

## Annual report 1.9.2021 – 31.8.2022

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

This report relates to Nexus Methodist Church to 31.8.2022, registered with the Charity Commission under Charity Number 1134062. Nexus Methodist Church merged with Beechen Cliff, Weston and Horizon Methodist Churches on 1.9.2022 to form Bath Methodist Church.

All correspondence for the church should be addressed to:

Mrs Sharon Keevill – Church Administrator  
Bath Methodist Church  
Nelson Place East  
Bath  
BA1 5DA  
Telephone: 01225 461509

Email: [admin@bathmethodists.org.uk](mailto:admin@bathmethodists.org.uk)

Further and latest information is available on our website: [bathmethodists.org.uk](http://bathmethodists.org.uk)

The membership of Nexus Methodist Church stood at 67 members as of August 31st 2022

### The Managing Trustees for the year 2021 -22 were:

Revd Simon Topping (Superintendent Minister/Chair)  
Mike Ainsworth (Treasurer to 28 February 2022).....  
Trevor Purches (Treasurer from 1 March 2022)  
Sharon Keevill – (Administrator)  
Pete Keevill – (Property chair)  
Claire Phillips – (Secretary)

Revd Jan Tate (additional minister)  
Karen Power - (Lead Steward)  
Trevor Purches (property)  
Marc Horobin (property)  
Elspeth Rolls – (Circuit Rep)  
Mike Renton (safeguarding)

#### -----stewards -----

Pete Keevill  
Jenny Lewis  
Gwen Essam  
Hetty de Rooij  
Tricia Mills

#### ---Congregation representatives---

Hazel Roch  
Sylvia Armstrong  
Ben Sykes

Decisions concerning the activities of Nexus Methodist Church and the appointment of its Trustees are made at Church Council meetings of which there are a minimum of three each year.

## **AIMS AND ORGANISATION**

The aims of Nexus Methodist Church are as defined in the Methodist Church Act 1976 namely:

The advancement of

- a) the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the 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 of the Methodist church.

### **This is achieved by:-**

- a) Holding regular acts of public worship open to members and public alike.
- b) providing pastoral care for members of our community visiting sick and bereaved.
- c) teaching Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups – both in person and online.
- d) Promoting Christianity through events and services.
- e) Provision of activities and clubs to support need in the community such as lunch clubs /foodcycle for elderly and homeless.
- f) Letting premises for community organisations - for example local choirs , pre-schools, health and wellbeing classes.
- g) Supporting other charities with finance and prayer in accordance with Christian values to promote Christian mission and by addressing poverty and social need in both UK and the World.

## **Review of activities, progress and achievements (September 2021 – August 2022)**

### **Worship**

The pattern of worship varied through the year in response to changing Covid restrictions and infection rates. Worship via Zoom was introduced in 2020 for the Bath Mission Area Methodist Churches (Bathampton, Beechen Cliff, Box, Horizon, Nexus and Weston) and this continued weekly at first, then fortnightly. The frequency of in-person services at Nexus increased from monthly to fortnightly, then weekly with the introduction of morning prayers followed by a breakfast.

During this time, we started to discuss how Nexus, Beechen Cliff, Horizon and Weston Methodist Churches could work together more closely, building on the links that were strengthened by meeting on Zoom in the pandemic and held united services monthly in each of the churches.

### **Sept – Nov 2021**

Monthly in-person, weekly Zoom

### **Dec 2021 – Feb 2022**

In-person twice a month, weekly Zoom

Bath Mission Area United service 31 Jan 2022

### **March – May 2022**

In-person Sunday Worship 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> – Zoom and new 9am in-person morning prayers followed by breakfast

Bath Mission Area United service 31 May

### **Jun – Aug 2022**

In-person Sunday Worship 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> – Zoom and 9am in-person morning prayers followed by breakfast  
Bath Mission Area United services on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

We continued to offer paper worship resource for those unable to attend in-person services or to join online.

We also provided a Wednesday contemplation /bible study session and a Friday prayers group both via zoom.

Advent and Lent Studies were offered both via Zoom and in-person.

### **Working towards the launch of Bath Methodist Church**

Following the United Service on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January, there was a meeting to discuss how the churches could work together in future. The meeting agreed unanimously that the relevant Church Councils should vote on the proposal that the four churches of Beechen Cliff, Horizon, Nexus and Weston should become one Methodist Society with one Church Council/managing trustees group. All four subsequently voted in favour of forming a single Methodist Society, to be known as Bath Methodist Church, to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

Three working groups were set up to bring proposals to a meeting of the Bath Mission Area churches on July 31<sup>st</sup> on the following areas:

- Working group one - to produce a “vision statement” for the new Beechen Cliff/Horizon/Nexus/Weston Methodist Society
- Working group two – to conduct an audit of the four church sites considering their respective strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats
- Working group three – to consider “big ideas” - new and perhaps radical ways of using some or all of the church sites

In the meeting on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July, a draft mission statement was presented, as proposed by working group one:

The mission of the Bath Methodist Society is to promote and practise ‘A Methodist Way of Life’.

We will seek to live out this mission by sustaining and nurturing both our Christian journey inwards and our Christian journey outwards.

The inner journey:

- daily prayer - keeping connected to each other through prayer groups and prayer times
- worshipping together – Sundays and during the week
- pastoral care of members and adherents
- small groups – for fellowship, prayer and bible study/learning
- discipleship formation – stepping stones to discipleship - from enquirers’ events to fully committed participation in the Methodist Way of Life
- building up our fellowship through social activities

The journey outwards:

- outreach to the local community (hospitality and generosity)
- commitment to social justice
- care for creation
- practising an inclusive welcome to all
- outreach to University students/Chapel House Community
- commitment to the Southdown Church and Community Project
- sharing the faith – actively seeking ways to tell the Christian story

Church Council members for Bath Methodist Church were appointed, to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

### **Pastoral Care**

Our pastoral visitors have remained in contact with those on their lists and have continued to support members of the congregation.

### **Junior Church**

Our young people resumed their meetings on an informal basis on Sundays.

### **Church groups**

'Tea & Cake' was introduced in October 2021, meeting weekly in the Concourse (and church garden weather-permitting). This was both an opportunity for people to meet socially as they had not been able to do earlier in the pandemic and for the main church doors to be open to anyone passing by.

As mentioned in the Worship section, an early morning Sunday prayer service was introduced twice a month in March 2022. It was decided to follow this with a simple breakfast to provide another opportunity for those who had been isolated to meet together.

### **Social justice**

We organised webinars as part of the Methodist Church 'Walking with Micah' initiative looking at social justices issues and what we as a church can do.

### **Church and community events:**

Our church centre has rooms available for hire and were used by several community groups:

- FoodCycle continue to use our premises to package and serve food parcels made up from surplus food from supermarkets and local shops and to serve community meals (subject to Covid regulations. Community Meals restarted in Jul 2022 offering company as well as serving hot meals.
- 'Christmas for CAMHAS' used the hall to pack gift boxes for children with mental health issues who were to spend Christmas in hospital
- Bath Child Contact Centre moved their base to Nexus during August. We were able to offer use of the hall on a regular basis and storage of their equipment. They provide a safe space for children whose parents have separated to meet their absent parent.
- Julian House Day Centre – used our rooms for a series of sessions from July 2022

Other community groups have resumed on a regular basis – 'Pixies' Steiner Playgroup, Pilates classes and The Bath Minerva Choir.

### **Church Administrator:**

The church administrator is responsible for producing the weekly notice sheets and monthly magazines, updating the website, dealing with telephone and email enquiries, producing publicity material for church events and activities and dealing with room hire.

The administrator keeps church members informed via weekly emails or by distributing printed resources to those without internet access.

*Sharon Keevill (church administrator)*

## **EcoChurch**

This scheme encourages churches to commit to care for the environment in worship and teaching, management of church buildings and land, community and global engagement and the lifestyle of church members. Nexus received the Bronze EcoChurch Award in March 2020 and we have continued to follow the scheme.

A plan was put forward to make the garden in front of the church more wildlife-friendly, with the help of Avon Wildlife Trust and BathScape. Due to the pandemic, these plans were not able to go ahead. However we took part in 'No-Mow May'.

## **Stewards**

The team of Stewards are responsible for the smooth running of the church, ensuring services and other events are organised properly plus keeping an oversight over the various committees/church groups and indeed the overall life of the church.

## **Chapel House**

We continue to remain in close contact with the Christian community of students renting the church property at Chapel House, which is maintained by Nexus.

## **Risk Management /Safeguarding**

In accordance with best practice the Church Council reviews on an ongoing basis the major risks to which the Church may be exposed, and procedures have been established to monitor and manage those risks. The last 2 years the covid pandemic had significant impact on our risk management as referenced elsewhere.

Mike Renton is our Nexus Church Safeguarding Officer (responsible to the Minister and Church Council) to support and advise the Minister and Stewards on safeguarding issues and to promote best practice.

Nexus Church safeguarding Officer is also supported by NE Somerset and Bath Methodist church Circuit safeguarding team.

## **Property -**

Nexus continues to be Managing Trustees for 2 buildings which have varied use.

Walcot church is our main worship space as well as having large communities rooms, which are used by various groups. Like all buildings we maintain them to be fit for purpose according to the recommendations of the 5-year independent inspections.

## **Roof Truss Repairs**

The Quinquennial Inspection in January 2021 highlighted a major problem with the roof trusses. Repairs entailed the strengthening of ends of two central beams and trusses by removing earlier strengthening, removing rotten wood and replacing with steel members. Support scaffolding was installed to support the weight of the roof and the ceiling reinstated with period lath and lime plaster.

In order to support the roof, scaffolding was required throughout the whole height of the building for several months. The majority of this was in the sanctuary area but worship continued during this time in the hall below. There was also some scaffolding in the hall but all external groups using the hall were able to continue their activities.

Funding was achieved with tremendous support from local membership and circuit donation. Our fund raisers also attracted smaller grants from various trusts. Around £10,000 was drawn from reserves. A grant was applied for from the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (£16,000 was granted in March 2023).

## **THE CHURCH'S BANKERS**

The Church has accounts with the following banks:

### **Central Finance Board**

9 Bonhill Street  
London  
EC2A 4PE

### **HSBC plc**

Milsom Street  
Bath  
BA1 1DU

### **CAF Bank**

25 Kings Hill Avenue,  
Kings Hill  
West Malling,  
Kent ME19 4JQ

## **Treasurer's Report 2021-22 financial year**

Please see full set of accounts with examiner's report enclosed.

*Trevor Purches: treasurer*

## THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

<b>NEXUS METHODIST</b>	<b>Church</b>
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**

**31 August 2022**

<b>NE Somerset and Bath</b>	<b>Circuit</b>	<b>Circuit no.</b>	<b>7/13</b>
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**Registered Charity - Charity Registration number**

1134062

**If not a registered charity Her 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:**

Revd Simon Topping
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**Church Stewards:**

Karen Power	
Gwen Essam	Hetty de Rooij
Pete Keevill	Sharon Keevill
Elizabeth Kenyon	
Patricia Mills	

**Treasurer:**

Dr Mike Ainsworth to March and Trevor Purches (current)
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SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>Note</b>			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	81,110.00		<b>81,110</b>	55,323
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	59		<b>59</b>	72
a4	Lettings	39,292		<b>39,292</b>	39,599
a5	Other receipts	1,622	71,932	<b>73,554</b>	37,039
a6	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>122,083</b>	<b>71,932</b>	<b>194,015 (a7)</b>	<b>132,033</b>

SECTION B					
b1	<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	50,000		<b>50,000</b>	47,708
b3	Donations	586		<b>586</b>	986
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	100,633		<b>100,633</b>	40,380
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	19,707		<b>19,707</b>	12,561
b6					
b7	Other payments	8,774		<b>8,774</b>	13,807
b8	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>179,700</b>		<b>179,700 (b9)</b>	<b>115,442</b>

SECTION C					
c1	<b>NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(a6-b8)</b>	<b>(57,616)</b>	<b>71,932</b>	<b>14,316</b>
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		67,817	19,453	<b>87,270 (c6)</b>
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>(c1+c2)</b>	<b>10,201</b>	<b>91,385</b>	<b>101,586</b>
c4	Transfers and adjustments				<b>(c7)</b>
c5	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>(c3+c4)</b>	<b>10,201</b>	<b>91,385</b>	<b>101,586 (c8)</b>

SECTION D					
<b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b>					
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		£		£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year		172		
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		604		255
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		549		255
d4	<b>BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID</b>	<b>(d1+d2-d3)</b>	<b>227</b>		<b>172</b>



**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 2022 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						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds				(e11)	
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	194,015 (a7)	179,700 (b9)	14,316	87,270 (c6)	101,586
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	194,015	179,700	14,316	87,270 (x)	101,586
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 2022**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand	
f2	Bank Current Account HSBC	4,756
f3	Bank Deposit Account CAF	22,285
f4	Central Finance Board	36,929
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	23,300
f6	Other funds	
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	87,270 (c6)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	87,270 (x)

**SECTION G****OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2021	At 31 August 2022
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	8,049,675
g3	Other Assets	138,360
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	
g5	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 NEXUS METHODIST

No 7/13

## Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 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 ..... 03-Sep-22

Name and address of treasurer TREVOR PURCHES 6 Christchurch Rd, Bradford-on-Avon.

[finance@bathmethodists.org.uk](mailto:finance@bathmethodists.org.uk)

Post Code

BA15 1TB

### Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 will be presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on Monday 10th October 2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....  .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting Revd Jan Tate Date 10/10/22

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

### NEXUS METHODIST CHURCH

Charity Number 1162034

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the ..... Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages ... to .... 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

Name of Church                      NEXUS METHODIST CHURCH                      No 7/13


### 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 .....  .....

Name of independent examiner ..... Alexander M du Pré

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... C Eng

Name of firm (where appropriate) ... N/A

Address ..... 15 Mitchell Walk, Bridgegate, Bristol

..... Post Code BS30 5XY

Date ... 08-Oct-22

\* delete or circle as appropriate