

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

Charity Number 1134148

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

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STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2021.

Our purposes and activities

The church adopted a vision and mission statement in January 2015. This states:

The mission of Stockton Heath Methodist Church is to make and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ and explore and build the Kingdom of God.

We aim to become:

A vibrant church to which all our members are pleased to belong and where everyone feels able to contribute for the greater good of all.

A church which is growing numerically and spiritually in which the love of God is shown to all and ministry is supportive, challenging and outward looking.

Having agreed the above statement the Church Stewards and other groups were tasked with setting targets and objectives, which could then be measured.

Our main activities include:

- Holding acts of worship open to all to enable ordinary people to come to know the Lord Jesus;
- Meeting together in fellowship; and
- Providing space for and facilitating community activities.

We confirm that we have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and, specifically, the guidance relating to charities for the advancement of religion.

The Charity wishes to thank all those who volunteer their time to enable the Charity to carry out its activities and look after its buildings.

Achievements and performance

Our church's activities were still severely impacted by the restrictions which the Government needed to implement in March 2020 in order to reduce the spread of Covid-19. Although our church building reopened on the 6th of September 2020 there were restrictions in place. We closed again during the month of November and opened during Advent. From the 9th January through to the end of March we were once again closed managing to open for Palm Sunday. During both periods of closure services continued to be zoomed. Our Community Hall had very limited use, again with restrictions in place, and some organisations remained on Zoom.

Our main achievements during the year were:

- When our church building closed for worship, we started a Zoom service each Sunday morning which was attended not only by our own members but members of other Circuit churches. When we were able to open our building we continued

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zooming our services for those members who still felt unable to attend in person. For those members not able to use Zoom we provided a weekly message from our Minister which was taken out to homes and put on our Church website. Our Minister also put short talks on the Circuit You Tube channel.

- During Covid-19 restrictions, our Children's leaders have kept in regular touch with our young people and their families. Sunday Club started to zoom in September 2020, initially starting with weekly meetings however these moved to fortnightly from October. The times they met varied according to the time of year, 4.30pm during the Winter months and then reverting to their original time of 10am from the Spring. They started to meet face to face from July 2021. Sunday Club still managed to hold their annual Carols by Candlelight service although the congregation was restricted to their families. During the year the children have produced decorations for our church windows
- A Lent course was held on Zoom with a weekly reflection and spiritual conversation which was well attended and stimulated lots of discussion.
- The weekly coffee morning on Zoom, started the previous year, continued and various online socials and quizzes have taken place. Bible Studies have also taken place on Zoom.
- The leaders of our Theatre Workshop (our young people's drama group) kept in touch with their members but they were unable to meet physically. Our adult dramatic society continued to meet on Zoom for play readings and "performed" at Christmas on zoom.
- In addition to our support of Methodist Connexional Funds, we continued our ongoing support for our nominated charities, "Active Hope" and an "All we Can (Methodist Relief and Development Fund)" project, through our Charity Fund. We also support many other charities with donations given this year including the Warrington Foodbank, Action for Children and Medicines sans Frontière
- We have continued to be involved with CARE UK - a local charity that helps refugees here and in Syria & Greece as well as local people needing help to set up home after prison or homelessness.

Financial review

Receipts and payments were in balance in the year, which compares with a surplus of £8,000 in the previous year.

On our General Fund, we had a deficit of £4,000 after transferring £1,500 into the Repairs Fund to cover cyclical resurfacing of our car park. This compares to a surplus of £8,000 in 2019/20. The cumulative General Fund balance at 31 August 2021 was £42,000.

Despite the continuing impact of the pandemic on church services, our collections held up very well due to the high incidence of offerings made by Bank Standing Order. However, there was a further reduction in lettings income of £4,000. Making a reduction of £9,000 over two years.

At the end of the year, we held £139,000 in Unrestricted Funds of which £33,000 is in the Memorial Fund and £68,000 in the Repairs Fund (See Note 2 to the Accounts for the purpose of these funds.). A further £78,000 of Unrestricted Funds is invested by TMCP in managed equity and fixed interest funds.

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There is in addition, a restricted Capital Reserve of £7,000 held in a cash fund with TMCP which can only be used for approved property schemes, and is ear-marked for use in completing our church redevelopment scheme.

Principal Funding Resources

The principal funding source of the Charity is voluntary offerings by our members. In addition, the church receives income from outside organisations (mainly not-for-profit) for use of its premises.

Investment Powers

Under Methodist standing Orders any moneys received from the sale of property must be invested with TMCP. Other funds not immediately required are deposited with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

Reserves Policy

The Charity requires reserves to ensure that it can cover timing differences between receipts and payments and to fund unexpected costs particularly in respect of its property. The Charity is planning to use its Capital Reserves to fund redevelopment works in its church building and the appointment of a family and children's worker. In addition, the Charity has specific reserves to cover identified repair works to its property and the refurbishment of its organ.

The Church Council considers that an appropriate level of General Reserve is between three and six months payments, which equates to £15,000 to £30,000. At 31 August 2021, we held £42,000. The excess will be used to fund a projected budget deficit of £15,000 in 2021/22 caused by the expected reduction in income due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Our reserves policy is reviewed annually in the light of year end balances and commitments.

Going Concern Basis

The Trustees confirm that there is a reasonable expectation that the Charity will continue to receive offerings from its members and can therefore continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the going concern basis has been adopted in preparing the Charity's financial statements.

Plans for future periods

We plan to carry on putting our services on Zoom for those who do not wish to attend in person because of the risks associated with Covid-19 or are housebound for other reasons. As a growth Church we have benefited from a grant to enable us to increase our technical equipment and this will enable us to share our services within the Circuit.

We are seeking to complete the church redevelopment scheme with new windows, furnishings and upgraded technology.

We propose to continue to build our links with our charity partners Active Hope and "All We Can" (Methodist Relief and Development Fund). In addition, we will continue to support other local charities such as CARE UK and Warrington Foodbank, as well as the Circuit Charity.

Other plans include:

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YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

- Planning for a period of change when the minister with pastoral charge for our church retires in August 2022, particularly as there is a possibility that the Circuit may be unsuccessful in the stationing process in which case there will be one less minister to cover 18 churches.
- Holding a Lent study course and continuing our weekly bible study group and house group using Zoom where we cannot meet in person.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Stockton Heath Methodist Church
Charity registration number	1134148
Principal Office	Stockton Heath Methodist Church Heath Street Stockton Heath Warrington WA4 6LP

Our trustees

The Trustees as at 31 August 2021 were:

Circuit Superintendent Minister (<i>Ex-officio</i>)	Revd David Easton (Chairman)
Circuit Minister (<i>Appointed by Circuit</i>)	Revd Linda Bishop
Circuit Steward (<i>Appointed by Circuit</i>)	Mr Alan Rogers
Church Council Secretary	Mr Alan Rogers
Church Stewards	Mrs Vivien Palmer (Senior) Mrs Ann Eggboro Mrs Catherine Arden Mrs Barbara Maddock Mrs Fiona Morton Mr David Maki Mrs Karen Park
Church Treasurer	Mr John Humbles
Pastoral Secretary	Mrs Angela Huntley
Property / Redevelopment Convenor	Mr John Stott
Worship Consultation Convenor	Mr Richard Verrill
Mission and Vision Convenor	Mr Geoff Clarke
Health & Safety	Mr Chris Arden
Safeguarding	Miss Gillian Rigby
Elected Representatives (<i>Appointed by General Church Meeting</i>)	Mrs Hazel Bradley Mrs Chris Park Mrs Margot Strong Miss Julia Whitfield

Except where indicated, Trustees are appointed by the Church Council.

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes act as Custodian Trustees for the Charity's property.

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YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

Structure, governance and management

Stockton Heath Methodist Church is part of the Sankey Valley Methodist Circuit and is governed by the Deed of Union 1932, Methodist Church Act 1932 and by the Methodist Church's Standing Orders. It is a registered charity.

The decision making body for the Charity (who are its Trustees) is the Church Council which is made up of the Circuit Superintendent Minister, another Circuit Minister, a Circuit Steward, the Church Stewards and Church Treasurer, Pastoral Committee Secretary, representatives elected by the General Church Meeting, and others to ensure that all areas of church life are adequately represented.

The Church Council is responsible for setting the strategy for the Charity and monitoring its achievement. In addition, there are committees to take forward our work in specific areas - Worship, Pastoral, Property and Vision & Mission.

Trustees responsibilities relating to the financial statements

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

David Eerton

Circuit Minister / Chair of Church Council

Date:

June 2022

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH
YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st August 2021 set out on pages 7- 8 and 10-11.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's statement

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 presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as 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' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement.

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 Acthave 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 ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB"), which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Name: Mr G Pegg

Qualification: FCMA

Signed:



Date:

23/6/22

Address: Lymm, Cheshire

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Previous Year £
RECEIPTS					
Offerings and tax recovered		40,159	-	40,159	40,721
Bank, CFB interest and investment income		1,199	-	1,199	2,006
Lettings		9,659	-	9,659	16,034
Other receipts		3,532	11,049	14,581	6,893
Total Receipts		54,549	11,049	65,598	65,654
PAYMENTS					
Circuit assessment		39,350	-	39,350	28,408
Donations		4,100	4,130	8,230	14,494
Repairs and maintenance		3,231	5,635	8,866	3,817
Insurance and utilities		7,213	-	7,213	8,642
Other payments		1,881	138	2,019	1,885
Total Payments		55,775	9,903	65,678	57,246
NET RECEIPTS / PAYMENTS		(1,226)	1,146	(80)	8,408
Total funds brought forward		140,126	15,350	155,476	147,068
SUB-TOTAL		138,900	16,496	155,396	155,476
Transfers between Funds	3	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	1 – 2	138,900	16,496	155,396	155,476

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STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO CHURCH COUNCIL

	Receipts	Payments	Net receipts / Payments	Opening Balances	Closing Balances
	£	£	£	£	£
Badminton Club	-	-	-	650	650
Café	-	-	-	170	170
Dramatic Society	-	(2,621)	(2,621)	3,932	1,311
Loving Hearts & Hands	311	(68)	243	178	421
Sunday Club Special Fund	-	-	-	530	530
Tots Time	-	-	-	2,977	2,977
Others	-	(174)	(174)	464	290
Total Internal Orgs. Funds	311	(2,863)	(2,552)	8,901	6,349
Church Accounts	65,598	(65,678)	(80)	155,476	155,396
TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	65,909	(68,541)	(2,632)	164,377	161,745

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CASH FUNDS HELD	As at 1 Sep. 20	As at 31 Aug. 21
	£	£
Cash in Hand	560	42
HMRC Gift Aid	4,991	-
HSBC - Current Account	31,471	38,073
CFB - Deposit Account	110,016	108,843
TMCP - Trustees Interest Fund	8,438	8,438
Sub Total – Church Accounts	155,476	155,396
Funds held by Internal Organisations	8,901	6,349
TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	164,377	161,745

OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	As at 1 Sep. 20	As at 31 Aug. 21
	£	£
Investments (Note 4)	69,244	78,051
Land and Buildings	3,433,000	3,683,639
Other Assets	92,000	99,082
Loans & Other Liabilities	-	-

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STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

DECLARATIONS

Church Treasurer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church Council.

Signature of Treasurer

J D Humbles

Date

29th January 2022

Name

J D Humbles CPFA

Presentation to Church Council for Approval

I confirm that the accounts have been presented to the Stockton Heath Church Council on 14th February 2022 and were approved.

Signature of Chair of Meeting

David Easton

Date

14th February 2022

Name of Chair of Meeting

Revd David Easton

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STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

1 RESTRICTED FUNDS (excluding investments)

	Balance 1-Sep-20 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance 31-Aug-21 £
Benevolence Fund	213	-	(130)	-	83
Capital Reserve	6,785	-	-	-	6,785
Charity Fund	2,036	1,087	(2,000)	-	1,123
Defibrillator Fund	731	-	-	-	731
Flower Fund	693	46	(8)	-	731
Memorial Fund	3,564	-	(283)	-	3,281
Special Collections Fund	1,328	2,416	(2,130)	-	1,614
Tech Grant	-	7,500	(5,352)	-	2,148
Total Restricted Funds	15,350	11,049	(9,903)	-	16,496

Purposes of Restricted Funds:

Benevolence Fund - This fund is maintained for the relief of poverty and distress in accordance with Standing Order 651 of the Methodist Church. The source of the fund is a separate collection taken at the celebration of the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Capital Reserve - These monies relate to the balance of the sale of some land in 1975, the capital for which can only be used for major works to our property. The monies are being utilised to fund redevelopment of our Church building.

Charity Fund – Monies raised by the church for external charitable purposes. Charities to be supported from the fund are agreed by the Annual General Church Meeting.

Defibrillator Fund – monies given to purchase a defibrillator.

Flower Fund - This fund holds monies given for the purchase of flowers to decorate our church each Sunday which are then taken out to those who are unwell, housebound or bereaved.

Memorial Fund - Monies given in memory where the donor has specified either how the money is to be used or that they wish to approve its proposed use.

Special Collections Fund – This fund holds monies from retiring collections and other fund-raising activities. Most of the balance held at 31st August 2021 related to "Active Hope", one of the charities with which our church is pro-actively working and will be used to support future events arranged by the charity.

Tech Grant – This fund holds monies received from the Circuit which must be spent on upgrading the Church's facilities for streaming its services.

The funds held by our **Internal Organisations** are also Restricted Funds.

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STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2021

2 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS (excluding investments)

	Balance 1-Sep-20 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31-Aug-21 £
Designated Funds:					
Capital Reserve	(7,182)	-	-	-	(7,182)
Memorial Fund	31,534	1,262	-	-	32,796
Music Fund	387	-	(124)	-	263
Refreshments	2,830	90	(25)	-	2,895
Repairs Fund	66,960	-	-	1,500	68,460
	94,529	1,352	(149)	1,500	97,232
General Fund	45,597	53,197	(55,626)	(1,500)	41,668
Total Unrestricted Funds	140,126	54,549	(55,775)	-	138,900

Purposes of Unrestricted Designated Funds:

Capital Reserve – The negative balance at 31st August 2021 represents the costs of a Children and Families worker which will be funded from investments. (See Note 4).

Memorial Fund - Money given in memory where the donor has not specified how the money is to be spent. The fund is used for purchasing items of furniture and equipment.

Music Fund – Monies transferred from the former choir account to be used for purchase of music.

Refreshments - Monies from individuals and groups towards provision of fair-trade refreshments in the Church and Community Hall.

Repairs Fund - This fund is in respect of anticipated major repairs to the church slate roof, the refurbishment of the organ, resurfacing of the car park and various anticipated repairs to the church building.

3 TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS

The reasons for the transfers between funds was as follows:

From Fund	To Fund	Reason	Amount
General Fund	Repairs Fund	Annual transfer towards anticipated cost of car park resurfacing	£1,500

4 INVESTMENTS

The Church's investments at 31 August 2021 of £78,051 are held by TMCP and relate to the sale of two cottages in 1999 and 2001 and is an Unrestricted Capital Reserve.