

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH
(worshipping in Stockton Heath & Antrobus)



**ANNUAL REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
FOR YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

Charity Number 1134148

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

CONTENTS	PAGE
Trustees Annual Report:	1
Our purposes and activities	1
Achievements and performance	1
Financial review	3
Plans for future periods	4
Reference and administrative details	5
Structure, governance and management	6
Trustees' responsibilities relating to the financial statements	6
 Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees	 7
 Standard Form of Accounts:	 8
Church receipts and payments	8
Summary of Church Accounts and Internal Organisations	9
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	9
Declarations	10
 Notes to the Financial Statements	 11

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2023.

On 1st April 2023 Stockton Heath and Antrobus Methodist Churches merged to form a single society worshipping on two sites under the title of Stockton Heath Methodist Church.

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

Although Covid remained a threat to the community at large, all activities at church, whether worship, celebration, or use by outside organizations largely returned to pre-Covid levels. The church continued to air services via Zoom, benefitting those who were not able to be present in person for worship. In addition, our service was occasionally shared as a You Tube presentation across the Circuit.

On 1st April 2023, Antrobus Church formally merged with Stockton Heath Church forming a single society worshipping on two sites. This was celebrated at a joint service and meal at Antrobus Church. One of their members joined the Stockton Heath stewards to ensure church-to-church communication.

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

Our churches looked forward to a new minister, Reverend Jeremy Tresise, who was to have pastoral charge from 1st September 2023. As the existing manse was deemed unsuitable, a new one was purchased for Jeremy and his family by the Circuit. Many church members volunteered their time to sprucing up the house and grounds.

The Coronation of King Charles III was celebrated with a festive, well-attended meal at Stockton Heath church whilst Antrobus were involved in a Village Coronation Service at St Marks and the Village Coronation Street Party.

Our church donated £500 to St Thomas's Church to help support a Warm Welcome program. The point of this program was to provide a warm, non-threatening space and a light meal to those in need. Further, it was also a place for social interaction for people suffering loneliness for any reason. In addition to funds, several members of our church volunteered to greet people, serve food and tea, and so forth. Unfortunately, very few people used these services.

Stockton Heath church once again participated in the annual Walking Day celebration, whilst Antrobus hosted a Village Fete Service and welcomed the Rose Queen and Rose King.

At the Stockton Heath Annual Church Meeting a vote was taken on God In Love Unites Us. The congregation voted to allow same-sex marriage in the church. Antrobus Church had agreed to do so prior to the merger.

In early 2023, a few male members of the congregation attempted to develop friendly relations with refugees lodging at the Fir Grove Hotel. It was hoped that their presence would provide some human warmth for these men and perhaps an opportunity for them to practice English. At this time the news was full of items about protests at various refugee accommodations. Unfortunately, the residents chose not to associate with their visitors over several visits, hence the scheme was abandoned.

As the demand on the Warrington Food Bank had skyrocketed under a poor economy, the church has continued its support.

The Church obtained a Cashless card machine. The stewards operate this device which allows donations to be made by card to the church account. So far, its main use has been for special collections.

With the closure of Bold Street church, about six people joined us for worship at Stockton Heath. In addition, our remaining pews were removed, and the Bold Street chairs were bought from the Circuit. This allows more flexibility in the seating arrangements.

In August 2023, two church members attended the Creamfields music festival in a pastoral role, along with many other Christians, through the ecumenical organization "We Are The Church". The purpose of this group was to provide water, Jammy Dodgers, and spiritual comfort to concert goers in need. In addition to a regular money donation, the congregation donated two or three hundred boxes of Jammy Dodgers, the signature snack offered at the tents.

Our church continued to participate in Bridgewater Churches Together (BCT), an ecumenical council, which organizes various celebrations. BCT also coordinates a scheme in which ministers preach to another church's congregation and lay people have an opportunity to meet each other in Christian fellowship.

Our church remained involved with several programs for youth; Tot's Time, Sunday Club, and a young people's drama group, to name just three. All are well attended.

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

Our churches continued to support many charities in both an on-going and emergency basis. Antrobus Hosted a Good Friday Charity Frugal Meal in the Village Hall with donations going direct to a 'Childrens Waiting Area at Northwich Victoria Infirmary'.

Financial review

There was an overall surplus of £60,000 in the year, which compares with a deficit of £45,000 in the previous year. This surplus included the transfer in of £23,000 from Antrobus Church and £30,000 from the sale of investments.

On our General Fund, we had a surplus of £10,000. after transferring £28,500 into the Repairs Fund to work anticipated works at Stockton Heath Church - car park re-surfacing (£1,500), Hall boiler (£12,000), and church roof tiling (£15,000). This compares to a deficit of £4,000 in 2021/22. Our collections remained steady whilst our lettings income recovered to the pre-covid level. The cumulative General Fund balance at 31st August 2023 was £41,000.

At the end of the year, we held £148,000 in Unrestricted Designated Funds of which £38,000 was invested through TMCP in managed equity and fixed interest funds. In the year, £11,000 was spent on the Stockton Heath church redevelopment scheme. Of the total Unrestricted Designated Funds, £41,000 is in a Capital Reserve for redevelopment and engaging a Lay Employee, £34,000 is in the Memorial Fund and £69,000 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 £7,000 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 our members. In addition, the church receives income from outside organisations (mainly not-for-profit) for use of its Stockton Heath 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 four and a half months payments, which equates to £19,000 to £29,000. At 31 August 2023, we held £41,000. Part of the excess will be used to fund a projected budget deficit of £7,000 in 2023/24.

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

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

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

Sankey Valley Circuit recently made a presentation on the need for growth in its churches. In response, our church has formed a committee to examine our practices, especially in our interaction with the general community. The thrust is to bring more people into God's house and share the joy that comes with active Christian faith.

We will support our new minister, Revd Jeremy Tresise, as we and he come to know each other more closely, and to know each other's needs more clearly, as time proceeds.

We will seek ways in which our two churches can meet together for both worship and fellowship.

As the economy shows little sign of imminent improvement Warrington Food Bank will surely see further demand for food. Hopefully, our church members will increase the amount of food, money, and volunteer time to help the Food Bank meet the needs of its clients. Closer interaction with the Food Bank Church Ambassador should clarify exactly what needs doing.

We will continue to support charities we have histories with, support those in dire need as we are able, and explore new opportunities to share our abundance with those in sore need. "Truly, I say unto you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

Our church will continue to provide volunteers, funds, and Jammy Dodgers to support those in spiritual need at Creamfields.

Our church will continue our relationship with BCT as Christians united in purpose and both Stockton Heath and Antrobus churches will develop their relationships with their parish churches.

Stockton Heath church is home for many activities; Drama Group, Tot's time, home bible study, and pastoral visitors to name a few. All these are functioning well and ought to be encouraged to continue providing amusement, education, and human interaction for the church membership and the community at large.

We will endeavour to find new ways to relate to our community, to help those in either economic or spiritual need, and so spread the good news of the Gospel and the peaceful joy of having Christ in your life.

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

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 2023 were:

Circuit Superintendent Minister (Appointed by Circuit)	Revd Andy Moffoot
Circuit Minister (<i>Appointed by Circuit</i>)	Revd Linda Bishop (Chair)
Circuit Minister (Appointed by Circuit)	Revd Mark Harwood
Circuit Steward (<i>Appointed by Circuit</i>)	Mr Alan Rogers
Church Council Secretary	Mr Alan Rogers
Church Stewards	Mrs Ann Eggboro (Senior) Mrs Catherine Ardern Mrs Ann Bolshaw (Antrobus) Mr David Maki Mrs Fiona Morton Mrs Vivien Palmer
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 Ardern
Safeguarding	Mrs Karen Maki
Elected Representatives (<i>Appointed by Church Meetings</i>)	Mrs Hazel Bradley Mr Geoff Clarke Mrs Chris Park Mrs Margot Strong Miss Julia Whitfield Mrs Kath Hankey Mr Stephen Bentley

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 2023

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 Meetings, and others to ensure that all areas of church life are adequately represented. At least one Church Steward must be from Antrobus together with two elected representatives from their General Church Meeting.

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 and Property.

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: 29th February 2024

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

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st August 2023 set out on pages 8-9 and 11-12.

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:

Address: Lymm, Cheshire

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Previous Year £
RECEIPTS					
Offerings and tax recovered		51,094		51,094	40,908
Bank, CFB interest and investment income		4,366		4,366	1,519
Lettings		24,296		24,296	12,543
Sale of investments		30,011		30,011	
Other receipts		21,039	11,821	32,860	7,630
Total Receipts		130,806	11,821	142,627	62,600
PAYMENTS					
Circuit assessment		40,350		40,350	39,000
Donations		4,000	7,061	11,061	8,644
Repairs and maintenance		15,558	2,667	18,225	32,685
Insurance and utilities		9,526		9,526	7,397
Other payments		3,272	34	3,306	19,995
Total Payments		72,706	9,762	82,468	107,721
NET RECEIPTS / PAYMENTS		58,100	2,069	60,159	(45,121)
Total funds brought forward		93,039	17,236	110,275	155,396
SUB-TOTAL		151,139	19,295	170,434	110,275
Transfers between Funds	3	(153)	153	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	1 – 2	150,986	19,448	170,434	110,275

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO CHURCH COUNCIL

	Receipts	Payments	Net receipts / Payments	Opening Balances	Closing Balances
	£	£	£	£	£
Badminton Club	390	(420)	(30)	718	688
Dramatic Society	15,271	(13,324)	1,947	3,584	5,531
Loving Hearts & Hands	2,556	(2,377)	179	437	616
Sunday Club Special Fund	-	(234)	(234)	530	296
Tots Time	1,520	(2,863)	(1,343)	3,533	2,190
Others	-	(84)	(84)	290	206
Total Internal Orgs. Funds	19,737	(19,302)	435	9,092	9,527
Church Accounts	142,627	(82,468)	60,159	110,275	170,434
TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	162,364	(101,770)	60,594	119,367	179,961

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CASH FUNDS HELD	As at 1 Sep. 22	As at 31 Aug. 23
	£	£
Cash in Hand	18	-
Current Accounts	38,477	40,837
CFB - Deposit Account	63,342	104,279
TMCP - Trustees Interest Fund	8,438	25,318
Sub Total – Church Accounts	110,275	170,434
Funds held by Internal Organisations	9,092	9,527
TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	119,367	179,961

OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	As at 1 Sep. 22	As at 31 Aug. 23
	£	£
Investments (Note 4)	68,288	41,708
Land and Buildings	3,683,639	5,178,848
Other Assets	99,082	170,743
Loans & Other Liabilities	-	-

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

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

30th October 2023

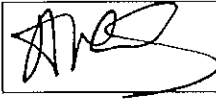
Name

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 February 2024 and were approved.

Signature of Chair of Meeting



Date

29th February 2024

Name of Chair of Meeting

Revd Jeremy Tresise

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2023

1 RESTRICTED FUNDS (excluding investments)

	Balance 1-Sep-22	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance 31-Aug-23
	£	£	£	£	£
Benevolence Fund	47	-		153	200
Capital Reserve	6,785	-	-		6,785
Charity Fund	1,900	1,801	(1,900)	-	1,801
Defibrillator Fund	731	-	-	-	731
Emmanuel Sale Fund	-	4,700	-	-	4,700
Flower Fund	713		(33)	-	680
Memorial Fund	3,281	-	(1,095)	-	2,186
Special Collections Fund	1,631	5,320	(5,161)	-	1,790
Tech Grant	2,148	-	(1,573)		575
Total Restricted Funds	17,236	11,821	(9,762)	153	19,448

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. As a separate collection is no longer taken at the celebration of the sacrament of Holy Communion, it is funded by transfers from the General Fund.

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 the Stockton Heath 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 at Stockton Heath.

Emmanuel Sale Fund – monies from Antrobus Methodist Church which can only be spent on a capital scheme approved by the Methodist Church Property division.

Flower Fund - Monies given at Stockton Heath for buying flowers to decorate the church each Sunday which are then taken out to the 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. The balance held at 31st August 2023 included monies for "Active Hope" and "Angel Tree Project" which will be available for use during 2023/24.

Tech Grant – This fund holds monies received from the Circuit which must be spent on upgrading the Stockton Heath 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 2023

2 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS (excluding investments)

	Balance 1-Sep-22 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31-Aug-23 £
Designated Funds:					
Capital Reserve	(16,682)	30,011	(10,650)	696	3,375
Memorial Fund	33,796	720	-	-	34,516
Music Fund	263	-	-	-	263
Refreshments	2,429	309	(301)	-	2,437
Repairs Fund	42,135	-	(1,322)	28,500	69,313
	61,941	31,040	(12,273)	29,196	109,904
General Fund	31,098	99,766	(60,433)	(29,349)	41,082
Total Unrestricted Funds	93,039	130,806	(72,706)	(153)	150,986

Purposes of Unrestricted Designated Funds:

Capital Reserve – These monies arose from the sale of two cottages and is designated for church improvements and employing a lay worker. During the year, investments were converted to cash (30k) and a payment made for new church windows (£11k).

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 to be used for purchase of music.

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

Repairs Fund - This fund is in respect of the refurbishment of the SH organ, resurfacing of the SH car park, replacement of the SH Community Hall boiler and various anticipated repairs to the SH 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	Anticipated cost of replacement of SH Community Hall boiler	£12,000
General Fund	Repairs Fund	Anticipated cost of tiling work to SH Church roof	£15,000
General Fund	Repairs Fund	Annual transfer towards anticipated cost of SH car park resurfacing	£1,500

4 INVESTMENTS

The Church's investments at 31 August 2023 of £42k are held by TMCP and relate to:

- a) the sale of two cottages at Stockton Heath in 1999 and 2001 (£38k) which is an Unrestricted Capital Reserve;
- b) a Restricted Trust relating to Antrobus Church (£2k); and
- c) a Permanent Endowment relating to Antrobus Church (£2k)