

Poulton Methodist Church
Annual Charity Commission Report
Year ending 31st August 2023



The Poulton le Fylde Methodist Church Council had the responsibility of working with its ministers the Reverend Will Hunter and Rev Sarah Lamb in promoting the whole mission, spiritual, pastoral, social and ecumenical of the Church.

Our aims in Poulton-le-Fylde Methodist Church are that, as a church we will learn of and proclaim the love of God through our worship and fellowship, nurturing his disciples and making new followers; and through our work, witness and giving serve God in His mission for those in our community and wider world.

Worship and prayer

The year commencing 1st Sep 2022 represented the first full year in which it could be said there was little impact on Church activity from the Covid pandemic though it was clear a number of our congregation have not returned to worship. We continued to stream all Sunday 10.30am services on our Facebook page throughout the year. They were positively received by members and non-members alike. Proposals to develop the streaming of services using fixed cameras rather than an iPad, with the live and recorded services to be available on You Tube were agreed (accessing funds available from legacies) Full implementation of the new facilities is anticipated in the Sep/Oct 23. A monthly midweek service continues to be held, and new regular monthly services rotate around all churches in the North Fylde Circuit enabling a sharing together with our Methodist friends and a strengthening of relationships between the churches.

Our Messy Church (Called Messy Values) for families with young children meets on the fourth Saturday of the month followed by a family All Age Worship service the next day which involves a puppet show.

The church has an active prayer group which confidentially shares prayer requests with one another by email and meets twice a month. The Flower Ministry continues and is much appreciated by recipients who are unwell, have lost a loved one or are experiencing hard times.

Spiritual and recreational fellowship groups

Illumin8 our young people's group (School Year 6 and above) visited "3Generate" at the NEC again in Oct. this year. (the national children's and youth assembly of the Methodist Church) and continues to meet regularly on Sunday teatimes.

The Bible Study group meets every 2 weeks with excluding Lent when joint weekly meetings are held with friends from other Poulton churches through "Poulton Churches Together". The CAMEO and FOCUS groups have started meeting again, as has the Indoor Bowling group. Twice monthly, on Saturdays, walking groups take to the hills and fells.

Pastoral Care in the Church

Each church member has a pastoral visitor to provide a listening ear and support in times of need. This activity continues to be a highly appreciated valuable aspect of our Church life.

Our church in Our Community

Our Church buildings are busier than ever. Three choirs now practice in our Sanctuary each week and community groups of all ages and backgrounds use our buildings e.g. The Blackout Youth Theatre Group, Alzheimer's support group "Singing for the Brain", Parkinsons UK Exercise Group, Pilates, Photographic Society, Badminton Group, Alcohol Support Group etc..

We support and host weekly Rainbows, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts meetings.

Our Coffee Shop, "Coffee Plus" has slowly recovered from the severe effects of closure due to Covid, with both an increase in the numbers of customers and a return to steady profitability. The warmth of the welcome has encouraged new people to become volunteers and others to join our Church.

In May the Methodist Church Charity Shop in Chapel Street successfully reopened after refurbishment, providing a retail outlet for local charities and voluntary organisations to rent the premises on a weekly basis to raise much needed funds.

The Wider Church

Poulton Churches Together activities continued especially through joint Bible Study and meeting through Lent.

We are part of "The North Fylde Circuit of the Methodist Church" along with another five churches, and have started holding more joint services with them as detailed above. We all share 3 ministers and a Children's and Families Lay Worker.

Engagement with and support of mission in the wider world and local and national charities

Numerous charities, locally (Vincent House, Comfort CAFÉ, Blackpool Children's Clothing Fund) nationally (Action for Children) and internationally (The Leprosy Mission, All We Can, Open Doors, Barnabas Aid and Christian Aid) have been generously supported financially. In addition we have an enduring relationship with Maua Methodist Hospital, Kenya and our support for the hospital continues.

Safeguarding and GDPR

Full compliance with safeguarding training and certification was undertaken with a nominated lead person overseeing this. Similarly, adherence to GDPR regulations was maintained to keep all data secure, with particular reference to new data providers and data holders.

Looking forward

We continue to actively seek ways to evolve, and be relevant in our community whilst staying loyal to our fundamental calling.

Throughout the year the Communications Group met to review all our communications. The remit included reviewing and improving our internal and external communications e.g. newsletters, posters, Facebook page and website, encouraging greater use of social media e.g. Poulton Chat, and finding ways to reach out to more people via our new You Tube channel. A new logo was adopted, (above) the image being taken from the wall hanging at the front of our church Sanctuary.


Our biggest two challenges are maintaining our children's activities and the increasing the involvement of families in our church life and bringing more people to faith as each year, a worshipping congregation, inevitably unless we do so our numbers will slowly decline. Much remains to be done.

Financial Review

Symbolically, the financial review again is last. The Financial Statements show a reduction in total assets £61,060 (from £253,369 to £192,309). This was largely a result of planned and approved expenditure on Roof Repairs and the upgrade to our Sanctuary Screens and investment in a new Streaming Solution amounting to £72,335 which was funded in the main by legacies. With the Church expecting to receive a further legacy in excess of this reduction in assets (confirmed in December 2024 with no restrictions to its use) our financial position consequently remains resilient.

The Church's Finance and Property Committee is fully aware of the ongoing financial challenges and continues to actively manage the implementation of its rolling five year budget. The Church complies with The Methodist Church capital reserves policy. It is our policy to invest funds with the Trustees for Methodist Purposes (TMCP) and the Methodist Central Finance Board (CFB).

Signed on their behalf of the Church Council by Ron Rhodes (Senior Church Steward) and Keith Bleazard (Church Treasurer).


Ron Rhodes

2/6/2024
Date


Keith Bleazard

2/6/2024
Date

Trustees' Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011, using Receipts and Payments method.

Full Name of Charity / Church: Poulton Methodist Church

Registration Charity Number: 1134343

Date of registration: 16th February 2010

Main communication address: The Methodist Church, Queensway,
Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire, FY6 7ST

The members of the Poulton Methodist Church Council are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of the Minister, Church office holders, Committee representatives and representatives appointed by the Church at the Annual General Meeting.

Full membership is shown as Appendix A to this report.

Independent examiner: Leanne Nield ACA, Arc Accountancy Solutions Limited,
51 Laverton Road, Lytham St. Annes, Lancashire, FY8 1EN

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty under the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the church is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual Conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the church is undertaken by the Minister, Church Stewards and Church Officers.

The Trustees are appointed at the Church AGM.

Appendix A

Poulton Methodist Church

Church Council Membership as at 31st August 2023

Ministers

Rev Will Hunter

Rev Sarah Lamb

Church Stewards

Ron Rhodes (Senior Steward)
Helene Stephens

Irene Burtonwood
Ralph Whittingham

Anthony Cripps
Janice Whittle

Secretary to the Council

David Sutcliffe

Church Treasurer

Keith Bleazard

General Church Representatives (elected by the Annual General Church Meeting)

Alan Banes
May Gandhi
David Latham
Bob Shaddick
Carol Sykes

Barbara Banes
Sylvia Houldsworth
Rose Morley
Sue Shaddick
Janet Walsh

Jonathan Fail
Brenda Kirkham
Betty Pilkington
Sarah Stone
Wes Walsh

Appointed Representatives (appointed by the Church Council)

Eileen Gee
Gill Rhodes

Graham Kay
Alan Sykes

Jenifer Pearson

Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

GENERAL FUND

Receipts

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Collection/Gift Aid			55,409	1,260		56,669	
Tax recovered under Gift Aid			11,926	142		12,068	71,620
Property lettings	1		34,274			34,274	25,394
Interest & Investment Income			79	670	396	2,700	3,845
Fundraising	2		1,188	1,431		2,619	1,345
Net Income Surplus's from groups and organisations				1,383		1,383	1,252
Other receipts	3		14,285	1,392		15,677	19,323
Transfers between funds			55,294	(41,208)	(11,945)	(2,141)	(0)
SUB TOTAL - GENERAL FUNDS			172,455	(34,930)	(11,548)	559	126,537
Other receipts							
Benevolent Fund						0	100
Collections received for external organisations	4		3,737			3,737	2,807
Unrealised profit on investments				(299)	(3,410)	(3,709)	(6,355)
TOTAL			176,192	(34,930)	(11,847)	(2,851)	126,565
PAYMENTS							
Circuit contribution		55,400					
Repairs, maintenance	5	88,572					
Cleaning		16,463	160,435			160,435	72,748
Development property costs						0	0
Water, fuel and electricity charges		5,971					
Insurance		3,850	9,821			9,821	9,389
Donations - Methodist Organisations		0					
Donations - General Fund	4a	100	100	658		758	1,185
Donations - from Organisations		0					
Donations - Benevolent Fund		0		0		0	50
Other payments	6		8,276	2,631	398	1,629	12,934
SUB-TOTAL- GENERAL FUNDS			178,632	3,288	398	1,629	183,947
Specific collections passed onto external organisations	4		3,677			3,677	2,807
TOTAL PAID			182,309	3,288	398	1,629	187,625
Net income (expenditure) for the year			(6,117)	(38,218)	(12,245)	(4,480)	(61,060)
							24,928

Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2023

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

		Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2023 Total Funds	2022 Total Funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund							
Balance at start of year		91,937					
Surplus / (Deficit) for year		(6,117)	85,820			85,820	91,937
Designated Funds							
Funds of Various Groups and Organisations							
Balance at start of year	9	474					
Net Income		429		903		903	474
Property Renewal Fund							
Balance at start of year		1,028					
Surplus for year		1,431		2,459		2,459	1,028
Benevolent Fund							
Balance at start of year		109					
Surplus for year		0		109		109	109
Legacy and Gifts in Memory Fund							
Balance at start of year		46,424					
Received during year	11	(40,078)		6,346		6,346	46,424
Restricted Funds							
Balance at start of year	10	19,417					
Received during year		(12,245)		7,172		7,172	19,417
Permanent Endowment Funds							
Balance at start of year	10	93,980					
Received during year		(4,480)			89,500	89,500	93,980
		85,820	9,817	7,172	89,500	192,309	253,369
Assets							
Summary of how funds are held							
Bank & Cash Balances:							
Current Accounts			35,649	2,314	900	41,030	37,170
Building Society Account			15,211			15,211	12,404
Current Accounts - various groups				904		904	475
Deposit Accounts			13,955	1,349		15,304	17,246
CFB Deposit Accounts & Trustee Interest Funds					4,076	4,076	4,731
TMCP - Deposit Account				5,250	2,196	7,446	54,190
TMCP - Managed Funds						87,334	90,755
Investment							
1 £1 ordinary share in Poulton Methodist Coffee Shop Ltd	1						
Loan		7,969	7,970			7,970	7,970
		72,785	9,817	7,172	89,500	179,274	224,941
Prepayments and debtors	7	16,144				16,144	29,937
Creditors	8	(3,109)				(3,109)	(1,509)
TOTAL FUNDS HELD		85,820	9,817	7,172	89,500	192,309	253,369

These financial statements are approved on behalf of all the Church Council by:

Signature A. David Sutcliffe
Name ANDREW DAVID SUTCLIFFE
Church Council Position CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY
Date 2ND JUNE 2024

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

	£
Note 1 - Property Lettings	
Playgroup	8,796
Chapel Street office rents	2,896
Blackpool Male Voice Choir	3,170
Coffee Shop to cleaning, light, heat and power	4,200
Others	15,212
	<u>34,274</u>

Note 2 - Fundraising	£
Spring fayre	1,081
Development fund	1,431
Funeral fees	107
	<u>2,619</u>

Note 3 - Other receipts		
General Fund	£	£
Miscellaneous	1,655	
Circuit grant (contribution towards roof repairs - see Note 5)	10,000	
Poulton Methodist Church Coffee Shop limited gift-aid donation	1,894	
Other donations	335	
Interest	401	
Legacy and Gifts in Memory Fund		
Miscellaneous	1,108	
Donations	215	
Interest	69	
Bequests and Gifts in Memory		0
	<hr/> 15,677	<hr/> 0

Note 4 - Specific collections passed on to external organisations	£
Money raised for external organisations	3,737
Money paid out external organisations	(3,677)
	<u>60</u>
Money outstanding to pay to external organisations as at 31 Aug 2023	

Note 4a - Church donations paid	
General Fund	£
Royal British Legion	50
Churches Together	50
Legacy and Gifts in Memory Fund	
Vincent House	92
Street Life	210
Trinity Hospice	171
Alzheimer's Society	123
Mersey Ships	61
	<u>758</u>

Note 5 - Repairs and Renewals	£
Roof repairs	43,800
Audio works	21,763
Air conditioning etc	6,772
Other	16,236
	<u>88,571</u>

Note 6 - Other payments	General	Designated	Endowment	Restricted
	£	£	£	£
Printing, Link, Wi-Fi & communications	2,406		115	
Bank charges & professional fees	160	180	258	54
Organist & organ maintenance	657			344
Catering	275			
Legal	1,501			
Music licence fees				
Various miscellaneous sundries	1,676	982	50	
Internal organisation payments		1,468		
Youth Work - 3Gen expenses, less grants			667	
Youth Work - Messy Church net costs & books for School visitation			539	
IE fee	1,600			
	<u>8,276</u>	<u>2,631</u>	<u>1,629</u>	<u>398</u>

Note 7 - Prepayments and debtors	£
Electric solar panel 'feed in tariff'	500
Circuit Contribution to The Fylde North Circuit	13,750
Gift-aid donation debtor from Poulton Methodist Church Coffee Shop	1,894
	<u>16,144</u>

Note 8 - Creditors	£
The Holt Trust Income	1,509
IE fee	1,600
	<u>3,109</u>

Note 9 - Designated Accounts	Total
Internal Organisations	£
The Flower Fund	310
The Gardening Club	479
The Indoor Bowling Club	115
	<u>904</u>

Note 10 - Permanent Endowment & Restricted Funds held by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Permanent Endowment Funds	Opening Funds	Interest & dividends	Unrealised Invest't gains	Fund bequests	Expended & transferred	Fees	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
The Norah Edgar Memorial Fund - 10404	9,297	279	(303)		(255)	(26)	8,992
<i>Income to the furtherance of musical life at PMC</i>							
The Betsy Holt Memorial Endowment - Trust 17926	32,680	973	(1,206)		(885)	(93)	31,470
<i>Income to Harvest Collection each year</i>							
The Ronald Holt Endowment - Trust 11734	37,133	1,103	(1,425)		(1,001)	(106)	35,704
<i>Income to Harvest Collection each year</i>							
The Parkinson Memorial Fund - Trust 10121	100	3				(3)	100
<i>Income to be used to assist in Christian training of young people</i>							
The William Parkinson Bequest - 10121A	3,933	82	(103)		3	(787)	3,128
<i>1/5th Income to be used for PMC Sunday School</i>							
<i>4/5th Income to be used for general church funds</i>							
The Edna Bowman Bursary - Trust 14145	10,835	260	(374)		0	(617)	10,104
<i>Income to be used to assist young people to travel on church organised ventures</i>							
	93,978	2,700	(3,410)	0	(2,138)	(1,632)	89,498
Restricted Funds	Opening Funds	Interest & dividends	Unrealised Invest't gains	Fund bequest	Expended & transferred	Fees	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
The Norah Edgar Memorial Fund - 10404A Surplus Inc	19,417	397	(299)		(11,945)	(399)	7,172
<i>Income to the furtherance of musical life at PMC</i>							
Total - Endowment & Restricted Funds	113,395	3,098	(3,709)	0	(14,083)	(2,032)	96,670

Note 11 - Designated Fund held by Trustees for Methodist Church General Purposes Purposes

	Opening Funds	Interest & dividends	Unrealised Invest't gains	Fund bequest	Expended & transferred	Fees	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
The Olga Gill Bequest - Trust 22305	39,693	670			(35,000)	(113)	5,250
<i>No restriction on use</i>							

Note 12 - Related Parties

The Poulton Methodist Coffee Shop Ltd (No 07031781) is a separate legal entity wholly owned by Poulton Methodist Church. It was incorporated on 28th September 2009 and commenced operation on 1st September 2010. The statutory officers are officials of the church namely: the Minister, the senior steward and 2 others all appointed by the Church Council. The day to day running of the operation is carried out by a Management Committee. Poulton Methodist Church Council has granted a Licence to the company to operate on the church premises, whereby the company agrees to make a monthly contribution as to costs incurred and at the end of the companies financial year to Gift Aid the total net surplus (if any) to the Church. The financial transactions for the year to 31st August 2023 are as follows:

	£	
Annual contribution	4,200	<i>included in Note 1</i>
Gift Aid Donation	1,894	<i>included in Note 3 & 7</i>
	<u>6,094</u>	

Note 13 - None adjusting events after the end of the reporting period

Poulton Methodist Church received confirmation of a legacy to be received totalling £79,847. The date of confirmation was 5 December 2023. There are no restrictions to its use.

The Poulton Methodist Church Coffee Shop Limited declared a gift-aid donation to be gifted to the church, totalling £1,894, declared in April 2024. This is included in note 3, 7 & 12.

Report of the Independent Examiner
To the Trustees of
Poulton Methodist Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Poulton Methodist Church for the year ended 31st August 2023 which are set out on pages 6 – 9.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Leanne Nield ACA
Arc Accountancy Solutions Limited
51 Laverton Road
Lytham St. Annes
Lancashire
FY8 1EN

Date: 10/6/24