds
£	Note	£	£
	<b>Receipts</b>		
76396	Grants & donations	64901	50
4000	Gifts & legacies	20414	-
20	Fundraising & events	139	1200
2025	Lettings	15110	-
6	Coffee bar	322	-
219	Bank interest	498	-
4011	Sundry income	4126	-
<b>86677</b>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>105510</b>	<b>1250</b>
	<b>Payments</b>		
708	Accountancy fees	708	-
5897	Cleaner's wages	7646	-
119	Cleaning materials	797	-
6480	Donations	4760	-
44	Encounter groups	120	-
1300	Equipment, repairs & renewals	-	-
-	Events & fundraising	176	1200
-	Hospitality & coffee bar	326	-
2458	Insurance	2725	-
728	Licences & music, worship resources	827	-
38	Messy & junior church activities	23	-
44492	Nottingham East Circuit Contribution	51131	-
110	Outreach	63	-
3323	Premises maintenance & improvements	6617	-
197	Publicity	647	-
3644	Stationery/photocopying/IT	2935	-
215	Sundry expenditure	539	-
40	Training	40	-
4631	Utilities	10707	-
7000	VFX Project	-	-
<b>81424</b>	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>90787</b>	<b>1200</b>
5253	<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	14723	50
95173	Cash funds at start of this period	95920	4506
<b>100426</b>	<b>Cash funds at end of this period</b>	<b>110643</b>	<b>4556</b>

**Sherwood Methodist Church**  
**Statement of assets and liabilities**  
**at 31 August 2022**

2021			2022
£		Note	£
100426	<b>Cash assets</b>		115199
100426	Bank accounts		<u>115199</u>
	<b>Other monetary assets</b>		
18709	Debtors & prepayments	4	21736
18709			<u>21736</u>
	<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>		
	Land & buildings at insured value £2,350,000.		
	Other assets at a cost of £152,430.		
	Chairs purchased June 2016, cost £5,747.		
	Data projector purchased October 2016, cost £1,494.		
	Defibrillator purchased August 2017, cost £780.		
	Seating purchased May 2018, cost £1,489.		
	Chairs purchased January 2019, cost £534.		
	Storage units purchased September 2020, cost £1,300.		
	<b>Liabilities</b>		
(1032)	Creditors	5	(1450)
<u>(1032)</u>			<u>(1450)</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed   
 Brian Shaw, Trustee

Dated 19<sup>th</sup> FEB/23



**Sherwood Methodist Church**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

**1. Receipts & payments accounts**

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period. Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

**2. Grants & donations**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £
Gift Aid	9586	-	9586
Sundry donations	55315	50	55365
	<u>64901</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>64951</u>

**3. Funds analysis**

	Opening balance £	Receipts £	(Payments) £	Closing balance £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General fund	33059	84598	(90667)	26990
Gifts & legacies	62861	20912	(120)	83653
	<u>95920</u>	<u>105510</u>	<u>(90787)</u>	<u>110643</u>
<b>Restricted</b>				
Benevolence fund	105	50	-	155
Church weekend	-	-	(1200)	(1200)
Family worker	4401	-	-	4401
Ladies Fellowship	-	1200	-	1200
	<u>4506</u>	<u>1250</u>	<u>(1200)</u>	<u>4556</u>

The Benevolence Fund is for the purpose of holding funds given or designated to be used for the benefit of people in financial need.

The Church weekend fund is for the purpose of holding funds paid for attending the church weekend away. The fund is in deficit due to the venue deposit being paid and this will be recouped from attending members in the following year.

The Family worker fund is for the purpose of holding funds designated to support the family worker.

The Ladies Fellowship fund is for the purpose of holding funds raised by members of the Church Ladies Fellowship to be spent on events and other items for their meetings.

## Sherwood Methodist Church

### 4. Debtors & prepayments

	£
Grants & donations - Gift Aid	4876
Insurance	1530
Licences & music, worship resources	500
Nottingham East Circuit contribution	13268
Premises maintenance & improvements	188
Stationery/photocopying/IT	63
Sundry income	1311
	<u>21736</u>

### 5. Creditors

	£
Independent examination	726
Cleaning materials	278
Utilities	446
	<u>1450</u>

### 6. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

### 7. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year.

### 8. Glossary of terms

**Creditors:** These are amounts owed by the charity, but not paid during the accounting period.

**Debtors:** These are amounts owed to the charity, but not received in the accounting period.

**Prepayments:** These are services that the charity has paid for in advance, but not used during the accounting period.

**Restricted funds:** These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.