

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



**ANNUAL REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024**

Charity Number 1134148

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

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STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2024.

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

Stockton Heath

As COVID, or at least the restrictions, for practical purposes became a bad memory, all activities at our church continued to roll along. An announcement board in the Hall listed about twenty outside organizations using the Hall, from Alcoholics Anonymous to Yoga. The Church offered regular worship every Sunday with occasional All Age Worship. We continued to offer services on Zoom with about ten folk watching on average. Our church was also on the rota for Circuit Live Streaming of Sunday services.

Reverend Jeremy Tresise is well-integrated and well-liked in the Stockton Heath community and also preached at our sister Church in Antrobus. The Antrobus Church steward, met with

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the Stockton Heath stewards. Jeremy kept both sides aware of the other church's needs and doings providing for excellent communication. Many of the Stockton Heath congregation attended the Harvest Festival and the Book Sale at Antrobus Church. Good fellowship and excellent eating were enjoyed by all.

The Christmas Angels program, organized by Hazel Bradley and Jane Otterson, is a scheme in which our church members were able to help prisoners provide gifts for their children. About twenty children were helped to a Happy Christmas through our efforts.

In July, several Stockton Heath Congregants acted as marshals for Walking Day while many of our Church walked that long parade in the rain celebrating Christianity up and down the streets of the Village.

Our Church was involved with several programs for young people; Tot's Time for the very young, Sunday Club, and a young people's drama group, to name just three. Tot's Time has seen some reduction in the number of children seen, due it is thought to a new Government scheme offering financial support for nursery time for children nine months and older.

Our Church continued to participate in Bridgewater Churches Together (BCT), an ecumenical council, which organises various religious celebrations, such as an annual Christmas Carol Service at St Thomas led by preachers from various BCT churches. BCT also coordinates a scheme in which ministers preach to another church's congregation and lay people have a chance to meet each other in Christian Fellowship.

Our Church was very active in "We Are The Church" at Creamfields Festival this year. Six people (up from three) volunteered as pastors with a member loaning the Creamfields Church an enormous marquee, which was unfortunately damaged in a horrific windstorm. Stockton Heath hosted a prayer get-together for the volunteers where Jeremy stopped by to offer a blessing. Just FYI, more than 1,400 packets of Jammy Dodgers were distributed this year.

Stockton Heath Methodist continues to be a very charitable congregation, collecting for; Halton Haven Hospice, Warrington Food Bank, Embrace, Christian Aid, Lend with Care, World Mission Fund, Action for Children, and a Leprosy charity. In addition, donations were made through the Disasters Emergency Committee in support of tragedies in Libya and Gaza.

In July, a magnificent celebration of Isaac Watt's 350th birthday was held at our Church with one of our lay preachers organizing a circuit-wide celebration in song. The choir had some forty voices singing to a packed church. An excellent time was had by all. A retiring collection was directed to the Circuit charities.

Antrobus

At our church at Antrobus we held our annual jumble sale for church funds involving the whole village (Feb 2024). We carried out carol singing throughout the village with members of St Mark's church and other villagers (Dec 2023). We held a well-attended Harvest Service with donations sent to the local Food Bank. A Summer Book sale was held in August 2024.

We continued to hold a united act of worship once a month with St Mark's Anglican Church, alternately at each location; and try to keep a variety of Service styles over the year. We actively worked together with St Mark's on Village Events. Annual joint services include Mothering Sunday, Easter; Good Friday Frugal Meal and the Rose Queen Fete service.

We continue to use the Screen technology when needed and have an excellent Wi-Fi reception in the church building.

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Financial review

There was an overall surplus of £17,000 in the year, which included a refund of the £20,000 donation to the Methodist Church Ministers Pension Fund Reserve made in January 2022 which the Connexion no longer needed. The 2023/24 surplus compares with a surplus of £60,000 in 2022/23, which had included transfers from Antrobus Church when the two churches united.

On our General Fund, we had a surplus in 2023/24 of £8,000 after transferring £16,000 into the Repairs Fund to cover the quoted cost of a replacement heating boiler in the Stockton Heath church building. This compares to a deficit of £8,000 in 2022/23. Both our collections and lettings income were slightly higher than the previous year. The cumulative General Fund balance at 31st August 2024 was £49,000.

At the end of the year, we held £163,000 in Unrestricted Designated Funds of which £41,000 was invested through TMCP in managed equity and fixed interest funds. Of the total Unrestricted Designated Funds, £51,000 is in a Capital Reserve for redevelopment and engaging a Lay Employee, £35,000 is in the Memorial Fund and £74,000 in the Repairs Fund (See Note 2 to the Accounts for the purpose of these funds.). A sum of £12,000 was paid in the year from the Repairs Fund for the replacement of the Stockton Heath Hall heating boiler.

There is in addition, £19,000 of Restricted Funds which are detailed in Note 1 to the Accounts.

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. 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 2024, the Church 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.

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.

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Plans for future periods

Stockton Heath

Stockton Heath Methodist Church will continue its active relationship with Bridgewater Churches Together as local Christians united in purpose.

We continue to enjoy a wide variety of styles of worship, led by both lay and ordained preachers and worship leaders as well as the church stewards being responsible for Local Arrangements.

We now hold a monthly mid-week communion service on the last Tuesday of the month. These are more reflective and intimate services with up to 15 people attending.

Stockton Heath church is home for many activities; Drama group, Tot's time, home bible study, and pastoral visitors to name just a few. All these activities are functioning well and will be encouraged to continue providing amusement, education, human interaction, and worship activities for the church membership and the community in which we live.

We will continue to support a variety of charities, concentrating on a smaller number, which allows us to build up a relationship with both the charity and the causes they support. We continue to explore new opportunities to share our abundance with those in sore need. "He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his strength is exalted in honour." {Psalm 112:9}

Our Circuit at present is in a period of Discernment, initiated through the help of the Methodist Learning Network. This is an opportunity to deepen our attentiveness to God, to better develop a more prayerful and God-centered approach as we discuss how we see the church of the future and determine the changes necessary to enable this to happen.

We will continue to strengthen our ties with our nearby primary school, with visits by Year 1 and 2 pupils to the church at Christmas and Easter, and regular visits by our Minister to school to lead school assemblies and help in RE lessons.

In June 2025, we will participate once more in Bible Month, when we will be using the resources published by the Methodist Church to study in greater depth, the gospel of John.

In November 2025, we will celebrate 120 years of our church building's present location. This will include a weekend of special events to mark the occasion and a looking forward to the future. We are also working actively to complete the refurbishment scheme for our worship space in time for these special events. These refurbishments include an upgrade of our audio-visual equipment and IT resources. These will enable us to improve the quality of our live-streamed services as well as improve the worship experience of those attending in person. Refurbishment of the décor is also envisaged with a fresh colour scheme and carpeting throughout.

Antrobus

We are now an integral part of Stockton Heath Methodist Church and plan to join in various joint services through the year.

We aim to be an active Christian presence in our community, with members of our congregation involved in the life of the Village School, Shop and Tea Room, the W.I., the Friendship Club and events at the Community Village Hall.

One of our members is a regular volunteer in the Village Shop which creates an excellent village hub. Another member continues to be a Foundation Governor at the Federation of Antrobus St Marks and Great Budworth and co-runs the Village Friendship Club.

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We are enjoying our new relationship as part of Stockton Heath Methodist but pleased that we still have a local identity in Antrobus Village. We feel that we are open to new ideas and approaches within the context of the church family and how best to support discipleship and Christian support locally.

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 2024 were:

Circuit Superintendent Minister (Appointed by Circuit)	Revd Andy Moffoot
Circuit Minister (Appointed by Circuit)	Revd Jeremy Tresise (Chair)
Circuit Minister (Appointed by Circuit)	Revd Mark Harwood
Circuit Steward (Appointed by Circuit)	Mr Alan Rogers
Church Council Secretary	Mr Trevor Rhodes
Church Stewards	Mr David Maki (Senior)
	Mr Chris Arden
	Mrs Ann Bolshaw (Antrobus)
	Mr Geoff Clarke
	Mrs Fiona Morton
	Mrs Vivien Palmer
Church Treasurer	Mr John Humbles
Pastoral Secretary	Mrs Chris Park
Property / Redevelopment Convenor	Mr John Stott
Worship Consultation Convenor	Mr Richard Verrill
Health & Safety	Mr Chris Arden
Safeguarding	Mrs Karen Maki
Elected Representatives	Mrs Hazel Bradley
(Appointed by Church Meetings)	Mrs Chris Park
	Mrs Margot Strong
	Miss Julia Whitfield
	Mrs Kath Hankey (Antrobus)
	Mr Stephen Bentley (Antrobus)

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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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

Structure, governance and management

Stockton Heath Methodist Church comprises buildings in Stockton Heath and Antrobus. It 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 – Finance & Property, Worship and Pastoral.

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: 20th February 2025

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

YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st August 2024 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

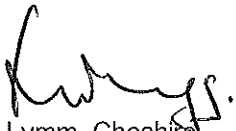
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (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:

14 April 2025.

Address: Lymm, Cheshire

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Previous Year £
RECEIPTS					
Offerings and tax recovered		54,898	-	54,898	51,094
Bank, CFB interest and investment income		9,629	-	9,629	4,366
Lettings		21,408	-	21,408	24,296
Sale of Investments		-	-	-	30,011
Other receipts		24,977	6,591	31,568	32,860
Total Receipts		110,912	6,591	117,503	142,627
PAYMENTS					
Circuit assessment		50,500	-	50,500	40,350
Donations		4,500	4,906	9,406	11,061
Repairs and maintenance		25,264	1,767	27,031	18,225
Insurance and utilities		10,343	-	10,343	9,526
Other payments		3,312	68	3,380	3,306
Total Payments		93,919	6,741	100,660	82,468
NET RECEIPTS / PAYMENTS		16,993	(150)	16,843	60,159
Total funds brought forward		150,986	19,448	170,434	110,275
SUB-TOTAL		167,979	19,298	187,277	170,434
Transfers between Funds	3	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	1 – 2	167,979	19,298	187,277	170,434

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STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO CHURCH COUNCIL

	Receipts	Payments	Net receipts / Payments	Opening Balances	Closing Balances
	£	£	£	£	£
Badminton Club	301	(335)	(34)	688	654
Dramatic Society	11,791	(9,163)	2,628	5,531	8,159
Loving Hearts & Hands	3,083	(3,179)	(96)	616	520
Tots Time	1,215	(885)	330	2,190	2,520
Others	-0	-0	-	502	502
Total Internal Orgs. Funds	16,390	(13,562)	2,828	9,527	12,355
Church Accounts	117,503	(100,660)	16,843	170,434	187,277
TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	133,893	(114,222)	19,671	179,961	199,632

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CASH FUNDS HELD	As at 1 Sep. 23 £	As at 31 Aug. 24 £
Current Accounts	40,837	36,392
CFB - Deposit Account	104,279	131,457
TMCP - Trustees Interest Fund	25,318	19,428
Sub Total – Church Accounts	170,434	187,277
Funds held by Internal Organisations	9,527	12,355
TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	179,961	199,632

OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	As at 1 Sep. 23 £	As at 31 Aug. 24 £
Investments (Note 4)	41,708	45,791
Land and Buildings	5,178,848	5,390,967
Other Assets	170,743	179,098
Loans & Other Liabilities	-	-

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

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

23rd October 2024

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 2025 and were approved.

Signature of Chair of
Meeting

Jeremy Tresise

Date

February 2025

Name of Chair of Meeting

Revd Jeremy Tresise

STOCKTON HEATH METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2024

1 RESTRICTED FUNDS (excluding investments)

	Balance 1-Sep-23	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	Balance 31-Aug-24
	£	£	£	£	£
Benevolence Fund	200	-	(48)	-	152
Capital Reserve	6,785	-	(1,767)	-	5,018
Charity Fund	1,801	1,955	(1,800)	-	1,956
Defibrillator Fund	731	-	-	-	731
Emmanuel Sale Fund	4,700	-	-	-	4,700
Flower Fund	680	-	(20)	-	660
Memorial Fund	2,186	-	-	-	2,186
Special Collections Fund	1,790	4,636	(3,106)	-	3,320
Tech Grant	575	-	-	-	575
Total Restricted Funds	19,448	6,591	(6,741)	-	19,298

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. A separate collection is no longer taken at the celebration of the sacrament of Holy Communion so once this Fund is expended, costs will be charged to 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 partly fund redevelopment of the Stockton Heath (SH) Church building.

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

Defibrillator Fund – monies given to purchase/maintain defibrillators 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 2024 included monies for "Active Hope" which will be available for use during 2024/25.

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 2024

2 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS (excluding investments)

	Balance 1-Sep-23 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31-Aug-24 £
Designated Funds:					
Capital Reserve	3,375	9,500	(3,165)	-	9,710
Memorial Fund	34,516	-	-	-	34,516
Music Fund	263	-	-	-	263
Refreshments	2,437	1,267	(132)	-	3,572
Repairs Fund	69,313	3,000	(14,226)	16,000	74,087
	109,904	13,767	(17,523)	16,000	122,148
General Fund	41,082	97,145	(76,396)	(16,000)	45,831
Total Unrestricted Funds	150,986	110,912	(93,919)	-	167,979

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, monies donated in January 2022 to the Methodist Ministers Pension Fund Reserve were returned.

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 the purchase of music.

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

Repairs Fund - £16,000 was transferred into this fund in respect of the quoted cost of replacing the SH church boiler. £14,000 was expended on the SH Community Hall boiler. The remaining balance is in respect of the refurbishment of the SH organ, resurfacing of the SH car park and various other 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	Quoted cost of replacement of SH Church boiler	£16,000

4 INVESTMENTS

The Church's investments are held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes and relate to:

- the balance from the sale of two cottages in SH (£41k) which is an Unrestricted Capital Reserve;
- a Memorial Gift to Antrobus Church (£2k) – Restricted Capital Reserve
- a Permanent Endowment to Antrobus Church (£2k) - Restricted Trust

The value of the investments increased by £4,000 in the year, after falling £10,000 in 2022/23.