

Trustees Report to Charity Commission FYE 31/8/2023

Introduction

This report covers the activities of London Road Methodist Church (particularly financial) for the 12 month period ended 31 August 2023.

With effect from 1 September 2023 St Andrew's Methodist Church and Partridge Green Methodist Church merged with London Road Methodist Church and became known as Cornerstone Methodist Church. This merger took place under a scheme approved by the Dorking & Horsham Methodist Circuit as required by Standing Order 605A of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church. Accordingly, the registered charity was renamed with the permission of the Charity Commission and future reports will relate to the enlarged Church.

The affairs of the Church are managed by the Church Council (the 'Managing Trustees'), the members of which are also the charity Trustees. They are responsible for ensuring compliance with the principles and practice of Methodism and with the legislation relating to charities.

The latter includes registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission.

Aims and organisation

The Mission of the Methodist Church as a whole is 'to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship through Worship, Learning and Caring, Service to others and Evangelism'.

In response to this calling and to better equip the local Church to meet those aims, the Church created 8 Mission Teams during 2017 to concentrate on specific areas of our Church Strategy, namely, Caring, Communications, Discipleship, Family and Youth, Finance, Outreach, Property and Worship.

The leaders of the Mission Teams report through a Leadership Team (responsible for day-to-day matters) to Church Council. The Church prepares an Annual Report on its Mission and activities which is presented to the wider congregation annually at the General Church Meeting for member approval.

The approved Vision Statement of the local church (as approved by Church Council in June 2015) is 'to be a church that is known for its Spirit-Led discipleship and its practical care in the community' and thus the Mission Team structure reflects our calling.

Presbyteral Minister's Report

Dear Friends,

Looking back at last year's report, which covered the three Churches as we were still on our way to becoming Cornerstone, I used the motif of **RESURRECTION** as the theme for my report. As I pick up the threads again this year, for our inaugural General Church Meeting as Cornerstone, I am pondering whether **RESURRECTION** is indeed an event or a process.

Indeed, our journey was begun with a very timely word from our District Chair, the Revd Dr David Hinchliffe, as he challenged us to live up to our name with Christ as our Cornerstone and Sure Foundation. So, taking up that challenge, we have set about shaping a new faith community that embraces a new collective identity emerging from the three former churches it grows out of.

The signs of this new identity are emerging steadily. We see it in the collective nature of the Church Council, the willingness of folk to engage with work across the three chapels helping staff Café's, and Messy Church, uplifting levels of technology to provide equal opportunities, working together to keep our three chapels functioning, worshipping together from time to time, serving together on the various Forums, a brand-new website and more. Indeed, the new thing that God is seeking to do in our midst is taking shape – slowly.

To those of you who are helping give substance and shape to this **RESURRECTION**, I want to offer my deepest gratitude. At the head of that list must be Teresa Thomson and Peter Bramhill, our Church Stewards. You have, without fuss or bother, simply got on with the task of embracing the challenge of shaping our new identity across the three chapels and I know your presence, Sunday by Sunday, in the three chapels is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your gift of presence and leadership.

Together with Teresa and Peter, John Dale, Sarah Pitkeathly and myself make up the Leadership Team. This is a slightly differently structured team than before but together we are seeking to give leadership across the church's life and I am grateful for the contributions each are making to that journey.

The Church Council has also taken up the challenge of seeking to hold the whole life of Cornerstone together in its work. The composition of the Council is reflective of each of the Chapels and we have sought to meet across the three venues as well as using Zoom to make our winter meeting a little more accessible! I know it is always dangerous to single out individuals but I think you will bear with me as I make special mention of Fred King and David Gilbert. They have each had a very specific challenge to embrace as we have begun this journey together to become Cornerstone. The process of merging the three church accounts into a single entity

has held more than a few challenges along the way but Fred has steadily and diligently worked his way through them together with his team and the job is still not entirely completed. David has discovered that adding two other properties into the mix has been anything but straightforward and has pushed ahead undaunted and, again, together with his band of helpers is helping us make it work. To both of you we offer our grateful thanks.

Along with them the leaders of each of the Forums have been working tirelessly to help shape the vision we discerned together in the July of 2022 at our Vision Day in Storrington and so to Sue Randell (Caring), Christine Lawley (Learning & Worship) and Sarah Pitkeathly (Mission & Service), along with your respective teams, our grateful thanks for getting us on the way in our journey into what it means to be Cornerstone – **TOGETHER**.

As we seek to continue our journey **TOGETHER** into what it means to be Cornerstone Methodist Church, I believe we face three particular challenges.

Firstly, there's the challenge of **parochialism**, of being Chapel centred in our focus. Plainly speaking I mean we're still more concerned about 'our church' rather than the broader entity of which we are now a part. Paul has a beautiful analogy in 1 Corinthians 12 where he speaks of us being the Body of Christ and uses the human body as an analogy to describe that body. He reminds us that the body is not made up of one part only but consists of many different parts which all need to work together to make the body function well. He also reminds us to be humble and protective so that we might celebrate together with joy the benefits the whole brings. He goes on to remind us that the way of Love in chapter 13 is the ultimate expression of that unity and life together in the body. If Cornerstone is to discover its true potential, we need to discover the truth of what Paul says and implement it in our journey together. If we don't then the true potential of the step of faith we took in September will not be realised.

Secondly, there's the challenge of **growing** the church. We need to be '...adding to our number those who are being saved...' Acts 2:41; Acts 5:14. Whatever that might look like for us, we need to discover how we can turn from being a church in decline – our membership in just this short space of time has decreased from 172 to 167 – which includes the addition of two members transferred in. It is painfully clear that depending on organic growth, growth from within, is not going to make that happen. We need dynamic growth. We need to discover again the message that is ours to bring. We need to connect with the life source that is at the heart of the Gospel to set us free from whatever it is that encumbers us and holds us back from proclaiming good news, life giving news, that transforms the world around us and draws others in to join with us in sharing this Good News.

Thirdly, there's the challenge of dealing with **buildings** that need a substantial investments of funds and a significant investment of effort and time just to make them good. The fact of the matter is we have two buildings dating back to the 19th century and one to the early part of the 20th century. It should therefore come as no surprise that we are confronted with significant expenditure forecasts contained in the Quinquennial reports for the three buildings. How are we to respond to this challenge?

Any one of these three would, in my humble opinion, be a significant challenge to overcome on their own. Dealing with all three makes this a particularly fraught moment in our short journey together as Cornerstone.

This is the backdrop to the call to join in the **Discerning Prayer Journey** issued by the Church Council recently. Finding our way through this period is going to take the kind of commitment on our part that will enable us to explore carefully, consult earnestly and decide boldly for the future. We can only do that if we make our priority to listen intently for God's voice in the midst of our challenges. The abiding image contained for us in the book of Acts is of a people gathered, even huddled in prayer as they approach the Pentecost moment. Acts 1 & 2. Remember, they too were a new community, trying to fathom their future through the trauma of a moment of significant transition. Everything they had so keenly anticipated in Jesus had been brutally ripped from their grasp and then suddenly they were confronted with an unexpected transformation in the **RESURRECTION**. Now, again, Jesus is gone. Can we begin to enter into that moment as it presented itself to them, then? Look at how they respond. They are found, even behind closed doors, locked in prayer, patiently waiting for the promised gift and goodness me did it come! A transforming moment that reshaped their reality and can also reshape ours. So please, do make it a priority to join with us in this journey we must make so our **RESURRECTION** moment can give way to our **PENTECOST** moment in our journey **TOGETHER** as Christ's church in this time and place. The dates are 26th May at London Road, 7TH July at Partridge Green and 4th August at St Andrew's. The time is 12:30pm and we will meet together for two hours of sharing, reflecting and praying that God's dream for who God is calling us to be will take shape in us and amongst us and through us in our time and place now and into the future.

Rev Gavin Hancocks.

Diaconal Minister's Report

For me, there have been two major events in the last year: the first was my Reception into Full Connexion and Ordination last June, and the second was the inauguration of Cornerstone in September. Both feel as if they were a long time coming, but both happened in God's time. I would like to thank everyone who

supported me, prayed for me and with me, and nudged me along the road: you were all instrumental in getting me to Coventry Central Hall last year, and I am deeply grateful, especially to Gavin for his patience, encouragement and confidence in me. Whilst I may have passed that blessed and precious milestone, the degree that I began at college in the autumn of 2019 is still not quite finished: I am now writing a dissertation on the theology of food poverty in Britain. Hopefully that will be completed by the end of July!

And then Cornerstone happened – we had a fantastic service in September with our District Chair, Rev Dr David Hinchliffe, and now we continue to do the ongoing work, as Gavin has described in his report, to really live into the promises of Cornerstone as one church in three chapels.

I value this opportunity each year to share with you what I have been doing as a diaconal minister working alongside you. Not all that I do is immediately obvious to the wider community and congregation, but I would appreciate your prayers, so it is good to be able to share it with you now.

The new **Cornerstone Methodist Church website** continues to be a work in progress, and I chair the group of women who edit and shape that window for the world onto the church: it is both our shop window and our front door, and whilst we recognise that it is never going to be finished (as it will always need updates), we hope that we are beginning to get it to a place where it shows the world what Cornerstone is all about, and is a welcoming place to begin a journey to get to know God through our church. I want to thank Valerie Cummings, Christine Dale, Vikki Mead, Ali Nickells, and Carolyn King for their willingness to do this work. Congregational input is valuable, so please do have a look at it, and we welcome your photographs, reports on events, original prayers and writing etc to fill it out further.

The **Mission and Service forum** is also one of my priorities, and we meet regularly to think about how to support and further the Church's Mission and Vision statement in these areas. You can read more about the work in the separate report, but its work is widely spread across the church and very varied. I continue to support **Community Connexion** (the new name for the Outreach Team) with their invitational events and encourage you to support them: bring non-church friends to the events! Contributing to the **Learning and Worship forum** is also a significant commitment for me as a preacher and leader of worship in the church, with a passion for discipleship and for evangelism.

I work collaboratively with Susan Halliday, Centre Missioner at St Andrews, and Dorota Kolt-Geddes, Community Resilience Layworker, in various projects: I have run **The Bereavement Journey** with Susan this year already and had some very positive feedback from the group of women who attended. We were very ably

supported by Stephanie Kirkcaldy and Sue Randell, and will be running it again in the autumn, when Bev Little will also be helping out. This has involved training sessions for all the supporters, and I am very grateful for their willingness to engage in the work. Bereavement is a difficult time, and the course is very good for anyone who is grieving. Dorota's work with **the Community Fridge Café** continues in partnership with the team at the Community Fridge, and we continue to host the Fridge Team as their main distribution venue in Horsham. This collaboration came out of a conversation that I had in my first few months in Horsham, and I am thrilled to see how these relationships are now flourishing. In conjunction with a monthly "pop-up" **Saturday Community Fridge** at St Andrews, I am running a **Refill Station** with Gill Scott and Denise Kennedy, where people can refill their own bottles with household products like washing up liquid. This is part of the work to support the environment which Gill is masterminding. Dorota also oversees the Easy Movers group at St Andrews, which she has written about in her report: this is also flourishing, and people really appreciate her care and interest in them. She is a huge asset to our staff team.

Since Kate Fraser's death, I have taken on the running of the **Messy Church** at St Andrews, with David Fraser's support, and with Susan Halliday and Christine Dale giving a great deal of practical preparation time to the monthly sessions. Whilst I cannot begin to match Kate in terms of her experience and enthusiasm for children's work, we are keeping it going and the families book it to capacity every month, which is very exciting. We have a significant team of helpers who ably engage the families in faith conversations over crafts, as well as taking time to chat over the meals that the kitchen team cook. The team effort is a blessing to everyone involved. **Bright Stars** continues to flourish on Thursday mornings, and I am also immensely grateful to a stellar (pun intended) team which makes it a joy. The families enjoy their time at the group each week, and there is always a positive atmosphere. Helen Pitt and Jacki Reeves, along with Ali Nickells, Dorota, Christine Dale, Lynda Mitchell and Sue Randell, keep this running smoothly.

Grant funding applications were never on the curriculum at college, but I have had some success in writing successful applications for the church: Fred King and I worked on an application which netted the church some £15k for community work and led to the development of the **Friday Café** at London Road. I'm indebted to Fred for his work on the financial side of the applications as that was beyond me! The Friday Café ran for 9 weeks between January and Easter as a pilot, and was successful, so we are now continuing it. I will be recruiting a new weekly leader for it as soon as possible, funded in part for the first year by profits from the St Andrews Café whilst it becomes better established. This is something that you can support, and share with others, so that it becomes a meeting place for the community and congregations to mingle and share fellowship on Friday afternoons. Do drop in if you haven't tried it out already.

Being a diaconal minister is a blessing and a responsibility: the District is keen that the diaconal voice is heard on its committee and groups, and so I sit on the District Grants Committee, attend the Sabbaticals Group, and will probably join the District Probationers' Committee in the next Connexional year. There are fewer deacons in the District from September, and so there is more to be done! I have just had a wonderful Convocation with my siblings in the Methodist Diaconal Order, with a focus on social justice, which was challenging and inspirational. This annual gathering is a valuable part of diaconal life together. I also value the time spent with local deacons in our Area Group in the District and I am part of the District's Under 5s group, for those in ministry for fewer than 5 years, which is a particular support. You may not realise that there is a diaconal support group in the church, with which I meet about quarterly to think through some of the work that I am doing, and its contribution to my focus and direction is much appreciated. Rob Pitt, Philip Reeves, Sue Randell and Stephanie Kirkcaldy provide listening ears and much collective wisdom!

As I draw this report to a close, I want to encourage you. My testimony continues to be one of the grace (unmerited favour) of God, who takes what we offer in all our human frailty and brokenness and uses us to make a difference. Cornerstone needs us; the Kingdom of God needs us. I was reminded this week that I am now living what was only a dream for me five years ago – that I write this as an ordained minister in the universal Church of God, and that is only through the grace of God: that is the work that God has done in me. Let's open our hearts and minds to God even more, embrace all that God offers us in the life of Jesus Christ, and then share that with all those who are yet "beyond these walls of worship" so that the kingdom and the Church might grow in God's name and to His glory. May we hold one another in our prayers as we continue on this road together.

Deacon Sarah Pitkeathly

Report on Financial Outturn

The year-end accounts to 31 August 2023 have been approved by Church Council and Independently Examined.

Standard Form of Accounts (SFA) is the standardised way of presenting accounts to the Circuit and the Charity Commission and complies with the relevant legislation and accounting requirements.

Matters to note:

- Although this year has been uneventful in respect of the normal operation of the church, it has been unusual, financially, in that we received a large donation and used it to undertake a major refurbishment/development of part of the worship area of the church.
- In order not to distort the general account, this large donation was only recognised to the extent needed to meet the additional expenditure undertaken during the year. The balance was retained in the Property Development Fund (PDF) to support the remaining development expenditure.

Overall, we achieved a surplus of £9,098 v budgeted surplus of £2,007 (before the agreed allocation of 30% letting income to the PDF).

- Income – Aside from the recognised donation, key positive variations from budget were an extra £3k from lettings and £3k from interest (primarily on the large donation) which enabled us to avoid a budgeted transfer of £5.8k from reserves. Overall income for the year exceeded the budget by c£3.8k excluding the recognised donation.
- Expenditure - overall spending was c£3.3k under budget (excluding the development expenditure) mainly due to lower discretionary spend (including planned property maintenance).
- Balance Sheet - Following the allocation of 30% of letting income to the property development fund reserve, the overall general fund surplus for the year is £4,291 (budgeted deficit £1,893) increasing the net worth to £48,319 which is well in excess of the stated reserves policy to maintain 3 months operating expenditure.
- The balance sheet tangible fixed assets figure reflects the valuations following assessment by the Methodist Insurance Company in a previous financial year

updated approximately to the current date and plus depreciated expenditure since that full valuation and the trustees' estimate of the land value.

- Sundry debtors relates mainly to the prepaid Circuit Assessment for the following financial period.

Risk Management and Governance

Any major risks have been identified and recorded by the Trustees, with professional advice taken, as required. In particular, there is a regular and ongoing review of our Safeguarding obligations by our Safeguarding Officer; of 'Lone-Worker' activities and our Health and Safety policy by our H&S Officer. These policies are reviewed and updated every 3 years.

The Church is committed to ensuring implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation; guidance and safe practices in the Church and Circuit through the provision of support, advice, guidance and training for lay and ordained people so that they are clear and confident to carry out their roles and responsibilities.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

"Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice"

London Road Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the church.

The Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Reserves Policy

The approved reserves policy during this accounting period was to hold a minimum sum in general reserves equivalent to 3 months' average expenditure or such sum sufficient to meet unforeseen major expenditure on the Church building.

Static Information

Full Name of Charity: London Road Methodist Church ('LRMC'), Horsham

Charity Commission number: 1134052

Date of Registration (as a charity): 3 February 2010

Communication address: 41 London Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1AN

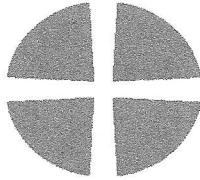
Treasurer: Mr Fred King

It is confirmed that Fred King, as a Managing Trustee, acted as the principal officer overseeing the day-to-day financial management and accounting during the financial year.

Independent examiner: Mr Tony Canvin, 33 Kingmere, South Terrace, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LD

Investment Bankers: Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church Trustees for Methodist Church Purpose.

Clearing Bankers: The Charities Aid Foundation 'CAF'



Church
Accruals Accounts
2022-2023

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
ACCRUALS BASIS
for the year ended 31 August 2023

London Road Methodist Church, Horsham

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1134052

Dorking & Horsham Circuit

36 / 10

Minister:

Rev Gavin Hancocks

Church Stewards:

Mr David Casey (senior)

Mrs Esther Coombes

Mrs Elyane Dale

Mrs Gill Scott

Church Treasurer:

Mr Fred King

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 2022-2023
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
1 Offerings		66,876.21				66,876
2 Donations and sundry income	12	2,190.61	120,000.00	6,868.36		129,059
3 Gift Aid	12	14,414.06	30,000.00	1,591.05		46,005
4 Interest and investment income	12	3,228.85	0.00	1,003.60		4,232
5 Income from investment properties						0
6 Internal organisations	13	800.00		2,334.88		3,135
7 Lettings		16,023.95				16,024
8 Total income		103,533.68	150,000.00	11,797.89	-	265,332
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		56,593.00				56,593
10 Grants and donations	12	2,325.00	0.00	8,239.37		10,564
11 Property maintenance		82,789.38				82,789
12 Insurance, utilities etc		10,218.42				10,218
13 Depreciation	9	5,516.00				5,516
14 Office expenses		2,979.05	0.00	85.95		3,065
15 Other expenditure		8,430.36		97.18		8,528
16 Internal organisations	13	0.00	0.00	2,473.15		2,473
17 Total charitable expenditure		168,851.21	0.00	10,895.65	-	179,747
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		0.00	0.00	0.00		-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		0.00	0.00	0.00		-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		-65,317.53	150,000.00	902.24	-	85,585
21 Transfers between funds	12	64,093.00	-62,713.00	-1,380.00		-
22 Other gains/(losses)	9	190,469.00	0.00	0.00		190,469
23 Net movement in funds		189,244.47	87,287.00	-477.76	-	276,054
24 Total funds brought forward		4,235,514.42	28,566.18	33,615.24		4,297,696
25 Total funds carried forward		4,424,758.89	115,853.18	33,137.48	-	4,573,749

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2022

	Notes to the previous accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021-2022 £
Income						
1 Offerings		70,020				70,020
2 Donations and sundry income		1,554	-	13,868		15,421
3 Gift Aid		15,308	-	419		15,727
4 Interest and investment income		205	-	142		347
5 Income from investment properties						0
6 Internal organisations		750		2,124		2,874
7 Lettings		16,011				16,011
8 Total income		103,847	-	16,552	-	120,400
Expenditure						
9 Circuit assessment or share		53,863				53,863
10 Grants and donations		12,545	-	2,095		14,640
11 Property maintenance		19,301				19,301
12 Insurance, utilities etc		7,524				7,524
13 Depreciation		5,516				5,516
14 Office expenses		2,854	-	52		2,905
15 Other expenditure		6,596				6,596
16 Internal organisations		-	-	2,777		2,777
17 Total charitable expenditure		108,200	-	4,924	-	113,123
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	-	-		-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	-	-		-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		(4,352)	-	11,629	-	7,276
21 Transfers between funds		3,321	2,623	(5,944)		-
22 Other gains/(losses)		440,958	-	-		440,958
24 Net movement in funds		439,927	2,623	5,685	-	448,235
25 Total funds brought forward		3,795,588	25,943	27,930		3,849,461
26 Total funds carried forward		4,235,514	28,566	33,615	-	4,297,696

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

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Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted)	Designated Funds (Unrestricted)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Totals 2023	Totals 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£

Fixed assets

Church building and other property	9	4,376,440			4,376,440	4,191,486
Investment properties					0	0
Investments					0	0
Total fixed assets		4,376,440	0	0	4,376,440	4,191,486

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R**Current assets**

Debtors and prepayments		37,682	10,000	381	48,063	15,096
Loans by the Church					0	0
Investments with TMCP				18,757	18,757	18,224
Central Finance Board Deposits		24	105,853	12,274	118,151	58,630
Cash at Bank and in hand		12,786	0	1,724	14,510	14,258
Total current assets		50,492	115,853	33,137	199,482	106,209

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Current liabilities

Creditors (due in under 1 year)		2,173	0	0	2,173	0
Grants payable within 1 year					0	0
Total current liabilities		2,173	0	0	2,173	0
Net current assets/liabilities		48,319	115,853	33,137	197,309	106,209

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Total assets less current liabilities		4,424,759	115,853	33,137	0	4,573,749	4,297,695
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Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)							
Grants payable after 1 year		0			0	0	0
Loans to the Church					0	0	0
Net assets		4,424,759	115,853	33,137	0	4,573,749	4,297,695

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Funds of the Church

General Fund (Unrestricted)		4,424,759				4,424,759	4,235,514
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			115,853			115,853	28,566
Total Unrestricted Funds						4,540,612	4,264,079
Restricted Funds				33,137		33,137	33,615
Endowment Funds					0	0	0
Total Funds		4,424,759	115,853	33,137	0	4,573,749	4,297,695

Signed

Church Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts

1. Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the 2014 version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS102 – the Charities SORP (FRS102) and taking note of the Update Bulletin 1 issued in 2016.

2. Funds

The funds held constitute:

General Funds held for any purpose of the Church which are Unrestricted;
Designated Funds set aside for specific purposes but remaining under full control of the Trustees;
Restricted Funds which are held for a narrower purpose.

There are no Endowment funds.

Details of each material fund are disclosed in Note 12 to these accounts. Any funds may be represented by more than just cash.

3. Accounting policies

Basis

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year. The accruals basis has been used to show a true and fair view of the Church's financial position and activities.

Incoming Resources

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the Church becomes entitled to the resources, and the Trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the Church to pay out resources.

VAT

Since the Church is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

Tangible fixed assets for use by the Church

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,000.

The freehold property is shown in the accounts at 2023 insurance values (as a proxy for the fair value calculated on a depreciated replacement cost basis) plus £200,000 for the value of the land.

Capitalised building expenditure incurred since the last full valuation is depreciated until its value is included in a full valuation. No other depreciation is provided on the building because the Trustees consider the current residual fair value of the buildings (on the assumption that it had reached the end of its useful economic life by the year-end) to be not less than its current value. Any depreciation would not be material. The property has been reviewed for impairment.

Investment properties

Investment properties - no property is currently deemed to not be held for the long term purposes of the charity.

Investments

Investments are valued in the Balance Sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SOFA.

Debtors and Prepayments

The debtors and prepayment included in the accounts are in respect of lettings invoices, accrued Gift Aid and the Circuit Assessment.

Creditors

Creditors include both sundry expenses and bills outstanding at 31 August 2023.

4. Payment to Trustees

Some Trustees incurred expenses on behalf of the Church which were reimbursed but there were no payments made to Trustees for services provided to the Church.

Trustee payments for services

	2022/23	2021/22
Number of Trustees	0	0
Total Amount	£0	£0

5. Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts	0	0
Other fees (eg: advice, accountancy services) paid to the independent examiner or auditor	0	0

A donation is made to a charity nominated by the Independent Examiner in lieu of any fees.

6. Paid employees

There are no paid employees of the Church.

The Presbyter with pastoral responsibility for the Church receives a Stipend but this is paid by the Circuit using funds received from each Church in the Circuit through the Circuit Assessment.

7. Capital Commitments and Contingent Liabilities

At 31 August 2023 there are no capital commitments.

No Contingent liabilities were identified at 31 August 2023.

8. For information only Money received and passed on to External Organisations

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Balance brought forward	0	0
Offering / Gifts - received for External Organisations	0	5,386
Offering / Gifts - passed to External Organisations	0	5,386
Balance carried forward	0	0

9. Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation

	Church (non investment) Land & Buildings £	Other (non investment) Land & Buildings £	Other buildings £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Payments on account and assets under construction £	Total £
Balance brought forward	4,187,218	0	0	55,483	0	4,242,701
Additions	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluations (+/-)	190,469	0	0	0	0	190,469
Disposals (-)						0
Transfers (+/-)						0
Balance carried forward	4,377,687	0	0	55,483	0	4,433,170

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward	5,690	0	0	45,524	0	51,214
Depreciation charge for year (-)	1,897	0	0	3,619	0	5,516
Revaluations (+/-)						0
Disposals (-)						0
Transfers (+/-)						0
Balance carried forward	7,587	0	0	49,143	0	56,730

Net book value

Brought forward	4,181,528	0	0	9,959	0	4,191,487
Carried forward	4,370,100	0	0	6,340	0	4,376,440

10. Investment assets

The Church has no Investment properties.

The Church has no common investment fund holdings.

11. Loans

The Church currently has no loans.

12. Analysis of Restricted and Designated funds

2022-2023

Fund Name	Opening Balance £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £	Purpose of the fund
Benevolent Fund (Designated)	25	0	0	0	25	Support for individuals in specific need
Memorials Fund (Designated)	325	0	0	0	325	Available for funding member memorials
Church Mission Fund (Designated)	6,520	0	0	0	6,520	Available for funding church mission initiatives
Property Development Fund (Designated)	21,695	150,000	0	-62,713	108,982	Available to help with long-term church maintenance
Legacies (Restricted)	31,460	1,004	-52	-1,380	31,032	Available to use against specific projects

Totals	60,026	151,004	-52	-64,093	146,884
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Breakdown of transfers

Transferring fund	Receiving fund				Totals	Reason
	General Fund	Property Development Fund	Benevolent Fund	Church Mission Fund		
General Fund	0	4,807	0	0	4,807	Lettings income and benevolent support policies
Property Development Fund	67,520	0	0	0	67,520	Additional carpets
Church Mission Fund	0	0	0	0	0	Toilet & fridge twinning
Legacies	1,380	0	0	0	1,380	Audio visual development

Totals	68,900	4,807	0	0
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Comparative Analysis of Restricted and Designated funds

2021-2022

Fund Name	Opening Balance £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Closing Balance £	Purpose of the fund
Benevolent Fund (Designated)	25	0	0	0	25	Support for individuals in specific need
Memorials Fund (Designated)	325	0	0	0	325	Available for funding member memorials
Church Mission Fund (Designated)	7,000	0	0	-480	6,520	Available for funding church mission initiatives
Property Development Fund (Designated)	18,592	0	0	3,103	21,695	Available to help with long-term church maintenance
Legacies (Restricted)	25,314	12,142	-52	-5,944	31,460	Available to use against specific projects

Totals	51,257	12,142	-52	-3,321	60,026
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13. Internal Organisations 2022-2023 Movements

Organisation	Opening Balance £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Adjust £	Closing Balance £
Ladies Wednesday Club	658	1,152	-1,215	0	595
Parents & Toddlers	1,183	1,183	-1,258	0	1,108
Messy Church	123	0	0	0	123
Totals	1,964	2,335	-2,473	0	1,826

The internal organisations of the Church report to Church Council and hold their own funds separately. These funds are independent of those held within the Church accounts.


The income and expenditure has been included under Restricted Funds in lines 6 and 16 respectively. The opening and closing balances are included in lines 24 and 25 as funds brought forward at 1 September 2022 and carried forward at 31 August 2023.

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that I have prepared these accruals-based accounts from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church Council

Signature of Treasurer



Date

8.4.24

Name

Mr Fred King

Address


29 Beaver Close, Horsham
West Sussex RH12 5GB

Presentation to the Church Council for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Church Council on
and were approved.

9.4.24

Signature of the Chair of
the meeting



Name of the Chair of the
meeting

Rev Gavin Hancocks

Date

9/4/2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

London Road Methodist Church, Horsham

The Church's Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the annual report and accounts present a true and fair view of the Church's income and expenditure for the year and of its assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date. The Trustees consider that an audit is not necessary for this year under Section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items, in nature or scale, or disclosures in the accounts, seeking explanations from the Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view. My report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act 2011;
- and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 2011

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

(3) 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.

Name

TONY CANVIN

Signature



Relevant Professional qualification or body

Address

33 KINGMERE, SOUTH TERRACE
LITTLE HAMPTON
WEST SUSSEX BN17 5LJ

Date

2 MARCH 2024