

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 01/09/2023 – 31/08/2024
Temple Methodist Church, Taunton
1134048

Objectives and activities

The purposes of the Methodist Church are the advancement of:

- a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of The Methodist Church;
- b) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local or other organisation of The Methodist Church;
- c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church;
- d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

Our aims:

To be a church that welcomes all, celebrates God's love, offers opportunities to explore the Christian faith, seeks to serve in the world and to challenge injustice through 'Intentional Hospitality'. We assess our work and mission through the aspects of Our Calling: Worship, Learning and Caring, Service and Evangelism, and A Methodist Way of Life

The Church fulfils its objectives by offering worship every Sunday morning, with Holy Communion approximately once a month, including an additional monthly early Sunday morning Holy Communion service, a short service every Wednesday lunch-time and a conversation group monthly on Sunday evenings. On other Sunday evenings, worship is offered elsewhere in the Circuit, the grouping of which we are a part.

The Church supports a wide range of groups, offering both social activities and events to encourage the spiritual development of the congregation. Members support each other by the offering of mutual pastoral care, including Home Communion for members who are house-bound or in care.

Temple Methodist Church has an informal partnership with the local United Reformed Church, and St John the Evangelist, and holds united services and opportunities for spiritual development - such as short courses, and joint community events.

Temple Methodist Church is registered for same-sex marriages in accordance with the majority vote of the Church Council, following a wider consultation among its members.

Achievements and Performance

The trustees have taken note of the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and in particular their guidance on charities for the advancement of religion, when planning their activities. The actions taken by the church meet the requirement for there to be an identifiable public benefit or benefits and that such benefit is to the public or a section of the public.

During the period of this report, we have welcomed several new attenders to services and events, and bookings for use of the premises have increased on the previous year. The provision of recorded online services, fellowship and worship, resourced through the Circuit provide a connection for those who are no longer able to attend in-person worship.

- Worship has continued to be offered through a weekly recorded Circuit Service uploaded to the Youtube page of one of our Circuit churches. We also offer a fortnightly Circuit evening service over zoom, and a Prayer/Bible Study group which meets weekly on zoom.
- The church continued to nurture its relationship with its partner churches, and maintain its profile among the wider town church networks.
- Pastoral care continued through the distribution of notices, letters from the minister and treasurer, and distribution of the monthly magazine through email, and delivery by members of the congregation. A sense of care and fellowship was maintained through phone calls, visits, and home Communion.
- Opportunities for social interaction for elderly and vulnerable people are held, including the popular and well attended weekly sessions of 'Pop-In', and the job club, Work-Wise, which we support with a manager and volunteers.
- Our Church and Community Worker continues to work with hirers of the premises in line with our commitment to an inclusive hospitality and welcome, thus generating important income. Music exams, book launches, and concerts have been held throughout the year. Interest groups, such as a variety of U3A groups, SLN and 2BU are regular weekly events.
- We continue to offer a venue and resource worship services for Queen's College, currently four times a year – Founders' Day, Prep School Harvest Festival, Christmas Carol Service, and Holy Week Reflective Service.
- The congregation has continued to support various charitable activities through envelope collections and events.
- The church continues to offer seasonal craft and activity half days for families connected to church, Circuit and community.
- We have links through our Minister to a local school for 'special' assemblies and in 2024, a joint Christmas event at Temple with the Good Afternoon Choir.
- We continue, with the Circuit, to be involved as a founder member of Citizens Somerset, involving ourselves in the local campaigns and actions.

The renovation of the roof during 2022-23, with the installation of solar panels, has contributed towards mitigating the cost of utilities, and some members of the congregation are continuing their pledges in support of the building's ongoing maintenance.

Mitigation of Risks

These are considered by the Resources Committee who oversee the day to day running of the charity and report to the Church Council. Professional advice is taken as required.

There is a regular review process carried out by the Church Council to ensure that the Charity is fulfilling its objectives.

The Circuit, the umbrella body which oversees the Church, has adopted a Safeguarding Policy – covering both children and vulnerable adults – and ensures that all its local Churches adopt similar policies. A local Church Safeguarding policy is in place, overseen by a local Safeguarding Officer, and reviewed annually. The Circuit is also working to ensure that Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training is up to date among its church and circuit officers and preachers.

Financial review

During the year the Church had total receipts of £125k (2023-24 £207k) and dispersed £254k (2023-24 £284k).

The employment of a worker at the Church has produced additional income from the letting of the premises and this is building.

The trustees of the Church oversee the income and expenditure of the church and monitor the contribution made to the Circuit budget.

Trustees do not foresee any factors that will significantly affect the financial performance or position in the next year or two.

The Church has the following principal sources of funds:

- Offerings of the Congregation – either via the collection plate or by Standing order
- Rents from groups making use of the premises
- A regular gift day – now reinstated after a period of 2 years, when pledges towards the roof renovation were encouraged
- Interest on investments

These sums are used to pay the Circuit assessment, to maintain the large historical building, employ a Church and Community Worker, and a Cleaner, and engage organists for Sunday services, weddings, and funerals.

Reserves policies

General Funds (currently £31k)

The long term aim is to hold a General Reserve of 50% of annual expenditure as a contingency fund to meet the unexpected demands of a 200 year old Listed building.

Restricted funds (currently £4k)

Restricted funds are expended on the objectives for which the money was donated as soon as is practical.

Endowment funds (currently £166k)

The annual income from our older endowments is £156 per year and is credited to the General Fund. Recent legacies received and held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes have the annual income accumulated with the Trust. Endowments totalling £52,946 have been designated for support of the Church and Community worker. Other endowments are held against the

possibility of major expenditure on the building and will be considered for use by the Church Council and will be spent at the appropriate time.

Structure governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Methodist Church Deed Of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)
How the charity is constituted	Act of Parliament
Trustee selection methods	Elected by the annual meeting of Church members. Ministers are automatically trustees

Additional governance issues None

Induction/Training

Range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion.

Leaflet 'The Role of a Trustee in The Methodist Church' is given to each trustee.

Structure

Temple Methodist Church is part of the Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor Methodist Circuit, which is itself part of the Plymouth and Exeter Methodist District, and accountable to the Methodist Conference.

Related Parties None

Reference and administration details

Charity Name	Temple Methodist Church
Registered Charity Number	1134048
Charity's Principal Address	Temple Methodist Church, Upper High Street, Taunton TA1 3PY

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the charity.

The Charity Trustees are the members of the Church Council of the Temple Methodist Church. This comprised during the year of this report.

Chair:	Revd Deborah Kirk
Church Stewards:	Hazel Jordan Anne Jordan Lynda Kazer Paul Turner Sheila Robertson Christine Coxen Tony Bell
Treasurer:	Graham Dickinson
Pastoral Secretary:	Anne Jordan

Circuit Steward: Carol Stowe
Church Council Secretary: Diana Atkinson
Representatives from
 Church Life: Lynda Kazer
 Resourcing: Margaret Sweet
 Property: George Adams
Safeguarding officer: Susan Parker
Representatives appointed by General Church Meeting:
 Joanna Rossiter, Church and Community Worker
 Ian Rossiter
 Anne Broadley
 Ron Jordan
 Tony Bell
 Chris Mitchell
 Kevin Rigg
 Colin Robertson
 Conrad Marks

Custodian trustees Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes Manchester

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) *Deborah Kirk*

Diana Atkinson

Full name(s) Deborah Kirk

Diana Atkinson

Position Chair

Secretary

Date 24.06.25

24.06.25

Appended to this report is the Standard Form of Accounts for 2023-24 at year end.

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Temple Methodist	Church
-------------------------	---------------

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

Taunton Deane and South Sedgemoor	Circuit	Circuit no.	37/15
--	----------------	--------------------	--------------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1134048

If not a registered charity **His Majesty's Revenue and
Customs Gift Aid number**

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Rev Deborah Kirk

Church Stewards:

Hazel Jordan
Lynda Kazer
Sheila Robertson
Christine Coxen
Anne Jordan
Tony Bell

Treasurer:

Graham Dickinson

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
1	RECEIPTS	Note			
2	Offerings and Tax recovered	47,361		47,361	49,599
3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	1,473		1,473	2,538
4	Lettings	27,545		27,545	24,453
5	Other receipts	13,649	35,422	49,071	85,182
6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	90,028	35,422	125,450 (a7)	161,772

SECTION B					
1	PAYMENTS				
2	Circuit Assessment or Share	45,273		45,273	45,313
3	Donations		4,180	4,180	3,805
4	Repairs and Maintenance	7,735		7,735	5,285
5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	19,455		19,455	19,440
6					
7	Other payments	41,517	136,504	178,021	46,174
8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	113,980	140,684	254,664 (b9)	120,017

SECTION C					
1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(23,952)	(105,262)	(129,214)
2	Total funds brought forward from last year	7,761	104,981	112,742 (c6)	70,987
3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	(16,191)	(281)	(16,472)
4	Transfers and adjustments	52,181		52,181 (c7)	
5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	35,990	(281)	35,709 (c8)
					112,742 (c6)

SECTION 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)		£	£
1	Balance brought forward from last year		
2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		1,852
3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		1,852
4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID		
	(d1+d2-d3)		

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 2024 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
Thursday Group	353	1,575	(1,222)	60	1,565	403
Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	353	1,575	(1,222)	60	1,565 (e11)	403 (e12)
Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	125,450 (a7)	254,664 (b9)	(129,214)	(c7)	112,742 (c6)	(16,472) (c8)
TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	125,803	256,239	(130,436)	60	114,307 (x)	(16,069) (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 2024**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
Cash in hand	2,058	2,831
Bank Current Account	8,041	6,739
Bank Deposit Account		
Central Finance Board	102,643	26,138
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
Other funds		
SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	112,742 (c6)	35,708 (c8)
Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	1,565 (e11)	403 (e12)
TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	114,307 (x)	36,111 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
Investments (include Endowments)	209,976	166,108
Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	8,915,170	9,209,293
Other Assets		
Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
Other Liabilities		

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)

Name of Church .. **Temple Methodist Church**

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment 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 Graham Dickinson Date 6-12-24

Name and address of treasurer Graham Dickinson

13 Parkfield Drive, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 5BX

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 16 October 2024.....

Signature of the Chair of the meeting Deborah Kirk

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Deborah Kirk

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Temple Methodist Church

Charity Number . 24/15

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Temple Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 1 to 3. 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.

Name of Church .. Temple Methodist

No 24/15

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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.

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 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 *R. Vautier*

Name of independent examiner Mr Roy Vautier

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Address 6 Highgrove, Taunton, TA1 3RG

Date *9/12/24*