

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

DRAFT for CC approval

Charity Number 1134148

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

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STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2022.

Our purposes and activities

The church's vision and mission statement 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

By March 2022 most of the Covid-19 restrictions had been lifted allowing our church buildings to fully re-open and church activities to resume. The church recognises, however, that there are people who are extremely vulnerable to Covid19 who need to continue to take precautions.

Our main achievements during the year included:

- We continued to Zoom services to those at home who felt unable to join in person.
- Our regular weekday activities mostly recommenced and the hall once again became well utilised by groups from the community.
- Our Sunday Club had about 6-8 youngsters who attended regularly and came to All Age Worship once a month. Other groups – Tots time, Banjos music group for little ones resumed.

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- A Lent course was held online – Life on the Breadline and we again supported the Good Friday ecumenical outdoor service and the summer Walking Day parade with Bridgewater Churches Together.
- Friday Coffee mornings continued on zoom for around half a dozen and quizzes continued while everyone was using zoom. Bible study continued on zoom as it was more convenient and included people who might not want to come out in the evenings or were a distance away.
- Theatre Workshop, our young people's drama group recommenced and was planning its next production as was our adult drama group.
- In addition to our support of Methodist Connexional Funds, we continued our ongoing support for our nominated charities, "Active Hope" and "All we Can (Methodist Relief and Development Fund)" project, through our Charity Fund. We also raised money for many other charities in the year including the Action for Children, Christian Aid, Claire House Hospice, Halton Haven Hospice, Warrington Foodbank, Warrington Mencap and the Sankey Valley Methodist Circuit Charity - The Epiphany Trust.
- We 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

There was a deficit of £45,000 in the year, which compares with Nil in the previous year. This deficit included a contribution of £20,000 towards the Ministers Pension Fund and £25,000 for church roof repairs.

On our General Fund, we had a deficit of £11,000. after charging £7,000 of the contribution to the Ministers Pension Fund Deficit and transferring £1,500 into the Repairs Fund to cover cyclical resurfacing of our car park. This compares to a deficit of £4,000 in 2020/21. Our collections remained steady whilst our lettings income recovered to the pre-covid figure. The cumulative General Fund balance at 31st August 2022 was £31,000.

At the end of the year, we held £130,000 in Unrestricted Designated Funds of which £68,000 was invested through TMCP in managed equity and fixed interest funds. In the year, £13,000 was contributed to the Methodist Ministers Pension Deficit and £25,000 was spent on repairs to the church roof. Of the total Unrestricted Designated Funds, £51,000 is in a Capital Reserve for redevelopment and engaging a Lay Employee, £68,000 is in the Memorial Fund and £42,000 in the Repairs Fund (See Note 2 to the Accounts for the purpose of these funds.).

There is in addition, a restricted Capital Reserve of £8,000 held in a cash fund with TMCP which can only be used for approved property schemes, and is ear-marked for use towards completing our church redevelopment scheme.

Principal Funding Resources

The principal funding source of the Charity is voluntary offerings by its members. The church also 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.

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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/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 Circuit has recommended that the appropriate level of General Reserve for churches is between three and four and a half months payments, which equates to £15,000 to £22,500. At 31 August 2022, the church held £31,000. The excess is to be used to fund a projected budget deficit of £8,500 in 2022/23.

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 continue to zoom services as well as meet in person every week, whilst ensuring that those wishing to be absent from the camera view have a safe space in which to sit. We look forward to being able to invite visiting preachers and speakers to our services to provide new insights and breadth to our worship.

We propose to provide a variety of opportunities for new visitors to come to our church by holding interesting activities and entertainment. The youngsters' theatre workshop and the adult dramatic society provide popular productions. Harvest celebrations will include Fairtrade stalls and plant sales and a film of wide interest.

We will continue with our evening Bible Study and look forward to a Lent course which could be studied ecumenically and in our own house group.

Now that Covid-19 restrictions are over, we will press on with the church redevelopment scheme – taking out the pews and pulpit to provide a more flexible space, 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 CARE UK and Warrington Foodbank, as well as the Circuit Charity, Epiphany Trust.

Other plans include:

- Working pro-actively with our minister, Revd Linda Bishop and supporting her in her busy schedule of activities as the Circuit copes with only having four presbyters.
- Joining with our ecumenical friends from 'Bridgewater Churches Together' in offering a 'Warm Welcome' space and applying for a Grant from the Methodist church.
- Providing a variety of worship and activities during the Christmas period, including child specific activities – Craft and games afternoon and Christingle service.
- Celebrating Fairtrade fortnight in February and March 2023

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YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

- Experimenting with a new venture – A Mini Eisteddfod – an arts celebration in April 2023.
- Taking part in Christian Aid Week.
- Supporting asylum seekers as they arrive in our area.

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 2022 were:

Circuit Superintendent Minister (<i>Ex-officio</i>)	Revd David Easton (Chairman)
Circuit Minister (<i>Appointed by Circuit</i>)	Revd Linda Bishop
Circuit Stewards (<i>Appointed by Circuit</i>)	Mr Alan Rogers Mrs Vivien Palmer
Church Council Secretary	Mr Alan Rogers
Church Stewards	Mrs Catherine Arden (Senior) Mrs Ann Eggboro Mrs Barbara Maddock Mr David Maki Mrs Fiona Morton Mrs Vivien Palmer 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
Health & Safety	Mr Chris Arden
Safeguarding	Mrs Karen Maki
Elected Representatives (<i>Appointed by General Church Meeting</i>)	Mrs Hazel Bradley Mr Geoff Clarke 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.

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

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:



Circuit Minister / Chair of Church Council

Date: 21st February 2023

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st August 2022 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: 29 March 2023

Address: Lymm, Cheshire

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Previous Year £
RECEIPTS					
Offerings and tax recovered		40,908	-	40,908	40,159
Bank, CFB interest and investment income		1,519	-	1,519	1,199
Lettings		12,443	-	12,443	9,659
Other receipts		2,157	5,473	7,630	14,581
Total Receipts		57,027	5,473	62,500	65,598
PAYMENTS					
Circuit assessment		39,000	-	39,000	39,350
Donations		4,000	4,644	8,644	8,230
Repairs and maintenance		32,685	-	32,685	8,866
Insurance and utilities		7,397	-	7,397	7,213
Other payments		19,906	89	19,995	2,019
Total Payments		102,988	4,733	107,721	65,678
NET RECEIPTS / PAYMENTS		(45,961)	740	(45,221)	(80)
Total funds brought forward		138,900	16,496	155,396	155,476
SUB-TOTAL		92,939	17,236	110,175	155,396
Transfers between Funds	3	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	1 – 2	92,939	17,236	110,175	155,396

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO CHURCH COUNCIL

	Receipts	Payments	Net receipts / Payments	Opening Balances	Closing Balances
	£	£	£	£	£
Badminton Club	228	(160)	68	650	718
Dramatic Society	5,918	(3,645)	2,273	1,311	3,584
Loving Hearts & Hands	2,228	(2,212)	16	421	437
Sunday Club Special Fund	-	-	-	530	530
Tots Time	1,446	(890)	556	2,977	3,533
Others	-	(170)	(170)	460	290
Total Internal Orgs. Funds	9,820	(7,077)	2,743	6,349	9,092
Church Accounts	62,600	(107,721)	(45,121)	155,396	110,275
TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	72,420	(114,798)	(42,378)	161,745	119,367

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CASH FUNDS HELD	As at 1 Sep. 21	As at 31 Aug. 22
	£	£
Cash in Hand	42	18
HSBC - Current Account	38,073	38,477
CFB - Deposit Account	108,843	63,342
TMCP - Trustees Interest Fund	8,438	8,438
Sub Total – Church Accounts	155,396	110,275
Funds held by Internal Organisations	6,349	9,092
TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	161,745	119,367

OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	As at 1 Sep. 21	As at 31 Aug. 22
	£	£
Investments (Note 4)	78,051	68,288
Land and Buildings	3,433,004	3,683,639
Other Assets	92,340	99,082
Loans & Other Liabilities	-	-

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

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



Date

20th October 2022

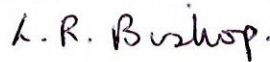
Name

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 2023 and were approved.

Signature of Chair of Meeting



Date

21st February 2023

Name of Chair of Meeting

Revd Linda Bishop

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

1 RESTRICTED FUNDS (excluding Investments)

	Balance 1-Sep-21	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance 31-Aug-22
	£	£	£	£	£
Benevolence Fund	83	-	(36)	-	47
Capital Reserve	6,785	-	-	-	6,785
Charity Fund	1,123	1,877	(1,100)	-	1,900
Defibrillator Fund	731	-	-	-	731
Flower Fund	731	35	(53)	-	713
Memorial Fund	3,281	-	-	-	3,281
Special Collections Fund	1,614	3,561	(3,544)	-	1,631
Tech Grant	2,148	-	-	-	2,148
Total Restricted Funds	16,496	5,473	(4,733)	-	17,236

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 2022 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.

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2022

2 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS (excluding investments)

	Balance 1-Sep-21 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31-Aug-22 £
Designated Funds:					
Capital Reserve	(7,182)	-	(9,500)	-	(16,682)
Memorial Fund	32,796	1,000	-	-	33,796
Music Fund	263	-	-	-	263
Refreshments	2,895	181	(646)	-	2,429
Repairs Fund	68,460	-	(27,826)	1,500	42,134
	97,232	1,181	(37,972)	1,500	61,941
General Fund	41,668	55,846	(65,016)	(1,500)	30,998
Total Unrestricted Funds	138,900	57,027	(102,988)	-	92,939

Purposes of Unrestricted Designated Funds:

Capital Reserve – The negative balance at 31st August 2022 represents costs which are to 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 the refurbishment of the organ, resurfacing of the car park and various anticipated repairs to the church building. The monies spent in the year were on the church gable end.

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 2022 of £68,288 are held by TMCP and relate to the sale of two cottages in 1999 and 2001 and is an Unrestricted Capital Reserve. The value of the investments fell by £10,000 in the year, after increasing by £9,000 in 2020/21.