



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
	1	9	2023		31	8	2024
From				To			

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name Lichfield Methodist Church

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1134083

Charity's principal address Backcester Lane

Lichfield

Staffordshire

Postcode

WS13 6JH

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Rev Wendy Walker	Probationary / Minister (chair)		Ex-officio On maternity leave January 2024 – end September 2024
2	Barbara Barker	Steward	Aug 2023- June 2024	General Church Meeting
3	Cathy Ackroyd	Steward		General Church Meeting
4	Tina Hayes	Steward		General Church Meeting
5	Jon Woolf	Steward		General Church Meeting
6	Nigel Harding	Steward		General Church Meeting
7	Sally Hogan	Steward		General Church Meeting
8	Andrew Poole	Steward		General Church Meeting
9	Howard Willis	Church Treasurer	26.03.2024–31.08.2024	Church Council
10	David Barton	CC Secretary		Extra Church Council
11	Sue Coley	Pastoral Cttee Sec		Church Council
12	Paul McDermott	Circuit Steward Rep		Circuit Leadership Team
13	Mark Hambly	Safeguarding Adults		Extra Church Council 2023
14	Anne Westoby	Safeguarding – Youth		Extra Church Council 2023
15	Richard Coleman	F & P Committee		Church Council
16	Matthew Bates	Finance & Property Committee		Church Council
17	Alison Statham	Pastoral Committee Methodist Cafe		Church Council Church Council
18	John Yates	Tamworth House Treasurer		Church Council
19	Gill Woolf	Worship Consultation		Church Council
20	Keith Watterson	Booking Secretary		Church Council

21	Peter Walker	GCM Rep		General Church Meeting
22	Anthea Hockney	GCM Rep		General Church Meeting
23	David Shaw	GCM Rep		General Church Meeting
24	Jane Parker	GCM Rep		General Church Meeting
25	Susan Hambly	GCM Rep		General Church Meeting
26	Jenny Yates	GCM Rep		General Church Meeting
27	Christine McDermott	GCM Rep		General Church Meeting
28	Rev Sue Smith	GCM Rep		General Church Meeting
29	Rev Ken Howcroft	GCM Rep		General Church Meeting
30	Carole Hicks	GCM Rep		General Church Meeting
31	Anne Brown	GCM Rep		General Church Meeting
32	Annette Phillips	GCM Rep		General Church Meeting
33	Ellen Gibbon	GCM Rep		General Church Meeting

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	
(Custodian Trustee)	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. Trust deed, constitution)	Deed of Union (1932) Methodist Church Act (1976)
How the charity is constituted (eg. Trust, association, company)	Act of Parliament
Trustee selection methods (eg. Appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by Church Council / General Church Meeting / some ex-officio

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Training

- Range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion available to all trustees on line
- Charity Commission Guidance CC3 'The Essential Trustee' given to each existing trustee (Dec 2015) and to be given as a matter of course to new trustees

Structure

- Part of Tamworth & Lichfield Circuit
- Accountable to the Methodist Conference

Risks

- Discussed by Church Council
- Take professional advice as required
- Adopted Safeguarding Policy

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

Set out in the Methodist Church Act 1976

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union the advancement of:

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.

The Church is part of a Circuit quarterly preaching plan to ensure regular acts of worship take place. These are open to all people, without charge.

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

Local Churches, Circuits and Districts are not defined as (external) grantmaking bodies

The main part of our church activities is undertaken by lay persons (volunteers)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Our probationary minister was ordained during 2024. She was on maternity leave during this time until the end of sept 2024. However, a decision was taken for her to take another path due to family reasons and she left LMC in August 2024. A new minister is being sought from Sept 2025

Sunday Morning Worship continues with diverse worship styles. The breakfast Service RISE! continues at the earliest Sunday morning Service, alternating each week with a more traditional form of worship. Mid-morning a 'Blended' form of Service takes place, mixing different styles of worship.

The Church continues with an extensive pastoral system. Newcomers' teas are held to welcome people new to the church. This is a dementia friendly church signed up to the Dementia Action Alliance. The church operates a Coffee Shop (open to the public and accepting vouchers from clients of the Foodbank and a local women's refuge scheme).

A planning day was held in September 2023 to share ideas and discern a vision to ensure that the church continues to survive & grow. Following this planning day the leadership structure was re-organised. The Mission of the church was organised into Ministry Clusters to facilitate communication between different groups and working together as a church body. The JUMP Team (joined up mission planning) was set up to enhance the leadership role and responsibilities of the managing trustees and stewards.

A new logo, mantra & mission statement was adopted.

Mantra: Open to God, Open to All

Mission Statement: An accepting and nurturing church, changing lives through faith in Christ. A new church website was set up to improve communication etc. Use of social media has been used to promote the church's activities and presence in Lichfield.

More emphasis was placed on being a justice seeking church. The church promotes eco-friendly initiatives and has a Fair Trade Policy. As part of our commitment to being a justice seeking church we are continuing to stock and sell fairtrade and eco goods in church.

The 'Plenty' short course was held: developed by Green Christian, as part of their Joy in Enough campaign which advocates for a fair and green economy.

The church has a safeguarding policy and Foundation Safeguarding Training Courses were held for those working with children and vulnerable people. Stewards and office holders attended Equality, Diversity & Inclusive Training.

Ongoing Church Activities have continued including:

Boys Brigade, Brownie Groups, Tiddlers Toddlers, various Bible Study Groups, MWiB (Womens Network), Ladies Lunch Club, Wesley Guild, Craft Group, Music Group and Men's Lunch Club. A Mens Breakfast is held on a number of Saturdays for those who work. Causeway, a fellowship group for adults with additional needs, that has been meeting on the premises for several years, was brought under the responsibility of Church Council as a ministry of Lichfield Methodist Church. With regret, because of falling numbers, it was decided to discontinue the BBs after 47 years of its presence in LMC. In 2024 the Brigade's Leader was presented with the Maundy Money at Worcester Cathedral. There is also insufficient support for Wesley Guild to continue beyond the church year.

Youth Fellowship (7–13 years). In December 2023, we hosted 'Big Youth Lichfield' when around 35 young people from across Lichfield came together for games, fellowship and lots of hot chocolate! A similar event was held in February 2024.

PARTICIPATE! – a (non-denominational) club for all aged 4-12 years continued to share food, have fun, explore the Bible, join in with activities, crafts and discussions with a focus of discipleship. In Autumn 2023 members of the group attended 3Generate and in Spring 2024 attended Amplify – a District residential event held at a pioneer centre in Shropshire. The club will not continue beyond the church year due to insufficient numbers in this age group.

Our new Family Worker has been active in many of the church groups and regularly visits local schools to lead worship and assemblies and assist at lunchtime clubs. Some of this contact has been in collaboration with the Lichfield Urban Saints team and 'Open the Book': a project that goes into schools to share Bible stories. This has enabled her to forge links with the wider community, inviting people to explore more of the church's activities and worship. Various family centred events have been organised: Teddy Praise, Woodland Crunch, Christingle, Holiday Club and an Easter craft morning. An initiative, 'Wonderfully Made', has been set up in collaboration with the local Baptist Church, on their site, to offer a welcoming space to support parents and carers who

care for children with additional needs. At the end of November, she took part in 'Schools Week' run by the Lichfield Schools Trust and includes churches from across Lichfield. Schools are invited to come and experience the Christmas story and it was a special way of sharing what Christmas is all about.

Fund raising for the support of the church has taken place including; some proceeds from the coffee shop, stalls selling cakes & other goods, various meals and musical entertainments. The appeal at Christmastime for Shoeboxes to be sent to children overseas was again well supported. The Macmillan coffee morning was also well supported.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Funds are retained to meet the annual assessment costs, premises costs and employment costs.
Fundraising events are organised.
Finance Committee meets in the year and reports to Church Council.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

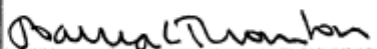
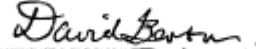
Source of Funds:-
Weekly offerings, tax recoveries, donations, fundraising events, rental income from property owned by the Methodist Church.

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Rev Joanna Thornton	David M C Barton
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chairperson	Church Council Secretary
Date	18/5/25	

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Lichfield Methodist

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

Tamworth and Lichfield

Circuit

Circuit no.

05/09

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1134083

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. Jo Thornton

Church Stewards:

Cathy Ackroyd

Nigel Harding

Tina Hayes

Sally Hogan

Andy Poole

Jon Woolf

Treasurer:

Howard Willis

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
			£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		98,857		98,857	98,021
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		6,681		6,681	3,705
a4	Lettings		55,805		55,805	61,563
a5	Other receipts		10,727		10,727	12,857
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		172,070		172,070 (a7)	176,146

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		89,642		89,642	96,610
b3	Donations		1,134		1,134	1,148
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		19,387		19,387	29,920
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		18,934		18,934	14,442
b6	Lay Worker		22,121		22,121	18,234
b7	Other payments		3,443		3,443	8,878
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		154,661		154,661 (b9)	169,232

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	17,409		17,409	6,914
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		150,404		150,404 (c6)	143,490
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	167,813		167,813	150,404
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	167,813		167,813 (c8)	150,404 (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 above)			£		£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year					
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			1,025		1,328
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			1,025		1,328
d4	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
e1	Boys Brigade	417	2,199	(1,782)		1,782	
e2	Toddlers	1,633	1,630	3		91	94
e3	Catering	11,183	9,628	1,555		5,107	6,662
e4	Wesley Guild	1,299	1,363	(64)		65	1
e5	Methodist Women in Britain	1,603	1,553	50		342	392
e6	Youth Club					187	187
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	16,135	16,373	(238)		7,574 (e11)	7,336 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	172,070 (a7)	154,661 (b9)	17,409	(c7)	150,404 (c6)	167,813 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	188,205	171,034	17,171		157,978 (x)	175,149 (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
f1	Cash in hand	36	36
f2	Bank Current Account	32,778	12,303
f3	Bank Deposit Account	14,309	26,941
f4	Central Finance Board	76,171	100,036
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	27,110	28,497
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	150,404 (c6)	167,813 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	7,574 (e11)	7,336 (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	157,978 (x)	175,149 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	5,580,298
g3	Other Assets	
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)

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 Date 16 April 2025

Name and address of treasurer Howard Willis

134 Beacon Park Village, Lower Sandford Street, Lichfield WS13 6JZ

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 23 October 2024.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting Revd Jo Thornton

Date 7 June 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Lichfield Methodist Church

Charity Number 1134083

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Lichfield Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 2 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 Lichfield Methodist No 05/09

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.

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 K H Goldsworthy

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FFA Incorporated Financial Accountant.

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 30 Fotherley Road, Shenstone, Lichfield WS14 0NJ

Date 16 April 2025

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Lichfield Methodist

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

Tamworth and Lichfield	Circuit	Circuit no.	05/09
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Signature of treasurer Date 16 April 2025

Name and address of treasurer Howard Willis

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Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting Revd Jo Thornton

Date 7 June 2025

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Name of Church Lichfield Methodist No 05/09

Independent Examiner’s Statement

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Signature of independent examiner

Name of independent examiner K H Goldsworthy

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FFA Incorporated Financial Accountant.

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 30 Fotherley Road, Shenstone, Lichfield WS14 0NJ

Date 16 April 2025

