

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



Gracious Street

Methodist Church

KNARESBOROUGH





'Your church for your whole week'

**The Annual Report
of
Gracious Street Methodist Church (Knaresborough)
Published April 2025**

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INTRODUCTION and MISSION STATEMENT

Gracious Street Methodist Church is one of fourteen churches in the Nidd Valley
Methodist Circuit

GRACIOUS STREET METHODIST CHURCH

A growing church with a friendly welcome in the centre of Knaresborough

Believing that God has shown his love for all in

Jesus Christ we seek to be a:

- **worshipping church**
embracing a wide variety of styles both traditional and contemporary
- **learning church**
providing biblically based teaching and opportunities to explore and grow in the Christian faith through small groups
- **serving church**
responding to local and world needs with prayer, giving and practical action
- **caring church**
offering a welcome and support to children, young people and adults of all ages
- **witnessing church**
sharing with others by word and deed the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ

MINISTER:	Rev Gordon Hay	01423 863298
CONTACT STEWARD:	Deacon Rosemary Coggrave	01423 861607
CHURCH NOTICES:	Mrs Hilary Wilkinson	01423 865545
BOOKINGS:	Ms Jackie Daysh	01423 860166
LEADERSHIP TEAM:	Mrs Eleanor Borkett	01423 862345
	Mrs Libby Cook	01423 867077
	Mrs Jeanette Mowat	01423 867511
	Mr David Rochester	01423 865816
	Mr Bill Rodham (Treasurer)	01423 865846
	Miss Sue Walkington	01423 547086

MINISTER'S REFLECTIONS

Dear Friends,

I am conscious, as I write this report, that our community is wounded. So we begin our report by prayerfully holding in our minds friends who have sadly died and those who have become housebound and who are struggling with difficult situations. At the same time we celebrate and pray for new friends who have joined Gracious Street and those who have started new beginnings. We pray for peace, strength and wisdom to be upon our community. Amen.

From a recent pastoral visit I am reminded of an inspiring testimony where one of our friends shared a quote that God laid upon their heart as they started a new ministry. She read, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5). Similar to stories within our scriptures, we may struggle to trust in God and hold to a myth of scarcity.

Our capitalist society weaves a false narrative of continued growth that creates an anxious narrative of not having enough, of not achieving enough and of not being enough in order to focus our energy on continued growth.

This narrative flows into our community and we become anxious that we do not have enough people, enough resources and we need to do more. How often do we hear the words, 'We need more volunteers'? In this narrative we lean on our own understanding, which anxiously seeks answers through the 'more' rather than trusting God.

We believe that God's provision has gifted us with a world that sustains life but our false narrative of more growth creates inequality. So perhaps we need to confess and change our mindset from 'more' to 'enough'? So in faith, let us trust God, asking the question, 'What has God given us?'

In answer to this question we celebrate the ministries of Jackie and Nick in the respective roles of Centre Manager and Pioneer Pastor. These two roles support the ministries within our premises and beyond the walls of Gracious Street. We also celebrate that Noah's Ark pre-school was rated outstanding by Ofsted. In our gratitude to the staff and committee of Noah's Ark, we give thanks for the ministry of Vickie who has retired, Sam and Helen who have started new beginnings, and the recruitment of new staff. We also celebrate our Connexion in the Nidd Valley Circuit that helps us fulfill our calling to celebrate the love of God through worship, learning, caring, mission and evangelism. I am equally

grateful for and celebrate the ministry of each volunteer because we bring our gifts and experiences which enrich the life of Gracious Street and Knaresborough.

So as we read this report, may we celebrate and discover God's provision, rather than leaning on our own understanding.

Peace be with you
Rev Gordon Hay

WORSHIP & PRAYER

**The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence
and to celebrate God's love**

WORSHIP

There is great joy in our worship and an openness to explore different ways of celebrating the love of God. This is reflected in our morning and evening services, Lego and Muddy Church, Taize services and Pause for Thought.

At Harvest, Christmas and Easter we have had special services with the children, families and staff of Noah's Ark and Playbox. In addition to these wonderful services, we have also welcomed Aspin Primary School for seasonal services.

In this last year Gracious Street has reflected upon its worship and the church council adopted a document entitled, 'Gracious Street Worship Review' that can be viewed in Appendix 1 of the report. It contains ten points that will shape the worship of Gracious Street with the headings of lay, all age, evangelistic, fellowship, experience, sola scriptura, daily living, born in song, structure and online.

I would like to conclude with my thanks for the ministry of our Worship Leaders, Local Preachers, Worship and Welcome Stewards, Musicians, Screen Operators, Sunday Club & Crèche leaders, refreshments team and everyone who participates in the services. The ministry of each individual is an act of worship and we are deeply thankful for you.

Rev Gordon Hay

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER

'Pause for thought and prayer' is our Church's mid-week worship. It is held in the church. During a half hour of worship one person shares a 5 – 10 minute reflection on a Bible verse or verses followed by a time of prayer in which everyone is invited to share. Prayers can be spoken out but also said in the quietness of our hearts. We meet weekly and Holy Communion is shared once a month. Numbers attending have increased a little this year. All are welcome.

Deacon Rosemary Coggrave

PRAYER CHAIN

Approximately 100 people receive messages on the Prayer Chain - the majority via email and a handful by phone.

We continue to receive one or two prayer requests most weeks for people and situations either near to home or much further away. We appreciate any updates when situations are ongoing and even become long term concerns. Do keep sending prayer requests for yourselves and others (always with permission please) keeping details to a minimum and respecting confidentiality.

Messages may be emailed to Joyce and Lynda or phoned to Alan.

We are always pleased to add new people to the email or telephone Prayer Chain.

Joyce Hoare (joycehoare@sky.com)

Alan Middleton 01423 863780

Lynda Cooper (silvermuffin.cooper47@gmail.com)

STEWARDS' TEAM

The team of Stewards, both Welcome and Worship, work very well together with everyone being prepared to be flexible and offering a helping hand as required. Together we ensure that the Church is ready for worship at both morning and evening services as well as creating a warm welcome to all.

As it is such a small team, we are stretched. There are just four Welcome Stewards with a few other volunteers offering to stand in on an ad hoc basis. There are also four Worship Stewards and this is about to go down to three.

There is a danger of the task becoming too onerous, causing 'burn out'. **Could you help?** Please consider prayerfully, whether you can offer your services to either team. More information is available from any member of the team. Thank you.

Rosemary Coggrave, Jeanette Mowat, Rod Moxley, Morag Ross, Brenda Paul, Shirley Shepherd, Janet Smith, Carol Squires.

LEARNING & CARING

**The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians
through mutual support and care**

PASTORAL REPORT

I would like to thank all those who became involved in supplying pastoral support for our congregation during the last year. The extent of this work has included many and varied people and groups within the church and I will detail them briefly below. Home groups have been at the core of robust support for just under 100 members of the congregation. There are currently 8 active Home Groups, all of whom meet at least once a month. Activities may differ from one group to another but each of them has a common element of prayer, Bible study and development of personal relationships within the group. The Home Group leaders should be congratulated for overseeing these activities and ensuring that Home Group members are part of the inclusive nature of our church. Pastoral visitors make regular visits to people who are not part of a Home Group or may be unable to attend church. Whilst we presently have 6 Pastoral Visitors registered as undertaking this valuable work, I am aware that there is also a degree of "unseen" pastoral support from kind people within the congregation who make telephone calls or take out for coffee those people who may be experiencing a challenging time. Care for the housebound and those in Care Homes is presently under review, so that people with mobility issues will not feel isolated or forgotten. This is ongoing and our minister, Gordon Hay, is taking an active part in ensuring this issue is properly addressed. Charity lunches have been arranged intermittently by various people within the church as well as Home Groups and, pastorally, the effect that this has on our community as well as our church, is uplifting and the organisers of such events are to be thanked.

In addition to the Home Group leaders and Pastoral Visitors for their hard work, I would also like to thank Gordon for his continuing support. In trying to improve what we offer pastorally, I have also received valuable input from Joyce Hoare and Alan Middleton on the Prayer Chain, the Welcome Stewards, Jackie Daysh and Nick Garrett, the Pioneer Pastor, who has contacted me on a number of issues which have not potentially had straightforward solutions. It is easy to see from the content of this report that responsibility for pastoral work has been greatly shared and is the result of a genuine team effort. I thank again everyone involved and would stress, from my own viewpoint, that I feel privileged to be your Pastoral Secretary.

Rod Moxley

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is an important expression of Jesus' command, "Love one another. As I have loved you" (John 13:34). So Gracious Street Methodist Church values the significance of safeguarding because, in love, we welcome all people and desire all people to be safe in our community.

This requires us to have a respectful curiosity where we need to ask ourselves, does it look right? Does it sound right? Does it feel right? If the answer is no, we should respectfully speak to our safeguarding team.

The current members of the safeguarding team are Reverend Gordon Hay and Jackie Daysh. We give thanks for Anne Thickett's ministry as she steps down as the Safeguarding Officer. We also work with the Circuit Safeguarding Officer Reverend Ron Hicks and the District safeguarding team led by Jane Masterman.

A key focus for the safeguarding team is supporting our team leaders as we implement our safer recruitment policy for volunteers.

We are currently seeking one or two volunteers to become Safeguarding Officers. This is very much an advocacy and pastoral role that affirms our faith and culture of "love God and love your neighbour as yourself" (Mark 12:30-31).

Please contact me for more information about the role of Safeguarding Officer, safeguarding concerns and any other questions about safeguarding.

Rev Gordon Hay

ALPHA

An Alpha course is scheduled to start on Thursday 1 May at 7pm at Gracious Street where we will explore the basics of the Christian faith in an informal setting. Please watch the notices for more information.

Sue Whalley

CAMEO

CAMEO is a mixed group of people meeting fortnightly on a Monday evening between September and June each year. Our programme includes speakers who cover a variety of topics from the very serious (Katyrose Hospice) to the light-hearted (Legoland). Later this session we have a visit to Morag's Meadow and occasionally we make cards. And, of course, there is always coffee and biscuits! We have two parties – one at Christmas and one at the end of our CAMEO year. There is a sub of £1 every session which is split at the end of our CAMEO year between church and a charity. Do come along and join us for a relaxing evening. All are welcome. For more information contact Janet Smith or Rachel Watson.

Rachel Watson

CHURCH FLOWERS

We have a wonderful flower ministry at Gracious Street. The money for flowers is donated by many people within the church family. This means that, not only are fresh flowers put in church every Sunday to enhance our worship, but are also distributed throughout the church family on a Monday to share the love of the church. Since March 2024 the Flower Team has distributed the amazing number of 197 bunches of flowers.

Thank you so much to everyone who donates money.

Thank you so much to the flower arrangers.

Thank you so much to the people who deliver the bunches of flowers.

Rachel Watson

COGS CREATIVE WRITERS

Cogs Creative Writers have met periodically and produced some pieces which were used in the Christmas services. There have been no meetings so far in 2025 but it is hoped that these will resume soon.

Hilary Hughes

FUN & GAMES FOR SENIORS

This group continues to meet every Monday morning during term time with coffee in The Bridge from 10.30am and games upstairs in the Dales Room for an hour from 11.00am to 12 noon. These include several sitting down table games such as dominoes, bagatelle, skittles and shove ha'penny and a couple of more active games, indoor rubber bowls and bean bags thrown into a target.

Attendance varies according to members' commitments and health but we have a list of twenty people who enjoy attending whenever they can. There is always a good deal of laughter and some valued friendships have been formed in the group which serves as a valuable piece of social outreach comprising both church members and others from the wider community, including some who need additional help and guidance.

We urgently need one or two other church members to help put out tables, chairs and games from 10.00am onwards each Monday, chat over coffee and join in the games. Please speak to either of us if you could offer such help.

Brian & Joyce Hoare

GSYG

Gracious Street Youth group meets fortnightly on a Monday evening. We play games, eat pizza and discuss both contemporary and biblical topics. Many of the young people helped at Easter Club taking on roles as up-front leaders and group leaders. It was also a privilege in October to have baptised Will.

Three of our young people have become young leaders and are interested in the One Opportunity programme. This is a Methodist programme designed to encourage and recognise the participation of young people within our church. The programme is for young people aged 16-23 years and gives them the opportunity to be involved, on a part-time basis, in the development of the mission and ministry of the church. It offers a salaried position, of 3 hours per week, on a one-year project that is shaped around their gifts and passions.

GSYG have also taken part in Sleep out for Homelessness and Venture, which is a residential weekend for young people across the Yorkshire North and East Methodist District.

Please contact me for more information about the GSYG.

Rev Gordon Hay

HOME GROUPS

Alpha Plus

Alpha Plus Group meets monthly on Wednesday evenings in the space and comfort of the Forest Room at Church. There are now usually up to ten of us as Penny is living near Thirsk and Norma has moved to Leeds. If you are an 'Alpha Course Graduate' and would like to join us, please contact either Joyce or Alan.

We begin at 7.30pm with coffee and chat followed by a time of Bible based study and discussion applying Christian teaching to our daily lives. We conclude with prayer and usually end between 9.00 and 9.30.

From September we have been using a Spring Harvest Bible Study Book on 1 John which we would recommend although we found it quite challenging. Six sessions have encouraged us to 'Get close to the Source in being, saying and doing' – that is to demonstrate the life-changing love of God in practical ways.

A group of twenty including guests enjoyed a pleasant meal together at The Traveller's Rest in Crimble Lane in July followed by a summer break.

We keep in touch between meetings and look forward to our monthly sessions together, valuing our fellowship and friendship.

Joyce Hoare 07731 629944 and Alan Middleton 01423 863780

Baker's Dozen

Baker's Dozen still meet fortnightly at 3 Conyngham View, Bond End. There are twelve members. During the past year we have used a variety of Bible Studies, some of which have been very helpful in encouraging discussion and sharing.

This past year Baker's Dozen have felt called to reach out beyond our fortnightly meetings to support the Harrogate Homeless Project by organising coffee mornings and a concert, raising not only money for the Project but also goods, clothing etc which may be needed.

Christine Baker

Charlie's Angels Home Group

'Charlie's Angels' is one of a number of home groups at Gracious Street which aim to provide informal fellowship, study and pastoral support for their members. We have continued our monthly meetings and all thirteen members

of the group attend pretty regularly as they are able. As the group is too big to meet in members' homes, we meet upstairs in the Forest Room at church which has proved a very comfortable venue, taking it in turns to provide refreshments and lead the studies and discussion.

Last year we were following the Bible Society's video-based studies by Andrew Ollerton on the Book of Romans which took us much of the year, and since last Autumn and into Spring 2025 we have been doing a very profitable series of studies on the life of Abraham.

The group offers mutual personal support to its members and our fellowship and study meetings are supplemented from time to time by social events and at least one meal out together each year.

Brian Hoare

Learning Curve

Sadly Betty and also Josie's husband, John, recently died. Betty, I understand, was a founder member of the 'Class' some thirty years ago!

We meet monthly in three different homes which seems to work well. We are embarking on 'Faith and Life', Paul Smith's booklet, having completed Brian Hoare's booklet 'By the way....6 studies in incidental evangelism'. Brian, most kindly, came and led us in the final study.

We seek to keep in touch between meetings and offer friendship and support. In the summer we returned to 'the Kestrel' to share a meal and once again we went to Alan and Margaret's for a New Year meal. It has been a particular joy that family members have joined us on these occasions.

Rosemary Coggrave

New Shoots Home Group

New Shoots is a home group and we meet every month in various homes for fellowship, encouragement and study and twice a year have a social get together, sharing food and fun.

At the beginning of the church year we continued our studies on Angels and Heaven but then unfortunately the group meetings had to stop as I was absent for almost three months while I helped my daughter and family after a traumatic car accident. When we did meet up again it was wonderful to be back among

such supportive friends. We did manage an Advent study and a Lent study from Embrace the Middle East. We occasionally visit the Souters' home where Brian chooses some seasonal religious artwork and 'opens' it up to us with its symbolism and message.

We hope to continue our friendship and fellowship and be open to new ways, supporting each other as we deepen our Christian faith, and we would welcome anyone to join us as we learn and laugh alongside each other.

Sue Whalley

Open Doors Home Group

We continue to meet monthly (afternoons) at Shirley's home. We now have 11 members of whom 8 attend regularly, with three being covered by Pastoral Care (Geoff, Frank and Margaret). Gareth (the original leader of this class) has now rejoined.

During the year we studied:-

John's Gospel (cover to cover study guide)

The Upper Room Bible notes

1 John

John's first letter was particularly interesting and helpful and was also read by Alpha Plus Home Group later in the year.

During the year we held a Saturday coffee morning for Open Doors, the International Charity supporting persecuted Christians around the world, which raised £500. We also held our annual lunch out this year at Wetherspoons.

We continue to support each other physically and spiritually, as we seek to continue growing in our faith together.

Alan Middleton

3 Dogs and the Pilgrims House Group

We continue to meet as a house group every Thursday although we now meet at 7:30 to 9pm. (We often don't meet in school holidays due to low numbers.)

The aim of our group is to support each other in all areas, to encourage each other spiritually and to understand more about God and grow in faith together.

Over the past year we have looked at Romans, Psalms (with Gordon), Advent and had a closer look at well-known passages. We are currently meeting at Six Poor Folk to look at Soul Food with other people from church and in May we will be supporting church to run an Alpha course.

Our evening starts with a drink and cake and a chat to make sure everyone is ok (which gives people the chance to get there after work or putting children to bed) and then we read the Bible, ask questions, support each other, learn together and end in prayer.

We are a mixed group of people from church and welcome new members whenever they can join us.

Vicki Taylor

LUNCH LINK

We have had a steady year with a few changes. We have a new Team Leader in Beverley Bray who is leading up the Sausage Team. We are very grateful to her alongside all our other leaders and teams for all their care and hard work throughout the year. A special thank you to Vickie Taylor for all the admin work she does for us.

Our client numbers have stayed about the same with a few new folk joining us and a few dear friends not able to attend anymore. We are sad to say that Ivy, the only attendee with us since we started over thirty years ago, has recently died - she will be sorely missed.

We have about 25 regular attendees but we do have space for a few more so if you know of anyone who would like to come on a Tuesday at about 12.15 and share in a lunch with friends please contact me and we can arrange for them to join us. The lunch is for anyone living in the Knaresborough area who lives alone.

Eleanor Borkett 01423 862345

MEMORY LANE CAFÉ, KNARESBOROUGH

Memory Lane Café continues to offer inclusive activities, fun and friendship for older people. The café is open to all, including those in the early stages of dementia, as the dementia friendly ethos of the café remains. We have a varied programme including demonstrations, sing-alongs, crafts and games. One of the highlights of the last session was a talk by Ruth and John Parry on Scuba Diving and we have enjoyed dancing for well-being and been entertained by singer Nigel.

We had a memorable trip to Burnby Hall last summer and are busy planning our outing for this year. We are grateful for the support of Knaresborough Lions Club who have provided a grant towards the cost of the trip.

Chrissy and I were also able to participate in the day for Older People held at Stockwell Community Hub where we were able to promote the café to those who came along.

We are able to accommodate more clients so if you are aware of people who would benefit from getting out for a couple of hours of socialisation, fun and friendship in a warm, safe environment do please get in touch with us.

Chrissy and I are grateful for the support of our volunteers Verona, Tess and Margaret who ensure members are supported during the sessions and are supplied with cake and a cuppa during the sessions.

The Memory Lane Café, Knaresborough is on Facebook, if you would like to follow us at [Memory Lane Café](#).

Dot Rodham & Chrissy Richardson

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast meets in the Castle Room at Gracious Street Methodist Church on the first Saturday of each month from 8.45-10.30am. Men of all ages and from any church or none are most welcome to join us for a cooked breakfast and fellowship followed by a talk. Subjects for the past year included 'Underwater adventures in exotic places' and 'Protest – a means for change?'. We continue to be ably supported by a small team of cooks and helpers for setting up and clearing away. Our speaker finder Brian Hoare has engaged a wide variety of speakers for the coming year. With around 24 attending each month, the surplus from donations to the cost of breakfast allows us to make occasional donations to the Church and a variety of other charities. We have during the year made a couple of visits to places as diverse as Carlisle and Chester using Northern tickets and a trip to the seaside at Whitby via the NYMR. Details of meetings may be found in the Church Notices.

For further information contact Peter Wilson (01423 862553) Email: pnw6@sky.com

Peter Wilson

NOAH'S ARK PRE-SCHOOL

In reporting on the work of this important piece of our outreach, mission and care during this last period, we offer three words to help all understand the needs of the work and how we might support through prayer and care. Our first word is “gratitude” – not least for the long and dedicated service of two members of our team in Noah’s Ark. Vickie and Sam have retired from the senior positions they have held for many years within the setting. Their contribution has been enormous and much valued.

The second word is “challenge” – not just of appointing new staff members but also responding to the changing financial and regulatory systems within which we have to work. We are a small setting supported and encouraged by the Church here but the demands from government and other authorities treat us in the same way as large scale commercial operations or schools that have the resources of Local Authorities or Academy Trusts behind them. Regulations for good and sometimes mysterious reasons are constantly changing.

Our third word is “opportunity” – as we begin to work with new staff and build relationships within the Circuit, Methodist District and potentially Methodist Schools.

And in gratitude, facing challenge and grasping opportunity we honour the Noah’s Ark Committee, the Church Council, our Minister, the staff and other supporters who enable this work. And we must never forget the parents who entrust the children to our care and the children who bring joy and delight into all our lives. Thank you.

Doreen Whittaker

PLAYBOX

Playbox Toddler Group continues to meet every Friday during term-time in the church hall run by Sheila Bradley-Smith, Helen Carass and Vicki Taylor. The aim of Playbox is to provide parents, carers and grandparents with a place to meet new people and have fun with the children, have a coffee, share problems and provide a Christian outreach into the community. We hold short child-centred services for Easter, Harvest, Christmas and summer for our families and the

children at Noah's Ark. We currently have around 32 families with places at Playbox although we only usually have between 15 and 20 at each session.

Every week we have a physical activity, a book corner, dressing up, an art activity, a small world area, some home play (or shop), an area for babies, some construction and a sensory activity. We celebrate Christmas with a party and Father Christmas, our anniversary with a party and a bouncy castle, and once a year we have a messy play day when the whole session is messy and tactile, as well as including other events in our programme, e.g. selling cakes for Comic Relief or making daffodil pictures for St David's Day. We use a WhatsApp group to keep in touch with families and every week during singing time we share what is going on in the church that week and next (e.g. coffee mornings, messy church, film nights and WLTD0) so that families feel part of the church community.

We are working alongside Resurrected Bites to share resources. They make our hot drinks and wash our cups, and we put out chairs and tables in the hall after Playbox so that families from our group can enjoy the café as the Bridge gets so busy on a Friday that it isn't safe to have young children there. We also work with the Children's Centre. Staff there have introduced families to us who need support joining groups and being part of a community.

Our aim for the future is to keep doing what we are doing, to provide a welcoming place for families with young children to experience church and God's love.

Vicki Taylor

SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday Club continues to meet every Sunday morning for children and young people of school age. We have about 20 on the register but the number attending each week is very variable which can make planning the session quite challenging! Everyone worships together in church for about the first 15 minutes before Sunday Club leaves to meet in the Castle Room where they can learn and have fun in a way that's appropriate for them with a Bible story, discussion, prayer, crafts and games. Sunday Club also enjoyed being involved in the Christingle Service and a service in March where they planted Marigold seeds for the congregation.

The wide age range continues to be a challenge but we have a range of activities to suit different ages and the older children help the younger ones. There is also an opportunity for the older ones to spend time in their own small group which they seem to appreciate. Where possible we aim to have a leader and two helpers each week so that we can give time to the different age groups but we do need more people who would be prepared to help occasionally – no preparation is needed – just come along and join in.

However, despite the challenges, Sunday Club is going well and helping the children and young people to grow up learning about Jesus, developing their own faith and playing their part in the church community.

A big thank you to our hard working leaders and our helpers.

Libby Cook

THURSDAY BOOK CLUB

The Thursday Book Club is currently meeting in The Church from 10.30 to 11.30am on the fourth Thursday each month during term time. We have 20 names on our list with about 12 to 15 attending regularly and several who are unable to come to meetings at present.

We are rather different from most book clubs in that rather than all reading the same book each month, we each chat briefly about a book we've read recently or perhaps a long-time favourite. We then make a list of all the titles and authors which is circulated to all our members. This gives us an opportunity to read books which are recommended by our group but which we might not normally choose for ourselves.

We either borrow books from the library (printed or digital), buy them on Kindle or from charity shops, supermarkets, etc. or sometimes swap them between ourselves, making a small donation to the Ukraine Appeal.

We meet over coffee and are a friendly, relaxed and informal group – always happy to welcome new members or visitors. If you are interested please contact me or just come along.

Joyce Hoare : joycehoare@sky.com 01423 860750 or 07731 629944

SERVICE & EVANGELISM

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need, to challenge injustice and to make more followers of Jesus

ALL WE CAN

Thank you for your support of “All We Can” during this last year. We raised a total of £5,193-12 for this Methodist relief and development charity through Gracious Street Methodist Church. A great result.

“All We Can” works in partnership with local groups, in countries around the world, to help deliver projects and develop opportunities to improve the lives of people in local communities. Working closely with partners on the ground ensures that the money offered is used effectively for what is seen, by people in the situation, as vital ways of improving life within their community.

The recent decision by our government to reduce the percentage of money given to the aid budget is a major concern. It will affect very negatively some of the poorest communities around the world where help was being given. The reason offered for this is that in an unsafe and changing world we need to spend more on defence. If that is true, and many would agree, it is still a choice as to where the money should come from in the allocation of funds from government. Supporting the poorest and most vulnerable in countries, an exercise of soft power, may well be as effective a means of peace building as spending on guns and bombs.

However that argument is played out the needs of some of the poorest and most vulnerable in fragile communities around the world will suffer. So our support of organisations such as “All We Can” becomes even more of a Gospel priority. You can give directly to “All We Can” or make donations through the church. Speak to us and we can help. Thank you.

Doreen and Peter Whittaker

FAMILY EVENTS

Since September we have been taking a more holistic approach to our children and families work, collating all the events on a termly poster to ensure a good spread across the term, but not necessarily committing to doing the same event

on the same day each month. On Saturday afternoons we have been trialing some new events as an alternative to Messy Church.

This approach seems to have been working well. So far we have had two Muddy Church sessions meeting at Conyngham Hall and having a walk with activities and games while thinking about Jesus' teaching. We have also had two 'LET'S GO 2 CHURCH' sessions where we have watched a Lego animation of a Bible story and then responded to the story using Lego. We are very grateful to St Mark's Church for lending us their Lego.

At Christmas we had a great afternoon event 'Step into Christmas' where we had a story trail visiting a series of Nativity scenes around the church before a very moving short Christmas service followed by a party tea. The event was very popular with well over 100 people attending who all seemed to really enjoy it. In addition, we held our usual Lantern Workshop as part of the Bright Friday celebrations in Knaresborough. The church was packed with about 400 people making lanterns and eating pizza before joining the lantern parade. We have also enjoyed five Film Nights between October and the end of March.

We plan to continue with a similar approach. Many thanks to our team of dedicated helpers.

Libby Cook

PROJECT BOB

Project Bob was a mental health group that met weekly at Gracious Street. The purpose of the group was to discover empowerment through listening to one another's stories. Unfortunately, due to insufficient leaders we have ceased to meet.

Please contact me for more information about Project Bob

Rev Gordon Hay

SPEAK UP!

Speak Up! disbanded in June 2024 after dwindling numbers. However, recently a number of refugee women have expressed an interest in meeting more regularly, so a group of people are looking into this.

Hilary Hughes

WHO LET THE DADS OUT?

WLTD0 is a fresh expression of church – we share food, fellowship and God’s word (through interactive Bible stories) in a culturally and age appropriate way. It takes the form of a stay-and-play session for dads/grandads/male carers, helping them have fun with their children to provide a support network and to introduce them to other aspects of the GS community. Building relationships is key – both with and amongst the dads. We have a WLTD0 WhatsApp group and send regular emails to let the families know what else is going on – such as inviting them to the upcoming Alpha sessions.

We generally meet on the second Saturday of each month from 10.00-11:30am in the Castle room, although in the summer we sometimes move the sessions outside to the Kingfisher Kiosk at Conyngham Hall. Last year we also held a busy outdoor session at the Community Festival, based at St John’s school - a great way to make new contacts. Unfortunately, that’s not possible this year, as it clashes with the GS weekend away.

I’m very grateful to Ed and Eliza Walton and Kathryn Eckford, who have helped over the last year; however, due to other commitments, they have now stepped down. In addition to Gordon Hay, we now have Vicky Mitchell on the team, plus David Rochester for occasional help. Thanks must also go to the dads themselves, who are remarkably efficient at tidying everything away.

Liz Rochester

LEADERSHIP, PROPERTY & FINANCE

LEADERSHIP TEAM

It's been another busy year for Leadership Team.

We've been particularly focused on how we at Gracious Street can be good stewards of the gifts we have been given; especially our building and finances. We're making (hopefully complete by the time of the AGM) an investment in solar panels for our church. We have large south-facing roofs, and new battery technology enables us not just to generate our own electricity, but to store it for rainy days. In addition, thanks to clever IT, we are going to be able to offer excess to local people at reduced rates. So not only will this make our church greener,

and be a good witness to our town, it will greatly reduce our energy bills, and support our neighbours in need.

We organised and held a Gift Day recently, which was a huge success. It was fantastic not just to raise significant money to help our work, but also to see the breadth of groups that use our church, and realise how much it means to them all. A poem read out by a young lady who sees Gracious Street as her Narnia, stopped us all in our tracks.

Our two new roles - Centre Manager (Jackie Daysh) and Pioneer Pastor (Nick Garrett) - are both going well and making great contributions to the life of our church.

We're happy with our services at the moment - we're very focused on ensuring that we keep that special Gracious Street Joy, and this is usually present in abundance. Times are changing around us, and our future is of a church where we all muck in to help, and it's very pleasing to see this happening, eg with the more informal coffee rota we have now. Thank you.

The current members of the Leadership Team are Eleanor Borkett, Libby Cook, Gordon Hay, Jeanette Mowat, David Rochester, Bill Rodham & Susan Walkington. We're probably looking for another person to join us.

I try to provide a brief update on LT meetings in the Notices - I hope that people find these helpful & insightful. Recently I'm aware that these often haven't happened, due to my new job. I'm dropping my hours slightly from May onwards, so hopefully I will get back into the habit of providing updates.

I'm always happy to chat: please speak to me about any LT matters if you wish.
David Rochester

CENTRE MANAGER

Jackie has now completed her first year as Centre Manager. In addition to taking on the standard administrative duties her main focus has been cultivating and nurturing relationships with church user groups, partners, facility hirers, and the community. Everyone has been so kind with their engagement, encouragement, and support helping to make this goal a reality. It has been a blessing to learn and work with everyone.

This year Jackie also worked to increase activities taking place at Gracious Street and opportunities to promote its service to the community. A few highlights include partnering with Personalised Learning College to offer a Coffee Café on Thursdays, launching Digitally Connected Knaresborough - a free digital training program in partnership with Knaresborough Connectors, on-boarding several new long-term hires – many of which are charities and community groups, and supporting several ad hoc events.

This next year Jackie hopes to continue in this capacity and work with others to continue expanding Gracious Street's reach out to the community.

Jackie Daysh

TASK FORCE

The aim of 'Task Force' is to help maintain the quality of our beautiful buildings for the benefit of church and community and to the glory of God.

To that end, a variety of tasks have been carried out from unblocking toilets and replacing taps to cleaning carpets and painting walls and yellow lines. In short, anything that can be done without calling on professional trades will be attempted.

The numbers are as follows:

Total jobs completed 84

Jobs outstanding 5

Time spent 126 hours*

Cost of tools and materials £133*

(*annual estimates based on last six months figures).

Thanks for occasional help from
Alan Shankster and Hugh Mowat.

I look forward to continue next year as 'first port of call' for all maintenance issues. It's a pleasure to work as directed by Jackie and Eleanor.

Please continue to note any issues in the 'spotty book' near the Bridge entrance or send me an email (phlpmsn@gmail.com).

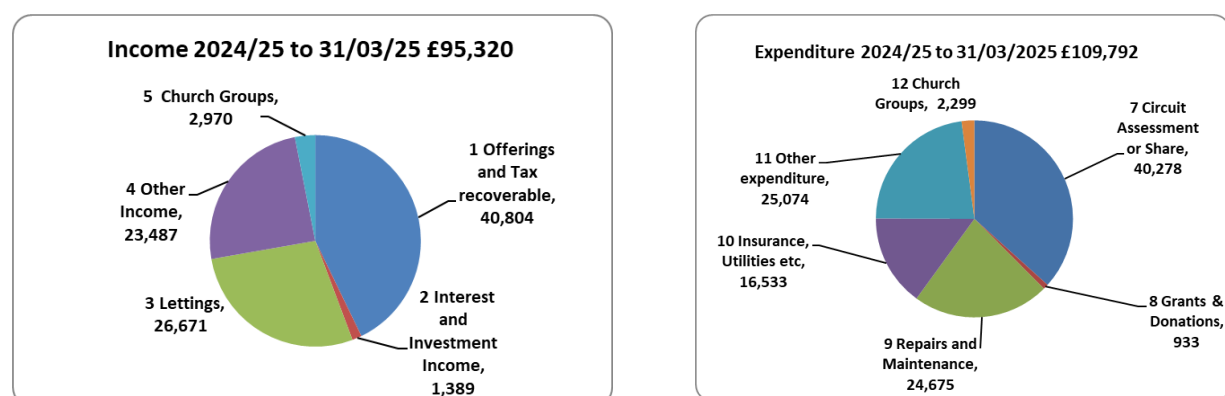
Phil Mason

TREASURER'S REPORT 2025

The accounts for 2023/24 were signed off by the independent examiner in February and were agreed by Church Council by correspondence as they were awaiting sign off at the date of the physical meeting. Because our income, which includes Noah's Ark, crossed the £250,000 threshold, the accounts needed to be prepared on an accruals basis rather than a receipts and payments basis. This is a requirement of the Charities Commission. This change makes it difficult to compare with previous year's accounts but on a cash basis across our general funds we made a small deficit of just over £1,000 for the connexional year 2023/24. Our opening position is set out in table 1 and our current position as at 31st March, is set out in table 2.

Table 1: Opening Position	01-Sep-24	Table 2: Position at 31st Mar 2024	31-Mar-25
Virgin Money	£16,237	Virgin Money	£12,684
Trustees for Methodist Purposes	£3,549	Trustees for Methodist Purposes	£3,549
Central Finance Board	£67,595	Central Finance Board	£56,752
Schofield Foundation	£2,450	Schofield Foundation	£2,450
Cash	£354	Cash	£354
Total in General Fund	£90,185	Total in General Fund	£75,789

Summary of Income & Expenditure to date



The charts above show the breakdown of income and expenditure so far this year, up to the end of March 2025. This snapshot shows that our expenditure exceeds our income by just over £14,000, however this is just a snapshot, and my more detailed forecast is that by the end of the financial year we will be showing a cash deficit of around £6,000. This is very much an improvement on our opening budget position which was showing a deficit of around £19,000. The improvement in our financial position is due in large part to the very successful gift day which raised over £10,000 on the day with gift aid estimated to add a further £2,000. It was extremely humbling to witness the Church & community coming together to raise such an amazing total and to see the love people have for the services and spaces we provide.

Another exciting opportunity that is coming to fruition is the installation of solar panels. As well as being a demonstration of good stewardship of the earth's resources and an example to the community of our care for the planet, we are hoping that it will reduce our electricity costs by at least 50%. We are also exploring how we can offer surplus capacity back to the community at a favourable rate to both parties. We are grateful for the financial support of the Circuit, the District, the Leeds Methodist Loan and Grants Society, York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority and the Gracious Street Community that has enabled this to happen.

Whilst there is no doubt that the financial situation remains challenging, I am extremely heartened by these two key happenings that we can have a sustainable financial future.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in looking after the Church finances particularly Jeanette Mowat, Alan Middleton, Dot Rodham and Hazel Clark who bank the money week by week. I am also indebted to Ed Walton who has temporarily taken back the role of Gift Aid Secretary. We are hoping to recruit a replacement for Ed - if anyone feels challenged to take on this role, please do speak to Ed or myself about the role.

And finally, I will be taking a short break from the role of treasurer for three months from May to July. I am thankful that Lee Daysh will be taking over as treasurer whilst I am away.

Bill Rodham
Church Treasurer
4th April 2025

APPENDIX 1

GRACIOUS STREET WORSHIP REVIEW

Covid has undoubtedly transformed society and church. Over 200 years ago Methodism emerged as a revival movement that responded to changes in eighteenth century society. In the spirit of Methodism the Leadership Team has been reflecting on Gracious Street and has formed a working group to review our worship.

The group consists of Rev Gordon Hay (minister), Anna Cooley (Local Preacher), Sue Walkington (Worship Leader), Morag Ross (Worship Steward), Mike Hughes (Musician) and Libby Cook (Sunday Club). Below is an interim report that has reflected on our morning and evening services but further reflection is needed about Pause for Thought.

Our Deed of Union states that 'Methodism was raised up to spread Scriptural Holiness'. John Wesley understood holiness to be a social act that enables us by the grace of God to grow in perfect love. So worship is understood as a celebration of God's love and transformation that calls us to share in the mission and evangelism of God. Scriptural holiness gave this revival movement an identity to its worship that has shaped our review

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. Lay | We will value the gifts people offer! We will encourage further participation in worship and celebrate diversity of gifts. While people may not always be willing to commit they are willing to share. |
| 2. All Age | We will recognise worship is for 'all age' and not done to children. We will promote good practice of all age worship (See attachment) and use the skills of people at Gracious Street. |
| 3. Evangelistic | We will be a welcoming and open community that proclaims the love of Jesus in a manner that makes sense to non-churched people. |
| 4. Fellowship | We will develop relational worship that deepens our |

friendship with one another and our relationship with God.
e.g. Love Feasts

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 5. Experience | We will celebrate our experiences of God's love and learn from our experience of following the way of Jesus. e.g. Testimony |
| 6. Sola Scriptura | We will use and promote scripture as central for Christian worship that informs daily living. |
| 7. Daily Living | We will promote whole life worship and partner with LICC to develop this practice. |
| 8. Born in Song | We will embrace Methodist heritage of new songs that reflects Methodism and the culture of Gracious Street, e.g. Stuart Townsend, Lou Fellingham and Chris Tomlin |
| 9. Structure | We will embrace freer forms of worship that move us from adoration to transformation e.g. Worship, Word & Worship. |
| 10. Online | We will recognise online worship is not 'watching' but 'participating', and explore simple ways of developing online participation. We will consider the possibility of using recorded songs for online worship, while we use live music for onsite worship |

APPENDIX 2

Church Council Membership & Managing Trustees at April 2025

Office holders

The Superintendent	Reverend Ben Clowes
The Minister	Reverend Gordon Hay
Circuit Representative	Tony Pearson
Church Council Secretary	Hilary Wilkinson
Church Finance Officer	Bill Rodham
Pastoral Secretary	Rod Moxley
Safeguarding Officers	Jackie Daysh/Rev Gordon Hay

Leadership Team

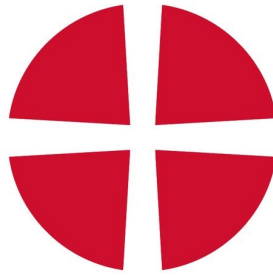
Eleanor Borkett (Property Secretary)
Libby Cook
Jeanette Mowat
David Rochester
Bill Rodham
Sue Walkington

Church Meeting Elected Members

Michael Borkett	Morag Ross
Rosemary Coggrave	Alan Shankster
John Cook	Tim Webster
Simon Pringle	Sue Whalley

Church Council Appointed Representatives

The Bridge	Lynne Bullock
CAMEO	Rachel Watson
Men's Breakfast	Alan Middleton
Mission Team	Reverend Peter Whittaker
Noah's Ark/All We Can	Doreen Whittaker
Playbox	Vicki Taylor
Who Let the Dads Out	Liz Rochester



THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
(Accruals Basis)
For the Year Ended 31st August 2024

Gracious Street Methodist Church

Nidd Valley	Circuit	Circuit no	29/26
Registered Charity - Charity Registration number			1133967

Minister:

Rev Gordon Hay

Church Stewards:

Sue Walkington

Libby Cook

Eleanor Borkett

Jeanette Mowat

David Rochester

Treasurer:

Mr Colin William Rodham

Notes to the Accounts

Introduction and Layout of the Report

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with SORP(FRS102) as updated, being the current version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice. In financial year 2023/2024 our income passed the threshold at which the annual accounts need to be prepared on an accruals basis. In order to do this we need to establish the opening position on the same basis.

The layout of the report shows the 2023/24 accounts and balance sheet on pages 2 & 3. The closing position as reported at the 31st August 2023 on a cash receipts and payment basis, including the value of the fixed assets (Pages 4 & 5). Page 6 sets out the closing position had the accounts been prepared on an accruals basis which therefore allows a like for like comparison with the 2023/24 Statement of Final Account.

The 2022/2023 closing position on funds held as at 31st August 2023 was £134,514 made up of £81,951 unrestricted and £52,563 restricted. In order to put this to an accruals basis position I have introduced £31,986 of debtors and prepayments and £418 of creditors, making net current assets of £166,082. I have also taken account of the re-valuation of our fixed assets which includes the properties we own as well as the fixture and fittings within the Church premises. The revised closing position for all assets as of 31st August 2023 is £1,911,567, made up of £1,859,004 unrestricted and £52,563 restricted (See balance sheet for details)

Note 1 Depreciation

It is the policy of the trustees to keep the structure and fabric of our premises in such good repair that the property continues to have an indeterminate useful economic life. We therefore consider that depreciation can be disregarded as immaterial. In previous years the value of our fixed assets was based on insurance values, however this is not deemed to be appropriate under FRS 102. We have therefore had an independent valuation of our properties. The valuation was undertaken by Nick Kay BA(Hons), pgDip, MRICS, a partner in Stephenson's Estate Agents and Chartered Surveyors. The value of the Church and associated halls is given as £650,000 and the land on which the buildings sit is valued at £500,000. The value of our investment properties is £245,000 for No 10 Gracious Street and £225,000 for No 4 Chapel Street. Mr Kay has also indicated that in his opinion these values will have remained the same since 31st August 2023. The revaluation of the properties are set within the General Fund (unrestricted).

We do however need to show depreciation on the fixtures and fittings that also form part of our fixed assets. I have made an assessment of the current value of our "other" fixed assets as at 31st August 2024 (see Contents Asset Value Report for Details). The assessed value of our fixtures and fittings totals £100,388, this compares to the insurance value of £270,757 used in the 2022/23 accounts. The assets have been depreciated at 20% using the reducing balance method.

Note 2 Adjustments

The adjustment of £1,521 corrects the gift aid paid on collections over recent years which should have been acknowledged in the collection income. This had the effect of overstating the cash value.

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023-24 £
Income						
1 Offerings		68,908		-		68,908
2 Donations		8,272		-		8,272
3 Gift aid		17,050		-		17,050
4 Interest and investment income		3,871		-		3,871
5 Income from investment properties		16,200		-		16,200
6 Internal organisations		-		82,596		82,596
7 Other charitable income		57,175		-		57,175
						-
8 Total income		171,476	-	82,596	-	254,072
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		80,856		-		80,856
10 Grants and donations		1,025		-		1,025
11 Property maintenance		21,899		-		21,899
12 Insurance, utilities etc		31,443		-		31,443
13 Office expenses		15,769		-		15,769
14 Other expenditure		31,472		-		31,472
15 Internal organisations		-		76,252		76,252
16 Total charitable expenditure		182,464	-	76,252	-	258,716
17 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-		-		-
18 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-		-		-
19 Net income/(expenditure)		- 10,988	-	6,344	-	4,644
20 Transfers between funds		10,804		- 10,804		-
21 Other gains/(losses)	2	- 1,521		-		- 1,521
22 Depreciation on revalued fixed assets	1	- 25,097		-		- 25,097
23 Net movement in funds		- 26,802	-	- 4,460	-	- 31,262
24 Total funds brought forward		1,859,004		52,563		1,911,567
25 Total funds carried forward		1,832,202	-	48,103	-	1,880,305

Church No
292604

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2024	Totals 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£

Church building and other property	1	1,150,000			1,150,000	1,150,000
Investment properties	1	470,000			470,000	470,000
Investments		-			-	-
Other Assets	1	100,388		-	100,388	125,485
Total fixed assets		1,720,388	-	-	-	1,745,485

Debtors and prepayments		32,881				32,881	31,986
Loans by the Churches		-				-	-
Investments with TMCP		3,549		-		3,549	912
Central Finance Board Deposits		67,095		2,950		70,045	75,014
Cash at Bank and in hand		14,710		45,153		59,863	58,588
Total current assets		118,233	-	48,103	-	166,337	166,500

Creditors (due in under 1 year)		1,125			1,125	418
Grants payable within 2024-25		5,295			5,295	
Total current liabilities		6,420	-	-	6,420	418
Net current assets/liabilities		111,814	-	48,103	159,917	166,082

<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		1,832,202	-	48,103	-	1,880,305	1,911,567
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2024-25		-				-	
Loans to the Church		-				-	
						-	
Net assets		1,832,202	-	48,103	-	1,880,305	1,911,567

General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,832,202				1,832,202	1,859,004
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			-			-	
Total Unrestricted Funds						1,832,202	1,859,004
Restricted Funds				48,103		48,103	52,563
Endowment Funds					-	-	
Total Funds		1,832,202	-	48,103	-	1,880,305	1,911,567

P. R. R. R.

Date 26/04/2025

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Gracious Street
Methodist Church

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	89,347	0	89,347	91,002
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	2,599	0	2,599	293
a4	Lettings	39,484	0	39,484	34,045
a5	Other receipts	19,123	84,450	103,573	95,277
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	150,554	84,450	235,004 (a7)	220,616
SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	83,220	0	83,220	83,693
b3	Donations	266	0	266	10,087
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	19,058	0	19,058	30,468
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	18,737	0	18,737	16,697
b6		0	0	0	0
b7	Other payments	38,506	69,943	108,448	109,261
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	159,787	69,943	229,729 (b9)	250,206
SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR (a6-b8)	-9,233	14,507	5,275	-29,590
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	80,883	48,356.96	129,240 (c6)	158,985
c3	Sub total (c1+c2)	71,650	62,864	134,515	129,395
c4	Transfers and adjustments	10,300	-10,301	-1.24 (c7)	-154
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c3+c4)	81,950	52,563	134,514 (c8)	129,240 (c6)
SECTION D					
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)				
				£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			-1,137	-156
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			4,740	4,695
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			5,036	5,677
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)			-1,433	-1,137

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

	INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1	Noahs Ark	83,361	69,184	14,177	(8,001)	38,553	44,729
e2	Playbox	1,089	759	330	(800)	1,023	554
e3	Schofield Foundation	0	0	0	(1,500)	6,400	4,900
e4	Project Bob	0	0	0	0	2,381	2,381
e5							
e6							0
e7							0
e8							0
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	84,450	69,943	14,507	-10,301	48,357 (e11)	52,564 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	150,554 (a7)	159,787 (b9)	-9,233	10,300 (c7)	80,883 (c6)	81,950 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	235,004	229,729	5,275	-1	129,240 (x)	134,514.05 (y)
	Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2023

		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand	354	354
f2	Bank Current Account	18,888	12,952
f3	Bank Deposit Account	0	0
f4	Central Finance Board	69,536	75,014
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	886	912
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	89,664 (c6)	89,231 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	39,576 (e11)	45,283 (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	129,240 (x)	134,514.05 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 01 Sept 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	0	0
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	4,821,144	5,157,009
g3	Other Assets	270,757	243,555
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	0	0
g5	Other Liabilities	0	0

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total	2022- 23 £
Income							
1 Offerings		71,487		-			71,487
2 Donations		5,969		-			5,969
3 Gift aid		17,218		-			17,218
4 Interest and investment income		2,599		-			2,599
5 Income from investment properties		16,200		-			16,200
6 Internal organisations		-		84,450			84,450
7 Other charitable income		36,713		-			36,713
8 Total income		150,186	-	84,450	-		234,636
Expenditure							
9 Circuit assessment or share		84,008		-			84,008
10 Grants and donations		266		-			266
11 Property maintenance		19,058		-			19,058
12 Insurance, utilities etc		18,553		-			18,553
13 Office expenses		12,960		-			12,960
14 Other expenditure		24,996		-			24,996
15 Internal organisations		-		69,943			69,943
16 Total charitable expenditure		159,841	-	69,943	-		229,784
17 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-					-
18 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-					-
19 Net income/(expenditure)	-	9,655	-	14,507	-		4,852
20 Transfers between funds		10,300		-	10,301	-	1
21 Other gains/(losses)		-		-			-
22 Depreciation on revalued fixed assets		31,371					31,371
23 Net movement in funds		32,016	-	4,206	-		36,222
24 Total funds brought forward		1,826,988		48,357	-		1,875,345
25 Total funds carried forward		1,859,004	-	52,563	-		1,911,567

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 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 26th April 2025

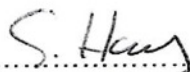
Name and address of treasurer C W Rodham, 58 Aspin Park Road, Knaresborough.

Post Code HG5 8HG

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 ~~were~~/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on Wed 5th May by e-mail,

Signature of the Chair of the meeting:



Name of the Chair of the meeting:

Rev G. Hargreaves

Date

2.5.25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Gracious Street Methodist Church

Charity Number 1133967.

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Gracious Street Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 1 to 6. As the Church's trustees, 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 Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Independent Examiner's Statement


[The Church's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of (*insert name of applicable listed body*)]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable 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
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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.

I have/have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner STEVEN WHITWHAM

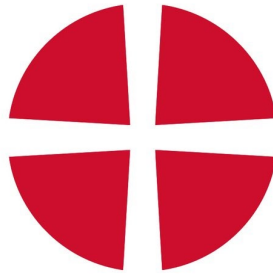
Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) Jackson Whitwham Accountants LLP

Address Unit 9 Innovation Centre, Conynghean Hall, Knaresborough,
North Yorkshire Post Code HG5 9AY

Date 28/4/25

* delete or circle as appropriate



THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
(Accruals Basis)
For the Year Ended 31st August 2024

Gracious Street Methodist Church

Nidd Valley	Circuit	Circuit no	29/26
Registered Charity - Charity Registration number			1133967

Minister:

Rev Gordon Hay

Church Stewards:

Sue Walkington

Libby Cook

Eleanor Borkett

Jeanette Mowat

David Rochester

Treasurer:

Mr Colin William Rodham

Notes to the Accounts

Introduction and Layout of the Report

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with SORP(FRS102) as updated, being the current version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice. In financial year 2023/2024 our income passed the threshold at which the annual accounts need to be prepared on an accruals basis. In order to do this we need to establish the opening position on the same basis.

The layout of the report shows the 2023/24 accounts and balance sheet on pages 2 & 3. The closing position as reported at the 31st August 2023 on a cash receipts and payment basis, including the value of the fixed assets (Pages 4 & 5). Page 6 sets out the closing position had the accounts been prepared on an accruals basis which therefore allows a like for like comparison with the 2023/24 Statement of Final Account.

The 2022/2023 closing position on funds held as at 31st August 2023 was £134,514 made up of £81,951 unrestricted and £52,563 restricted. In order to put this to an accruals basis position I have introduced £31,986 of debtors and prepayments and £418 of creditors, making net current assets of £166,082. I have also taken account of the re-valuation of our fixed assets which includes the properties we own as well as the fixture and fittings within the Church premises. The revised closing position for all assets as of 31st August 2023 is £1,911,567, made up of £1,859,004 unrestricted and £52,563 restricted (See balance sheet for details)

Note 1 Depreciation

It is the policy of the trustees to keep the structure and fabric of our premises in such good repair that the property continues to have an indeterminate useful economic life. We therefore consider that depreciation can be disregarded as immaterial. In previous years the value of our fixed assets was based on insurance values, however this is not deemed to be appropriate under FRS 102. We have therefore had an independent valuation of our properties. The valuation was undertaken by Nick Kay BA(Hons), pgDip, MRICS, a partner in Stephenson's Estate Agents and Chartered Surveyors. The value of the Church and associated halls is given as £650,000 and the land on which the buildings sit is valued at £500,000. The value of our investment properties is £245,000 for No 10 Gracious Street and £225,000 for No 4 Chapel Street. Mr Kay has also indicated that in his opinion these values will have remained the same since 31st August 2023. The revaluation of the properties are set within the General Fund (unrestricted).

We do however need to show depreciation on the fixtures and fittings that also form part of our fixed assets. I have made an assessment of the current value of our "other" fixed assets as at 31st August 2024 (see Contents Asset Value Report for Details). The assessed value of our fixtures and fittings totals £100,388, this compares to the insurance value of £270,757 used in the 2022/23 accounts. The assets have been depreciated at 20% using the reducing balance method.

Note 2 Adjustments

The adjustment of £1,521 corrects the gift aid paid on collections over recent years which should have been acknowledged in the collection income. This had the effect of overstating the cash value.

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023-24 £
Income						
1 Offerings		68,908		-		68,908
2 Donations		8,272		-		8,272
3 Gift aid		17,050		-		17,050
4 Interest and investment income		3,871		-		3,871
5 Income from investment properties		16,200		-		16,200
6 Internal organisations		-		82,596		82,596
7 Other charitable income		57,175		-		57,175
8 Total income		171,476	-	82,596	-	254,072
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		80,856		-		80,856
10 Grants and donations		1,025		-		1,025
11 Property maintenance		21,899		-		21,899
12 Insurance,utilities etc		31,443		-		31,443
13 Office expenses		15,769		-		15,769
14 Other expenditure		31,472		-		31,472
15 Internal organisations		-		76,252		76,252
16 Total charitable expenditure		182,464	-	76,252	-	258,716
17 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-		-		-
18 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-		-		-
19 Net income/(expenditure)		- 10,988	-	6,344	-	4,644
20 Transfers between funds		10,804		- 10,804		-
21 Other gains/(losses)	2	- 1,521		-		- 1,521
22 Depreciation on revalued fixed assets	1	- 25,097		-		- 25,097
23 Net movement in funds		- 26,802	-	- 4,460	-	- 31,262
24 Total funds brought forward		1,859,004		52,563		1,911,567
25 Total funds carried forward		1,832,202	-	48,103	-	1,880,305

Church No
292604

Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2024	Totals 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£

Church building and other property	1	1,150,000			1,150,000	1,150,000
Investment properties	1	470,000			470,000	470,000
Investments		-			-	-
Other Assets	1	100,388		-	100,388	125,485
Total fixed assets		1,720,388	-	-	-	1,745,485

Debtors and prepayments		32,881				32,881	31,986
Loans by the Churches		-				-	-
Investments with TMCP		3,549		-		3,549	912
Central Finance Board Deposits		67,095		2,950		70,045	75,014
Cash at Bank and in hand		14,710		45,153		59,863	58,588
Total current assets		118,233	-	48,103	-	166,337	166,500

Creditors (due in under 1 year)		1,125			1,125	418
Grants payable within 2024-25		5,295			5,295	
Total current liabilities		6,420	-	-	6,420	418
Net current assets/liabilities		111,814	-	48,103	159,917	166,082

<i>Total assets less current liabilities</i>		1,832,202	-	48,103	-	1,880,305	1,911,567
--	--	-----------	---	--------	---	-----------	-----------

Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 2024-25		-				-	
Loans to the Church		-				-	
						-	
Net assets		1,832,202	-	48,103	-	1,880,305	1,911,567

General Fund (Unrestricted)		1,832,202				1,832,202	1,859,004
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			-			-	
Total Unrestricted Funds						1,832,202	1,859,004
Restricted Funds				48,103		48,103	52,563
Endowment Funds					-	-	
Total Funds		1,832,202	-	48,103	-	1,880,305	1,911,567

P. R. R. R.

Church Treasurer

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Gracious Street
Methodist Church

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	89,347	0	89,347	91,002
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	2,599	0	2,599	293
a4	Lettings	39,484	0	39,484	34,045
a5	Other receipts	19,123	84,450	103,573	95,277
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	150,554	84,450	235,004 (a7)	220,616
SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	83,220	0	83,220	83,693
b3	Donations	266	0	266	10,087
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	19,058	0	19,058	30,468
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	18,737	0	18,737	16,697
b6		0	0	0	0
b7	Other payments	38,506	69,943	108,448	109,261
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	159,787	69,943	229,729 (b9)	250,206
SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR (a6-b8)	-9,233	14,507	5,275	-29,590
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	80,883	48,356.96	129,240 (c6)	158,985
c3	Sub total (c1+c2)	71,650	62,864	134,515	129,395
c4	Transfers and adjustments	10,300	-10,301	-1.24 (c7)	-154
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c3+c4)	81,950	52,563	134,514 (c8)	129,240 (c6)
SECTION D					
d	FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)				
				£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			-1,137	-156
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			4,740	4,695
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			5,036	5,677
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)			-1,433	-1,137

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

	INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1	Noahs Ark	83,361	69,184	14,177	(8,001)	38,553	44,729
e2	Playbox	1,089	759	330	(800)	1,023	554
e3	Schofield Foundation	0	0	0	(1,500)	6,400	4,900
e4	Project Bob	0	0	0	0	2,381	2,381
e5							
e6							0
e7							0
e8							0
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	84,450	69,943	14,507	-10,301	48,357 (e11)	52,564 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	150,554 (a7)	159,787 (b9)	-9,233	10,300 (c7)	80,883 (c6)	81,950 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	235,004	229,729	5,275	-1	129,240 (x)	134,514.05 (y)
	Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2023

		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand	354	354
f2	Bank Current Account	18,888	12,952
f3	Bank Deposit Account	0	0
f4	Central Finance Board	69,536	75,014
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	886	912
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	89,664 (c6)	89,231 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	39,576 (e11)	45,283 (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	129,240 (x)	134,514.05 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 01 Sept 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	0	0
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	4,821,144	5,157,009
g3	Other Assets	270,757	243,555
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	0	0
g5	Other Liabilities	0	0

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total	2022- 23 £
Income							
1 Offerings		71,487		-			71,487
2 Donations		5,969		-			5,969
3 Gift aid		17,218		-			17,218
4 Interest and investment income		2,599		-			2,599
5 Income from investment properties		16,200		-			16,200
6 Internal organisations		-		84,450			84,450
7 Other charitable income		36,713		-			36,713
8 Total income		150,186	-	84,450	-		234,636
Expenditure							
9 Circuit assessment or share		84,008		-			84,008
10 Grants and donations		266		-			266
11 Property maintenance		19,058		-			19,058
12 Insurance,utilities etc		18,553		-			18,553
13 Office expenses		12,960		-			12,960
14 Other expenditure		24,996		-			24,996
15 Internal organisations		-		69,943			69,943
16 Total charitable expenditure		159,841	-	69,943	-		229,784
17 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-					-
18 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-					-
19 Net income/(expenditure)	-	9,655	-	14,507	-		4,852
20 Transfers between funds		10,300		-	10,301	-	1
21 Other gains/(losses)		-		-			-
22 Depreciation on revalued fixed assets		31,371					31,371
23 Net movement in funds		32,016	-	4,206	-		36,222
24 Total funds brought forward		1,826,988		48,357	-		1,875,345
25 Total funds carried forward		1,859,004	-	52,563	-		1,911,567

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 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 26th April 2025

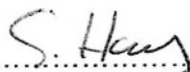
Name and address of treasurer C W Rodham, 58 Aspin Park Road, Knaresborough.

Post Code HG5 8HG

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 ~~were~~/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on Wed 5th May by e-mail,

Signature of the Chair of the meeting:



Name of the Chair of the meeting:

Rev G. Hargreaves

Date

2.5.25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Gracious Street Methodist Church

Charity Number 1133967.

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Gracious Street Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 1 to 6. As the Church's trustees, 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 Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Independent Examiner's Statement


[The Church's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of (*insert name of applicable listed body*)]. Delete [] if not applicable.

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Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner STEVEN WHITWHAM

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) Jackson Whitwham Accountants LLP

Address Unit 9 Innovation Centre, Conynghean Hall, Knaresborough,
North Yorkshire Post Code HG5 9AY

Date 28/4/25

* delete or circle as appropriate