

**Sherwood Methodist Church**  
(Registered charity, number 1133934)  
**Financial statements**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

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**Sherwood Methodist Church  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 August 2023**

**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        | Susan Cooper    |
| Rev John Wiseman, until 30/09/22         | Jane Whiting    |
| Brian Shaw, Treasurer, from 01/09/22     | Anthony Farr    |
| Robert Thomas, Treasurer, until 08/11/22 | Julie Compton   |
| Paul Lewis, Secretary                    | Paul Osborne    |
| Marguerite Carter                        | Jennifer Turner |
| Robert Chandler                          | Maurice Turner  |
| Josephine Williams                       | Gregory White   |
| Jane Smithson, from 30/07/23             | David Slinger   |
| David Mawere, from 18/06/23              | Jane Lewis      |
| Helen Snowball, from 18/06/23            | Robert Rattigan |
| Rachel Tavener, from 04/10/23            | Jane Edwards    |
| Richard Cooper, until 18/06/23           | Alice McGregor  |
| Stephen Paling, until 18/06/23           |                 |

**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**

### **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 60-70 people;
- Events are organised to focus on specific needs and charities, operating locally or world-wide, and money raised to support their work;
- The church provides for a wide variety of local needs, e.g. Sharing Sherwood, healthy eating group, Ghanaian Fellowship, various choirs, several health-based initiatives, an after-school education program, craft group, knit and natter (making prayer shawls). In addition to these we have some new bookings from other 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;
- 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**

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.



## **Sherwood Methodist Church**

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.

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.

The church has continued to 'build back' after the pandemic, and, though that has challenged us for a longer time than some community organizations, SMC has reached a place of confidence in its presence in the community and the activities offered. This has been evidenced in the range of ventures that have been supported by members and wider community both on-site and beyond over the last 12 months, which has allowed us to feel established again in our worship and social action as well as in our fellowship and shared faith. We have also established a new Well-being drop in, we have continued to refresh our understanding of being an Eco Church, and have registered for Same-Sex marriages as a result of the Methodist Church nationally making that possible.

It is now just over a year since the sad demise of Traidcraft plc, but our Fairtrade stall continues to function. It means that we have to use a range of suppliers rather than just one, but we persevere.

Our church does have Fairtrade status so it is important that all church based groups use Fairtrade tea and coffee, other users of the building are also being encouraged to comply. We know from previous experience that producer groups in developing countries benefit immensely from the Fairtrade premium.

### **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'.

## **Sherwood Methodist Church**

### **Financial Review**

Surplus made due to some generous donations after it was announced that we were expecting to make a loss of over £10,000 in the year. I believe these were one off and will not be repeated in future years. We are in a strong financial position and have now almost recovered from the lockdown situation in regards to offerings and room lettings. The Church's reserves are at a healthy level.

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

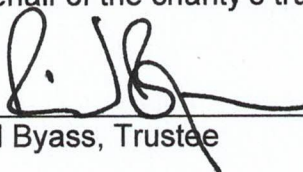
The church's policy on reserves is to aim to hold a level of uncommitted free reserves equating to six months of General Fund expenditure. These reserves are held in case of unbudgeted expenditure on repairs to property, replacement of damaged or faulty equipment, or additional investment in church activities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

### **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 6/6/24



**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of  
Sherwood Methodist Church  
for the year ended 31 August 2023**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Sherwood Methodist Church (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2023.

**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 14/6/24  
John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE  
Employee of Community Accounting Plus


**Sherwood Methodist Church**  
**Receipts & payments account**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

| 2022     |  |      |              | 2023       |        |
|----------|--|------|--------------|------------|--------|
| Total    |  |      | Unrestricted | Restricted | Total  |
| Funds    |  |      | Funds        | Funds      | Funds  |
| £        |  | Note | £            | £          | £      |
| Receipts |  |      |              |            |        |
| 64951    | Grants & donations                         | 2    | 82405        | 50         | 82455  |
| 20414    | Gifts & legacies                           |      | 5000         | -          | 5000   |
| 1339     | Fundraising & events                       |      | 42           | 4823       | 4865   |
| 15110    | Lettings                                   |      | 17692        | -          | 17692  |
| 322      | Coffee bar                                 |      | 291          | -          | 291    |
| 498      | Bank interest                              |      | 3914         | -          | 3914   |
| 4126     | Sundry income                              |      | 5154         | -          | 5154   |
| 106760   | Total receipts                             |      | 114498       | 4873       | 119371 |
| Payments |  |      |              |            |        |
| 7646     | Cleaner's wages                            |      | 8885         | -          | 8885   |
| 797      | Cleaning materials                         |      | 1738         | -          | 1738   |
| 4760     | Donations                                  |      | 7195         | -          | 7195   |
| 120      | Encounter groups                           |      | 520          | -          | 520    |
| -        | Equipment, repairs & renewals              |      | 1201         | -          | 1201   |
| 1376     | Events & fundraising                       |      | -            | 4169       | 4169   |
| 326      | Hospitality & coffee bar                   |      | 371          | -          | 371    |
| 708      | Independent examination                    |      | 726          | -          | 726    |
| 2725     | Insurance                                  |      | 2997         | -          | 2997   |
| 827      | Licences & music, worship resources        |      | 996          | -          | 996    |
| 23       | Messy & junior church activities           |      | -            | -          | -      |
| 51131    | Nottingham North East Circuit Contribution |      | 38769        | -          | 38769  |
| 63       | Outreach                                   |      | -            | -          | -      |
| 6617     | Premises maintenance & improvements        |      | 8434         | -          | 8434   |
| 647      | Publicity                                  |      | 487          | -          | 487    |
| 2935     | Stationery/photocopying/IT                 |      | 2216         | -          | 2216   |
| 539      | Sundry expenditure                         |      | 660          | -          | 660    |
| 40       | Training                                   |      | -            | -          | -      |
| 10707    | Utilities                                  |      | 12496        | -          | 12496  |
| 91987    | Total payments                             |      | 87691        | 4169       | 91860  |
| 14773    | Net receipts/(payments)                    |      | 26807        | 704        | 27511  |
| 100426   | Cash funds at start of this period         |      | 110643       | 4556       | 115199 |
| 115199   | Cash funds at end of this period           |      | 137450       | 5260       | 142710 |

**Sherwood Methodist Church  
Statement of assets and liabilities  
at 31 August 2023**

| 2022          |   | 2023                 |
|---------------|---|----------------------|
| £             |   | £                    |
| <u>115199</u> | <b>Cash assets</b>                                  |                      |
| <u>115199</u> | Bank accounts                                       | <u>142710</u>        |
|               |   | <b><u>142710</u></b> |
|               | <b>Other monetary assets</b>                        |                      |
| <u>21736</u>  | Debtors & prepayments                               | 4 <u>10840</u>       |
| <u>21736</u>  |   | <b><u>10840</u></b>  |
|               | <b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>    |                      |
|               | Land & buildings at insured value, £2,350,000       |                      |
|               | Other assets at 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>                                  |                      |
| <u>(1450)</u> | Creditors   | 5 <u>(5495)</u>      |
| <u>(1450)</u> |   | <b><u>(5495)</u></b> |

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

Signed  Dated 28<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024  
Brian Shaw, Trustee



**Sherwood Methodist Church**  
**Notes to the accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

**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<br>£ | Restricted<br>£ | Total<br>£   |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Gift aid         | 12104             | -               | 12104        |
| Sundry donations | 70301             | 50              | 70351        |
|                  | <b>82405</b>      | <b>50</b>       | <b>82455</b> |

**3. Funds analysis**

|                           | Opening<br>balance<br>£ | Receipts (Payments)<br>£ |                | Closing<br>balance<br>£ |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b> |                         |                          |                |                         |
| General fund              | 26990                   | 106466                   | (87595)        | 45861                   |
| Gifts & legacies          | 83653                   | 8032                     | (96)           | 91589                   |
|                           | <b>110643</b>           | <b>114498</b>            | <b>(87691)</b> | <b>137450</b>           |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>   |                         |                          |                |                         |
| Benevolence fund          | 155                     | 50                       | -              | 205                     |
| Church weekend            | (1200)                  | 4823                     | (3649)         | (26)                    |
| Family worker             | 4401                    | -                        | -              | 4401                    |
| Ladies Fellowship         | 1200                    | -                        | (520)          | 680                     |
|                           | <b>4556</b>             | <b>4873</b>              | <b>(4169)</b>  | <b>5260</b>             |

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 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       | 6424         |
| Sundry income                       | 1529         |
| Insurance                           | 1798         |
| Licences & music, worship resources | 419          |
| Premises maintenance & improvements | 493          |
| Equipment, repairs & renewals       | 147          |
| Utilities                           | 30           |
|                                     | <u>10840</u> |

### 5. Creditors

|                         | £           |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Independent examination | 726         |
| Charitable donations    | 3628        |
| Utilities               | 1141        |
|                         | <u>5495</u> |

### 6. Trustees' remuneration

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

### 7. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in this period.

### 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.