



Bath Methodist Church

Annual report 1.9.2022 – 31.8.2023

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

This report relates to Bath Methodist Church to 31.8.2023, registered with the Charity Commission under Charity Number 1134062.

All correspondence for the church should be addressed to:

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

Email: admin@bathmethodists.org.uk

Further and latest information is available on our website: bathmethodists.org.uk

The membership of Bath Methodist Church stood at **162** members as of August 31st 2023:

The Managing Trustees for the year 2022 -23 were:

Ministers: Revd Simon Topping (Superintendent Minister), Revd Jan Tate, Deacon Annie Trembling

Church Council Secretary: Sue Clark

Treasurer: Trevor Purches

Administrator: Sharon Keevill

Stewards: David Pendle (Senior Steward), Allan Bain, Julia Barratt, Gwen Essam, Gareth James, Elizabeth Kenyon, Tricia Mills, Mike Priscott

Safeguarding Officer: Mary Gibson (to April 2023)

Congregational reps: Anne Allen, Steve Barratt, Greville Mills, Claire Phillips, Hazel Roch, Ben Sykes.

Interfaith rep: Revd David Musgrave

Chapel House rep: Pete Keevill

Circuit Steward: Ian Sims

Decisions concerning the activities of Bath 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 Bath 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 2022 – August 2023)

Bath Methodist Church was launched on 1st September 2022 when the existing Methodist Societies of Beechen Cliff, Horizon, Nexus and Weston were merged to form a single society. The church buildings - Walcot Chapel (the former Nexus site), Beechen Cliff and Weston - were retained for church and community use and Southdown Methodist Church Centre (managed by Trustees appointed by the North East Somerset & Bath Methodist Circuit) is also used for worship.

Mission

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

Worship

Sunday Worship:

Sunday morning worship is held at Walcot Chapel and Southdown Methodist Church Centre on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month. On the 4th and 5th Sundays, there is a joint service alternating between the two sites.

On the 1st Sunday of the month, there is also a short service of Morning Prayer at Walcot, followed by breakfast.

Worship via Zoom was introduced in 2020 as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This continued on a monthly basis up to May 2023 but was then discontinued as the demand had diminished significantly. Those still attending were given suggestions of other online worship resources. We also offer paper worship resource for those unable to attend in-person services.

Midweek Devotions:

There is a weekly prayer meeting on Fridays via Zoom.

Midweek prayers were also introduced at Walcot and Southdown in April 2023, based on the Celtic liturgy from the Northumbria Community. Numbers attending the sessions at Walcot were low and so it was decided to continue at Southdown only from July.

Bible Study & Fellowship

Study groups are held during Advent, Lent and Bible Month (June). There are several fellowship groups meeting in-person or online.

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

A group of young people meet on an informal basis at Walcot Chapel on Sundays.

Church-run groups

‘Tea & Cake’ meets weekly at Walcot in the Concourse (and church garden weather-permitting). This is both an opportunity for people to meet socially and for the main church doors to be open to anyone passing by.

‘Coffee Plus’ is a monthly evening event at Walcot with talks on a range of topics by local speakers.

‘Tigerlilies’ Parent and Toddler group meets weekly in term time at Weston. It is run by church members for families in the local community.

Social justice

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

Community use:

Our church buildings have rooms available for hire and are used by several community groups:

Walcot:

- FoodCycle – using surplus food from supermarkets to provide free meals and a place to meet.
- Bath Child Contact Centre – a safe place for children from separated families to meet their absent parent.
- 'Pixies' Steiner Playgroup
- 57th Bathampton Guides
- Choirs – Horizons Choir, Bath Minerva Choir and CWM Male Choir
- Exercise classes – Pilates
- Events
 - Hosted BBC Radio 4 Gardeners' Question Time (in partnership with Stratton House Methodist Home)
 - A venue for Bath Festivals 'Party in the City' event
 - All-day 'Choirthon' raising money for Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal
 - Fundraising concerts

Beechen Cliff:

- Korean Methodist Community weekly Sunday worship
- Bear Flat Association – monthly Community Tea and Community Market
- Bath Share & Repair Café
- Green Shoots Pre-School
- Choirs - City of Bath Male Choir and Birch Tree Choir
- Exercise classes – Yoga
- Children's Birthday Parties

Weston:

- PeterPan Pre-School continues to meet on the premises for 4 days per week during school term time. This is an OFSTED and Local Authority approved provision.
- Several physical and mental health activities including Yoga and Pilates
- Newbridge Arts Trail: This is an annual event, for a weekend, involving local artists who exhibits from their homes and public places.
- Space for Consultation with the public about local issues such as proposals for parking permits or road closures.
- Children birthday parties
- The New Testament Church of God – weekly Sunday worship

Southdown Church and Community Partnership

This is a project of the North East Somerset and Bath Methodist Circuit and is based at Southdown Methodist Church Centre. Many of our church members are involved as volunteers for the activities organised and supported by the Partnership:

- Lunch Club
- Community Charity Shop
- Toddler group
- Warm Spaces
- Roundhill Food Pantry (in partnership with Oasis Bath).

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.

Chapel House

Chapel House is a student residence next to Walcot Methodist Chapel, run by Bath Methodist Church.

The Chapel House Community is made up of 2 parts: the resident students who live in Chapel House, and an extended, non-residential community made up of others who have committed to follow the same way of life and to pray for those who live in the house.

The Chapel House Community meets together for monthly meals in the hall at Walcot. In June 2023 we celebrated five years of the Chapel House Community.

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.

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.

Safeguarding

As part of the Methodist Church we are committed to safeguarding as an integral part of our life and ministry.

Safeguarding is about the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. This means we will:

- promote the welfare of children, young people and adults
- work to prevent abuse from occurring
- seek to protect and respond well to those that have been abused.

All those who hold roles and responsibilities within the church are required to undertake safeguarding training and DBS checks in line with the policies and procedures of the national Methodist Church.

Property –

Bath Methodist Church are Managing Trustees for :

- Walcot Chapel – BMC worship space and community rooms
- Beechen Cliff – worship space used by Korean Methodist Community and community rooms
- Weston – worship space used by New Testament Church of God
- Chapel House – Christian Student residential community

All are maintained to be fit for purpose according to the recommendations of the 5-year independent inspections.

Southdown Methodist Church Centre is managed by the North East Somerset and Bath Methodist Circuit, which appoints its trustees. It is used by Bath Methodist Church for worship and meetings and to support community activities.

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 2022-23 financial year

Headlines

1. Following the merger of 4 separate churches Bath Methodist Church was formed on 1 September 2022. As one would expect following the merger of 4 society accounts has resulted in considerable additional work to amalgamate and standardise the financial operation as well as managing a much larger turnover. Our regular income in the first year was over £200,000. We made a small operating surplus of £3000.
2. Digging down:
 - a. £112,000 of our income is from donations.
 - b. We have a deficit against expenditure on running our pastoral, mission and worship of £15,000. Our assessment to the circuit is £108,000 This is close the per capita figure suggested by the circuit to balance their finances, unfortunately most other churches are not able to meet this figure.
 - c. Rental and other building income covers the routine cost of maintaining and operating our buildings
 - d. Chapel House has a significant surplus which covers the higher costs of Walcot Chapel and the church operating deficit.
 - e. Cash reserves increased this year to £202,000 due to late grant of £18,000 for the Walcot Roof scheme and bequest of £5,500 from a former Horizon member. £34,000 of reserves are restricted and a further £83,000 relate to bequests.
 - f. Expenditure on our buildings was very low: BC £5900, Walcot £3400, Weston £1600, Chapel Hse £3500 Southdown Property £1300 (mainly on sound/projection equipment. This was due to development of a strategy regarding the future of our buildings.
 - g. Energy and cleaning are our highest building running costs followed by insurance.
 - h. We have made £4300 of donations to various causes from our own funds. And £2700 from donations made members and friends via special collections and events. £4000 has been given to Southdown for our use of the building.
3. During the year we have been working to rationalise the banking, centralising all current account activity on the Bath CAF account. The Horizon bank account has been closed and those of Nexus, BC and Weston are reduced to a handful of monthly transactions. All CFB Deposits funds have been merged in the Bath deposit fund. We are running a single set of collection envelopes which will be named BathMC in 2024.

Reserves Policy

4. Reserves policy has been refreshed we have sufficient reserves to tackle a major building repair. Or spend a few £10ks on a building repurposing.
- Budget 23-24
5. Budget has been set based on previous years expenditure and property expenditure recommended by property group. As well as routine property expenditure the budget includes major repairs and renewals that have been identified by the property group and £30,000 towards a scheme to develop one building.

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

Trevor Purches: treasurer

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

BATH METHODIST	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

NE Somerset and Bath	Circuit	Circuit no.	7/13
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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 Rev Jan Tate Deacon Annie Trembling

Church Stewards:

David Pendle	Julia Barratt
Gwen Essam	Gareth James
Patricia Mills	Alan Bain
Elizabeth Kenyon	Mike Priscott

Treasurer:

Trevor Purches

Assts Steve Barratt, Roger Chapman, Paul Udey

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	107460.00		107,460	138,865
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	2,537		2,537	145
a4	Lettings	88,684		88,684	68,874
a5	Other receipts	8,411	19,675	28,086	85,412
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	207,092	19,675	226,767 (a7)	293,296

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	108,000		108,000	107,900
b3	Donations	8,332		8,332	1,756
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	18,457		18,457	109,791
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	52,270		52,270	35,406
b6					
b7	Other payments	11,152		11,152	32,652
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	198,211		198,211 (b9)	287,505

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR (a6-b8)	8,881	19,675	28,556	5,791
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	82,294	91,778	174,072 (c6)	168,281
c3	Sub total (c1+c2)	91,175	111,453	202,628	174,072
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c3+c4)	91,175	111,453	202,628 (c8)	174,072 (c6)

SECTION D			
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS			
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures)	£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year	227	172
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	2,376	1,804
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	2,696	1,749
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)	(93)	227

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)	(e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	226,767 (a7)	198,211 (b9)	28,556	(c7)	174,072 (c6)	202,628 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	226,767	198,211	28,556		174,072 (x)	202,628 (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 2022	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account HSBC, Santander, Lloyds	44,094	12,309
f3 Bank Deposit Account CAF (Initially Nexus+BC)	48,569	45,139
f4 Central Finance Board	27,746	91,517
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	53,663	53,663
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	174,072 (c6)	202,628 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	174,072 (x)	202,628 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	13,047,685	
g3 Other Assets	256,839	
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 BATH METHODIST

No 7/13

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 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..... 01-Oct-23

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

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 2023 will be presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 19 October 2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting Revd Simon Topping Date 19-Oct-23

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

BATH METHODIST CHURCH

Charity Number 1162034

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the BATH METHODIST Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 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 BATH 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 (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.

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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 ... Chartered Engineer

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A

Address 15 Mitchell Walk, Bridgegate, Bristol

POST CODE BS305XY

Date 15-Oct-23