

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH READING

England & Wales · Charity number 1134691

Details

Other names WESLEY READING

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2010-03-08

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Wesley Methodist Church
84 Queens Road
Reading
RG1 4BW

Phone 01189581505

Email info@wesleychurchreading.org

Website www.wesleychurchreading.org

Activities

Objects: THE PURPOSES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH ARE AND SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SINCE THE DATE OF UNION THE ADVANCEMENT OF -(A) THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DOCTRINAL STANDARDS AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH;(B) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CONNEXIONAL, DISTRICT, CIRCUIT, LOCAL OR OTHER ORGANISATION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH;(C) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY SOCIETY OR INSTITUTION SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH;(D) ANY PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CHARITY BEING A CHARITY SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Activities: We are an active congregation of 140 members from a wide range of backgrounds. On Sunday mornings and evenings we meet for worship. We have a thriving Junior Church, with ages from 0 to 18, and share with other East Reading churches in joint youth activities. Small groups for fellowship, Bible study, prayer and church life development meet regularly, and social action projects.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Reading

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£123,523	£63,702	-	-
2024-08-31	£202,950	£175,973	-	-
2023-08-31	£94,100	£114,640	-	-
2022-08-31	£129,870	£116,234	-	-
2021-08-31	£116,858	£113,958	-	-
2020-08-31	£111,238	£130,279	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Martin Pieter Beukes	Chair	2023-01-29
ANGELA DIANE MARJORAM		
Alan David Langford		
Anita Barbara Abbey-Quaye		2019-06-11
Anna Ghelli		
Bethany Johanne Finnegan		2023-05-21
Chris Emmanuel Neeraj Preetham		2022-05-08
DR STEPHEN APPIAH		
Dr Nicholas Pappas Klingaman		2024-08-01
Evelyn Asiedu Coffie		2022-06-01
Jonathan Howard Brown		
Julie Marsh		2017-04-28
Kenneth Fordjour		2018-06-26
MARY ANN RUTH LUDLOW		
PETER CHAPMAN		
Patricia Brown		
Peter Jonathan Frank		2014-10-03
RICHARD GEORGE LANGFORD		
Terence John Rowell		
Tirivashe Manhera		2023-01-29
Victoria Amoah-Fordjour		2023-01-29
Vishal Singh		2023-06-15

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH READING

England & Wales - Charity number 1134691

Accounts

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
For the year ended 31 August 2025**

**Wesley Methodist Church, Reading
Berkshire and Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit**

Charity registration number: 1134691

Minister: Reverend Martin Beukes

Church Treasurer: Kenneth Fordjour

Church Trustees (at 31 August 2024):w

Rev. Martin Beukes (Minister)
Kenneth Fordjour (Treasurer)
Patricia Brown (Secretary)
Julie Marsh (Pastoral co-ordinator)
Vicky Fordjour (Junior Church superintendent)
Peter Frank (Chairman, Property group)
Jonathan Brown (Chairman, Worship team)
Anita Abbey-Quaye (church steward)
Chris Preetham (church steward)
Tirivashe Manhera (church steward)
Vishal Singh (church steward)
Bethany Finnegan (church steward)
Serwah Mensah (church steward)
Nicholas Klingaman (church steward)
Stephen Appiah (church representative until December 2024)
Peter Chapman (church representative)
Brenda de Souza (church representative)
Alan Langford (church representative)
Richard Langford (church representative)
Mary Ludlow (church representative)
Angela Marjoram (church representative)
Terry Rowell (church representative)

The Church's statutory particulars are as follows:

Full name: Wesley Methodist Church

Main communication address: Wesley Methodist Church, Queen's Road, Reading RG1 4BW

Charity registered number: 1134691

Date of registration as Charity: 8 March 2010

Independent examiner: Mrs Christine Holland, 9 Ellerton Close, Theale, Reading RG7 5QN

Bankers: HSBC Bank plc, including an account through the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

The Church is part of the Berkshire and Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit, which is part of the Southampton District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Wesley Methodist Church has been at the centre of the community since its establishment in 1873. We are a thriving congregation representing a wide range of ages, backgrounds and ethnicities, committed to worshipping together and serving our communities in the best way we can.

Our core purpose is the furtherance of the Christian faith through the provision of regular public acts of worship which are open to members and non-members alike. We do this through a lively and supportive programme of worship on Sundays and at other times of the week, through sermons, courses of Bible study, music and singing, prayer and small group fellowships for people of all ages and backgrounds.

We support our members and those who see us as their spiritual home through pastoral work and prayer. Practical manifestations of this include extending friendship to those who come to us, and visiting and praying for members of the congregation.

We also commit to supporting other groups who use our building and to making links with others, both in our local area and internationally. We do this by providing space for groups, and by providing financial support to other charities.

Our membership is about 150, and various other people visit the church regularly.

The following is our vision and purpose:

We believe in a loving God who came into our world in the person of Jesus Christ to bring us to himself. In his life and teaching Jesus showed us the best way to live. On the cross he died in our place, offering us the free gift of forgiveness and a new start. By rising from the dead he assures us of eternal life. In his daily presence with us through the Holy Spirit he gives meaning and direction to our lives.

The Trustees confirm that the Church is a public benefit entity.

Achievements and performance:

During 2024-2025 we have carried out the following activities:

- Continued our family worship on Sundays throughout the year in church, including Junior Church. The congregation continues to attract visitors.
- Continued to provide online worship for those who are unable to meet in person in church. The numbers engaging with these services still make it worthwhile to do this.
- Continued to use the gifts of our congregation to lead and support worship in church and online through music and other means.
- Supported our children and young people in Junior Church by continuing to hold in-church sessions. A group of children and young people was taken to the 3Generate conference in Birmingham in October 2024.
- Taken our responsibilities towards the environment seriously by developing policies in keeping with being an Eco-Church.
- Continued our services for parents and babies through the weekly parent and toddler session.
- Continued to serve our local community, this year with a free Afternoon Tea to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE/VJ day in July 2025.
- Supported Churches Together in Reading by taking part in the Bed For A Night project, which provides evening meal, bed and breakfast to homeless people during the winter months.

- Continued to run a weekly Food Pantry in 84 Queen's Road in partnership with the Reading-based homeless charity, FAITH.
- Supported a network of other voluntary groups when possible through the provision of space, including a number of support groups for people with addictions.
- Supported other local Christian organisations with financial contributions.

The future:

As part of the developing work of the church we are looking at how best we can use the resources and skills of the congregation, the gift of the buildings (including 84 Queen's Road) and the space they offer, together with the financial resources of the church, and to identify what else we should develop to meet our objectives as a church and a key part of the community. Plans for 2025/2026 include:

- Continuing to bring 84 Queen's Road into full operation.
- Continuing to support other church communities through the use of our buildings.
- Supporting other community service projects.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income and expenditure:

Church income is primarily drawn from the Sunday collections paid by the congregation plus the related Gift Aid tax credits, and lettings income paid by local community groups using the premises. Over the past year, collections and tax credits decreased by £12766 over the previous year to £83657, and lettings showed a small decrease of £179 to £39866.

The major expense is the assessment paid to Basingstoke & Reading Circuit. The assessment this year was £79524 compared with £76653 the previous year. The assessment pays for the minister's salary, employer pension, NI contributions, travelling expenses and manse running costs; Circuit administration; and contributions towards denominational central costs. The other main expense is Church running costs, including heating and lighting, insurance and utilities, maintenance and improvements, which amounted to £63702, an overall increase of £25674.

Reserves policy:

General funds: It is the Church's policy to have in hand sufficient to cover at least three months assessment, plus a further amount to cover any emergencies which occur in the short term and other one-off payments which may arise, and to this end it will endeavour to have £35,000 readily available to cover these payments.

General funds held at Y/E 31/08/2025 £74731.

Restricted funds: No funds have been drawn from the TMCP Investments during the last financial year. It our intention to keep in reserve for any major works that arise to our Victorian buildings which are now 150 years old.

Restricted funds held at Y/E 31/08/2024: £6386.

Review of the year 2024-2025:

The year has been a good year for the Church, with income being maintained to cover our regular outgoings and to have certain funds available to be able to maintain our Victorian listed building.

Outline of Wesley Methodist Accounts (at 31/08/25):

TMCP Account £71096

CFB Deposit fund account £21466

Current account balance £70380

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Wesley Methodist Church is a Christian organisation that is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976. Detailed governance arrangements are outlined in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD) by order of the annual Conference. Day-to-day management of the Church is undertaken by the Church stewards along with the Minister under the authority of the Church Council, who are the Trustees. The Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the Church.

Mr Kenneth Fordjour (one of the managing trustees) as Treasurer oversees the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Church during the year, supported by a Property & Finance group chaired by Mr Peter Frank.

A range of guidance produced by the Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the church and the role of the Trustees is given to the Church Trustees at various meetings and/or training sessions.

Risk management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Trustees with professional advice taken as required. A regular annual review process is undertaken as required. Income and expenditure is reviewed and monitored against budget on a quarterly basis as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes that each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- Establishing safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- Carefully selecting and training all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- Responding without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

- Seeking to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- Seeking to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our Church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles following legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Wesley Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

Wesley Methodist Church also commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Approved by the Trustees on 7th June 2026 and signed on their behalf by

Signed:



Rev. Martin Beukes

Date: 7th June 2026

Accounting responsibilities

Charity law requires trustees to prepare annual accounts that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs to the Church at the year end and of its financial activities during the period. The Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them prudently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Church will continue in operation.

Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Church, so that the accounts comply with the charity accounting SORP 2015. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

The Church is entitled to exemption from audit under the Charities Act but is required to have an independent examination of its accounts; the Church has therefore taken advantage of this exemption.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH READING

England & Wales - Charity number 1134691

Accounts

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
For the year ended 31 August 2024**

**Wesley Methodist Church, Reading
Berkshire and Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit**

Charity registration number: 1134691

Minister: Reverend Martin Beukes

Church Treasurer: Kenneth Fordjour

Church Trustees (at 31 August 2024):

Rev. Martin Beukes (Minister)
Kenneth Fordjour (Treasurer)
Patricia Brown (Secretary)
Julie Marsh (Pastoral co-ordinator)
Vicky Fordjour (Junior Church superintendent)
Peter Frank (Chairman, Property group)
Jonathan Brown (Chairman, Worship team)
Anita Abbey-Quaye (church steward)
Chris Preetham (church steward)
Tirivashe Manhera (church steward)
Evelyn Coffie (church steward)
Vishal Singh (church steward)
Bethany Finnegan (church steward)
Serwah Mensah (church steward)
Stephen Appiah (church representative)
Peter Chapman (church representative)
Brenda de Souza (church representative)
Alan Langford (church representative)
Richard Langford (church representative)
Mary Ludlow (church representative)
Angela Marjoram (church representative)
Terry Rowell (church representative)

The Church's statutory particulars are as follows:

Full name: Wesley Methodist Church

Main communication address: Wesley Methodist Church, Queen's Road, Reading RG1 4BW

Charity registered number: 1134691

Date of registration as Charity: 8 March 2010

Independent examiner: Mrs Christine Holland, 9 Ellerton Close, Theale, Reading RG7 5QN

Bankers: HSBC Bank plc, including an account through the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

The Church is part of the Berkshire and Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit, which is part of the Southampton District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Wesley Methodist Church has been at the centre of the community since its establishment in 1873. We are a thriving congregation representing a wide range of ages, backgrounds and ethnicities, committed to worshipping together and serving our communities in the best way we can.

Our core purpose is the furtherance of the Christian faith through the provision of regular public acts of worship which are open to members and non-members alike. We do this through a lively and supportive programme of worship on Sundays and at other times of the week, through sermons, courses of Bible study, music and singing, prayer and small group fellowships for people of all ages and backgrounds.

We support our members and those who see us as their spiritual home through pastoral work and prayer. Practical manifestations of this include extending friendship to those who come to us, and visiting and praying for members of the congregation.

We also commit to supporting other groups who use our building and to making links with others, both in our local area and internationally. We do this by providing space for groups, and by providing financial support to other charities.

Our membership is about 150, and various other people visit the church regularly.

The following is our vision and purpose:

We believe in a loving God who came into our world in the person of Jesus Christ to bring us to himself. In his life and teaching Jesus showed us the best way to live. On the cross he died in our place, offering us the free gift of forgiveness and a new start. By rising from the dead he assures us of eternal life. In his daily presence with us through the Holy Spirit he gives meaning and direction to our lives.

The Trustees confirm that the Church is a public benefit entity.

Achievements and performance:

During 2023-2024 we have carried out the following activities:

- Continued our family worship on Sundays throughout the year in church, including Junior Church. The congregation has grown over the past year.
- Continued to provide online worship for those who are unable to meet in person in church. The numbers engaging with these services still make it worthwhile to do this.
- Continued to use the gifts of our congregation to lead and support worship in church and online through music and other means.
- Completed our 150th celebrations with a celebration in October 2023.
- Continued our ecumenical links with our neighbouring church St Andrews URC, including a Walking Nativity with carol-singing around the neighbourhood in December 2023, and a free-to-all Big Lunch in June 2024.
- Taken our responsibilities towards the environment seriously by developing policies in keeping with being an Eco-Church.
- Supported our children and young people in Junior Church by continuing to hold in-church sessions. A group of children and young people was taken to the 3Generate conference in Birmingham in October 2023.
- Completed Phase 3 (creating one main room out of two) of the 84 Queen's Road project.
- Started a weekly Food Pantry in 84 Queen's Road in partnership with the Reading-based homeless charity, FAITH.

- Supported a network of other voluntary groups when possible through the provision of space, including a number of support groups for people with addictions.
- Continued our services for parents and babies through the weekly Spokes parent and toddler session.

The future:

As part of the developing work of the church we are looking at how best we can use the resources and skills of the congregation, the gift of the buildings (including 84 Queen's Road) and the space they offer, together with the financial resources of the church, and to identify what else we should develop to meet our objectives as a church and a key part of the community. Plans for 2024/2025 include:

- Continuing to bring 84 Queen's Road into full operation, including offering the kitchen and dining-room to asylum-seekers once a month to cook their own food, working in partnership with Care4Calais.
- Continuing to support other church communities through the use of our buildings.
- Supporting other community service projects as well as continuing existing ones, including engaging with Citizens UK.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income and expenditure:

Church income is primarily drawn from the Sunday collections paid by the congregation plus the related Gift Aid tax credits, and lettings income paid by local community groups using the premises. Over the past year, collections and tax credits increased by £1133 over the previous year to £96413, and lettings by £6983.

The major expense is the assessment paid to Basingstoke & Reading Circuit. The assessment this year was £76653 compared with £70727 the previous year. The assessment pays for the minister's salary, employer pension, NI contributions, travelling expenses and manse running costs; Circuit administration; and contributions towards denominational central costs. The other main expense is Church running costs, including heating and lighting, insurance and utilities, maintenance and improvements, which amounted to £48946 this year.

We were able to complete the refurbishment of the ground floor of the old manse (84 Queen's Road) during this current financial year.

Reserves policy:

General funds: It is the Church's policy to have in hand sufficient to cover at least three months assessment, plus a further amount to cover any emergencies which occur in the short term and other one off payments which may arise, and to this end it will endeavour to have £35,000 readily available to cover these payments.

General funds held at Y/E 31/08/2024 £175238

Restricted funds: No funds have been drawn from the TMCP Investments during the last financial year. It is intended to carry out work to the ground floor of 84 Queens Road for which consents have now been obtained. It is anticipated that some of these funds will be used for this purpose, but it is our intention to keep some funds in reserve for any major works that arise to our Victorian buildings which are now over 140 years old.

Restricted funds held at Y/E 31/08/2021: £704

Review of the year 2023-24

This year has been a good year for the Church, with income being maintained to cover our regular outgoings and to have certain funds available to be able to maintain our Victorian listed building,

Outline of Wesley Methodist Accounts (at 31/08/24):

TMCP Account £68,494

CFB Deposit fund account £25,478

Current account balance £81,865

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Wesley Methodist Church is a Christian organisation that is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976. Detailed governance arrangements are outlined in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD) by order of the annual Conference. Day-to-day management of the Church is undertaken by the Church stewards along with the Minister under the authority of the Church Council, who are the Trustees. The Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the Church.

Mr Kenneth Fordjour (one of the managing trustees) as Treasurer oversees the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Church during the year, supported by a Property & Finance group chaired by Mr Peter Frank.

A range of guidance produced by the Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the church and the role of the Trustees is given to the Church Trustees at various meetings and/or training sessions.

Risk management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Trustees with professional advice taken as required. A regular annual review process is undertaken as required. Income and expenditure is reviewed and monitored against budget on a quarterly basis as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes that each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- Establishing safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

- Carefully selecting and training all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- Responding without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- Seeking to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- Seeking to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our Church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles following legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Wesley Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

Wesley Methodist Church also commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Approved by the Trustees on 22/06/2025 and signed on their behalf by

Signed:



Kenneth Fordjour (Treasurer)

Date: 22/06/2025

Accounting responsibilities

Charity law requires trustees to prepare annual accounts that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs to the Church at the year end and of its financial activities during the period. The Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them prudently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Church will continue in operation.

Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Church, so that the accounts comply with the charity accounting SORP 2015. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

The Church is entitled to exemption from audit under the Charities Act but is required to have an independent examination of its accounts; the Church has therefore taken advantage of this exemption.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH READING

England & Wales - Charity number 1134691

Accounts

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
For the year ended 31 August 2023**

**Wesley Methodist Church, Reading
Basingstoke and Reading Circuit**

Charity registration number: 1134691

Minister: Reverend David Shaw (until 31 July 2023), Reverend Martin Beukes (from 1 August 2023)

Church Treasurer: Kenneth Fordjour

Church Trustees (at 31 August 2023):

Rev. Martin Beukes (Minister)
Kenneth Fordjour (Treasurer)
Patricia Brown (Secretary)
Julie Marsh (Pastoral co-ordinator)
Vicky Fordjour (Junior Church superintendent)
Mary Ludlow (Lay pastoral worker)
Peter Frank (Chairman, Property group)
Jonathan Brown (Chairman, Worship team)
Anita Abbey-Quaye (church steward)
Anna Ghelli (church steward)
Chris Preetham (church steward)
Tirivashe Manhera (church steward)
Evelyn Coffie (church steward)
Vishal Singh (church steward)
Bethany Finnegan (church steward)
Stephen Appiah (church representative)
Peter Chapman (church representative)
John Clarkson (church representative)
Brenda de Souza (church representative)
Alan Langford (church representative)
Richard Langford (church representative)
Angela Marjoram (church representative)
Terry Rowell (church representative)

The Church's statutory particulars are as follows:

Full name: Wesley Methodist Church

Main communication address: Wesley Methodist Church, Queen's Road, Reading RG1 4BW

Charity registered number: 1134691

Date of registration as Charity: 8 March 2010

Independent examiner: Mrs Christine Holland, 9 Ellerton Close, Theale, Reading RG7 5QN

Bankers: HSBC Bank plc, including an account through the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

The Church is part of the Basingstoke & Reading Circuit, which is part of the Southampton District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Wesley Methodist Church has been at the centre of the community since its establishment in 1873. We are a thriving congregation representing a wide range of ages, backgrounds and ethnicities, committed to worshipping together and serving our communities in the best way we can.

Our core purpose is the furtherance of the Christian faith through the provision of regular public acts of worship which are open to members and non-members alike. We do this through a lively and supportive programme of worship on Sundays and at other times of the week, through sermons, courses of Bible study, music and singing, prayer and small group fellowships for people of all ages and backgrounds.

We support our members and those who see us as their spiritual home through pastoral work and prayer. Practical manifestations of this include extending friendship to those who come to us, and visiting and praying for members of the congregation.

We also commit to supporting other groups who use our building and to making links with others, both in our local area and internationally. We do this by providing space for groups, and by providing financial support to other charities.

Our membership is about 150, and various other people visit the church regularly.

The following is our vision and purpose:

We believe in a loving God who came into our world in the person of Jesus Christ to bring us to himself. In his life and teaching Jesus showed us the best way to live. On the cross he died in our place, offering us the free gift of forgiveness and a new start. By rising from the dead, he assures us of eternal life. In his daily presence with us through the Holy Spirit he gives meaning and direction to our lives.

The Trustees confirm that the Church is a public benefit entity.

Achievements and performance:

During 2022-2023 we have carried out the following activities:

- Continued our family worship on Sundays throughout the year in church, including Junior Church. The congregation has grown over the past year.
- Continued to provide online worship for those who are unable to meet in person in church. The numbers engaging with these services still make it worthwhile to do this.
- Planned and carried out a programme to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the church's foundation, lasting from December 2022 to October 2023, including:
 - Publication of a history of the church
 - Photographic and art exhibitions
 - An open day as part of the town's Heritage Weekend (planned for September 2023)
 - Invitations to previous ministers and preachers to take services.
 - Visit of the Vice-President of the Methodist Conference in February 2023
 - Celebration meals
 - The making of a banner to commemorate the anniversary.
- Continued to use the gifts of our congregation to lead and support worship in church and online through music and other means.
- Continued our ecumenical links with our neighbouring church St Andrews URC, including the distribution of Easter eggs and Easter leaflets around the neighbourhood, and putting on a Street Afternoon Tea for the Coronation.

- Taken our responsibilities towards the environment seriously by developing policies in keeping with being an Eco-Church.
- Supported our children and young people in Junior Church by continuing to hold in-church sessions. A group of 17 children and young people was taken to the 3Generate conference in Birmingham in October 2022
- Continued with the development of the 84 Queen's Road project. Phase 2 was completed (dining-room, kitchen, and accessible ramp to the main entrance). Phase 3 (creating one main room out of two) was started.
- Supported a network of other voluntary groups when possible, through the provision of space, including a number of support groups for people with addictions.
- Continued our services for parents and babies through the Spokes parent and toddler session.

The future:

As part of the developing work of the church we are looking at how best we can use the resources and skills of the congregation, the gift of the buildings (including the completed 84 Queen's Road project) and the space they offer, together with the financial resources of the church, and to identify what else we should develop to meet our objectives as a church and a key part of the community. Plans for 2023/2024 include:

- Bringing 84 Queen's Road into full operation.
- Continuing joint community outreach with St Andrew's URC.
- Continuing to support other church communities through the use of our buildings.
- Supporting other community service projects as well as continuing existing ones, including engaging with Citizens UK.
- Complete the celebrations for the church's 150th anniversary, culminating in October 2023.
- Further develop work with young people, including employing a youth minister.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income and expenditure:

Church income is primarily drawn from the Sunday collections paid by the congregation plus the related Gift Aid tax credits, and lettings income paid by local community groups using the premises. Collections and tax credit increased by £23201 over the previous year to £91924 and lettings by £2176.

The major expense is the assessment paid to Basingstoke & Reading Circuit. The assessment this year was £70727 compared with £68661 the previous year. The assessment pays for the minister's salary, employer pension, NI contributions, travelling expenses and manse running costs; Circuit administration; and contributions towards denominational central costs. The other main expense is Church running costs, including heating and lighting, insurance and utilities, maintenance, and improvements, which amounted to £43913 this year.

We were able to almost complete the refurbishment of the work in 84 Queens Road during the financial year, with only one or two minor items needing to be completed for the Project to finished.

Reserves policy:

General funds: It is the Church's policy to have in hand sufficient to cover at least three months assessment, plus a further amount to cover any emergencies which occur in the

short term and other one-off payments which may arise, and to this end it will endeavour to have £32000 readily available to cover these payments.

General funds held at Y/E 31/08/2021 £119472.

Restricted funds: No funds have been drawn from the TMCP Investments during the last financial year. It is intended to carry out work to the ground floor of 84 Queens Road for which consents have now been obtained. It is anticipated that some of these funds will be used for this purpose, but it is our intention to keep some funds in reserve for any major works that arise to our Victorian buildings which are now over 140 years old.

Restricted funds held at Y/E 31/08/2021: £13666.

Review of the year 2022 - 2023

Overall, the year has proved very satisfactory from a financial point of view. Our income has increased, and we have been able to contain expenditure to within manageable limits, so that the Church is in a sound financial position.

Outline of Wesley Methodist Accounts (at 31/08/23):

TMCP Account £58151

CFB Deposit fund account £24028

Current account balance £50959

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Wesley Methodist Church is a Christian organisation that is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976. Detailed governance arrangements are outlined in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD) by order of the annual Conference. Day-to-day management of the Church is undertaken by the Church stewards along with the Minister under the authority of the Church Council, who are the Trustees. The Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the Church.

Mr Kenneth Fordjour (one of the managing trustees) as Treasurer oversees the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Church during the year, supported by a Property & Finance group chaired by Mr Peter Frank.

A range of guidance produced by the Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the church and the role of the Trustees is given to the Church Trustees at various meetings and/or training sessions.

Risk management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Trustees with professional advice taken as required. A regular annual review process is undertaken as required. Income and expenditure is reviewed and monitored against budget on a quarterly basis as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes that each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other

things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- Establishing safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- Carefully selecting and training all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- Responding without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- Seeking to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- Seeking to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our Church community known to have offended against a child, young person, or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles following legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Wesley Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance, and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

Wesley Methodist Church also commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Approved by the Trustees on 16th June 2024 and signed on their behalf by

Signed:

Rev. Martin Beukes *Date 16th June 2024*

Accounting responsibilities

Charity law requires trustees to prepare annual accounts that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs to the Church at the year end and of its financial activities during the period. The Trustees are required to:

- a. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them prudently
- b. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- c. Prepare accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Church will continue in operation.

Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Church, so that the accounts comply with the charity accounting SORP 2015. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

The Church is entitled to exemption from audit under the Charities Act but is required to have an independent examination of its accounts; the Church has therefore taken advantage of this exemption.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH READING

England & Wales - Charity number 1134691

Accounts

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
For the year ended 31 August 2022**

**Wesley Methodist Church, Reading
Basingstoke and Reading Circuit**

Charity registration number: 1134691

Minister: Reverend David Shaw

Church Treasurer: Kenneth Fordjour

Church Trustees (at May 2022):

Rev. David Shaw (Minister)
Kenneth Fordjour (Treasurer)
Patricia Brown (Secretary)
Julie Marsh (Pastoral co-ordinator)
Vicky Fordjour (Junior Church superintendent)
Mary Ludlow (Lay pastoral worker)
Peter Frank (Chairman, Property group)
Jonathan Brown (Chairman, Worship team)
Anita Abbey-Quaye (church steward)
Fredua Agyeman (church steward)
Anna Ghelli (church steward)
Sohini Shama (church steward)
Chris Preetham (church steward)
Tirivashe Manhera (church steward)
Evelyn Coffie (church steward)
Stephen Appiah (church representative)
Peter Chapman (church representative)
John Clarkson (church representative)
Brenda de Souza (church representative)
Alan Langford (church representative)
Richard Langford (church representative)
Angela Marjoram (church representative)
Terry Rowell (church representative)

The Church's statutory particulars are as follows:

Full name: Wesley Methodist Church
Main communication address: Wesley Methodist Church, Queen's Road, Reading RG1 4BW
Charity registered number: 1134691
Date of registration as Charity: 8 March 2010
Independent examiner: Mrs Christine Holland, 9 Ellerton Close, Theale, Reading RG7 5QN
Bankers: HSBC Bank plc, including an account through the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

The Church is part of the Basingstoke & Reading Circuit, which is part of the Southampton District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Wesley Methodist Church has been at the centre of the community since its establishment in 1873. We are a thriving congregation representing a wide range of ages, backgrounds and ethnicities, committed to worshipping together and serving our communities in the best way we can.

Our core purpose is the furtherance of the Christian faith through the provision of regular public acts of worship which are open to members and non-members alike. We do this through a lively and supportive programme of worship on Sundays and at other times of the week, through sermons, courses of Bible study, music and singing, prayer and small group fellowships for people of all ages and backgrounds.

We support our members and those who see us as their spiritual home through pastoral work and prayer. Practical manifestations of this include extending friendship to those who come to us, and visiting and praying for members of the congregation.

We also commit to supporting other groups who use our building and to making links with others, both in our local area and internationally. We do this by providing space for groups, and by providing financial support to other charities.

Our membership is about 150, and various other people visit the church regularly.

The following is our vision and purpose:

We believe in a loving God who came into our world in the person of Jesus Christ to bring us to himself. In his life and teaching Jesus showed us the best way to live. On the cross he died in our place, offering us the free gift of forgiveness and a new start. By rising from the dead he assures us of eternal life. In his daily presence with us through the Holy Spirit he gives meaning and direction to our lives.

The Trustees confirm that the Church is a public benefit entity.

Achievements and performance:

During 2021-2022 we have carried out the following activities:

- Continued our family worship on Sundays throughout the year in church, including Junior Church. Congregational numbers have recovered from lockdown and even gained new worshippers.
- Continued to provide online worship for those who are unable to meet in person in church. The numbers engaging with these services make it worthwhile to do this.
- Continued to use the gifts of our congregation to lead and support worship in church and online through music and other means.
- Continued our ecumenical links with our neighbouring church St Andrews URC, including the distribution of Easter eggs and Easter leaflets around the neighbourhood, and putting on a Street Afternoon Tea for the Platinum Jubilee.
- Taken our responsibilities towards the environment seriously by developing policies in keeping with being an Eco-Church, achieving a Bronze Award.
- Supported our children and young people in Junior Church by continuing to hold in-church sessions. A group of children and young people was taken to the 3Generate conference in Birmingham in October 2021
- Completed Phase 1 (accessible ground-floor toilets) of the major refurbishment project of the adjoining former manse building (known as 84 Queens Road), to create more usable space for the church, the charities that occupy the building, and the community. Drawn up specifications and tender documents for Phase 2 (a kitchen

and café area, and accessible external ramp). Funds were raised from grants, the Methodist Circuit and District, and the Wesley congregation.

- Supported a network of other voluntary groups when possible through the provision of space, including a number of support groups for people with addictions.
- Re-started our services for parents and babies through the Spokes parent and toddler session.

The future:

As part of the developing work of the church we are looking at how best we can use the resources and skills of the congregation, the gift of the buildings and the space they offer, together with the financial resources of the church, and to identify what else we should develop to meet our objectives as a church and a key part of the community. Plans for 2022/2023 include:

- Submission of further applications for grant funding for development of the former manse for church and community use, and completion of Phase 2.
- Joint community outreach with St Andrew's URC, to distribute free Easter eggs with leaflets around the neighbourhood, to hold a Walking Nativity, and to offer a free Street Afternoon Tea for the King's Coronation.
- Continuing to support other church communities through the use of our buildings.
- Supporting other community service projects as well as continuing existing ones.
- Begin to plan for the church's 150th anniversary in 2023.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income and expenditure:

Church income is primarily drawn from the Sunday collections paid by the congregation plus the related Gift Aid tax credits, and lettings income paid by local community groups using the premises. Owing to lockdown, collections and tax credit fell by £538 over the previous year to £73944, and lettings by £13857.

The major expense is the assessment paid to Basingstoke & Reading Circuit. The assessment this year was £70203 compared with £68728 the previous year. The assessment pays for the minister's salary, employer pension, NI contributions, travelling expenses and manse running costs; Circuit administration; and contributions towards denominational central costs. The other main expense is Church running costs, including heating and lighting, insurance and utilities, maintenance and improvements, which amounted to £43067 this year.

We were able to prepare for Phase 1 of the refurbishment of the ground floor of the old manse (84 Queen's Road) during this current financial year.

Reserves policy:

General funds: It is the Church's policy to have in hand sufficient to cover at least three months assessment, plus a further amount to cover any emergencies which occur in the short term and other one off payments which may arise, and to this end it will endeavour to have £27,000 readily available to cover these payments.

General funds held at Y/E 31/08/2021 £10271.

Restricted funds: No funds have been drawn from the TMCP Investments during the last financial year. It is intended to carry out work to the ground floor of 84 Queens Road for which consents have now been obtained. It is anticipated that some of these funds will be

used for this purpose, but it is our intention to keep some funds in reserve for any major works that arise to our Victorian buildings which are now over 140 years old.

Restricted funds held at Y/E 31/08/2021: £24,186.

Review of the year 2020-2021:

The year got off to a good start, with healthy giving and other income. From March 2020 income from lettings and other sources dropped by more than 75%. In spite of the unprecedented circumstances and the financial challenges that we have encountered, we have managed to meet most of our expenses, mainly due to generous giving of our members. As the financial year 2021-2022 began, it looked as though we could continue to hold our own.

Outline of Wesley Methodist Accounts (at 31/08/21):

TMCP Account £56,394

CFB Deposit fund account £32,212

Current account balance £9,325

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Wesley Methodist Church is a Christian organisation that is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976. Detailed governance arrangements are outlined in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD) by order of the annual Conference. Day-to-day management of the Church is undertaken by the Church stewards along with the Minister under the authority of the Church Council, who are the Trustees. The Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the Church.

Mr Kenneth Fordjour (one of the managing trustees) as Treasurer oversees the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Church during the year, supported by a Property & Finance group chaired by Mr Peter Frank.

A range of guidance produced by the Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the church and the role of the Trustees is given to the Church Trustees at various meetings and/or training sessions.

Risk management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Trustees with professional advice taken as required. A regular annual review process is undertaken as required. Income and expenditure is reviewed and monitored against budget on a quarterly basis as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes that each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- Establishing safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- Carefully selecting and training all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- Responding without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- Seeking to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- Seeking to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our Church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles following legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Wesley Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

Wesley Methodist Church also commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Approved by the Trustees on 21st May 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Signed:



Rev. David Shaw *Date: 21st May 2023*

Accounting responsibilities

Charity law requires trustees to prepare annual accounts that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs to the Church at the year end and of its financial activities during the period. The Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them prudently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Church will continue in operation.

Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Church, so that the accounts comply with the charity accounting SORP 2015. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

The Church is entitled to exemption from audit under the Charities Act but is required to have an independent examination of its accounts; the Church has therefore taken advantage of this exemption.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH READING

England & Wales - Charity number 1134691

Accounts

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
For the year ended 31 August 2021**

**Wesley Methodist Church, Reading
Basingstoke and Reading Circuit**

Charity registration number: 1134691

Minister: Reverend David Shaw

Church Treasurer: Kenneth Fordjour

Church Trustees (at May 2021):

Rev. David Shaw (Minister)
Kenneth Fordjour (Treasurer)
Patricia Brown (Secretary)
Julie Marsh (Pastoral co-ordinator)
Cindy Thompson (Junior Church superintendent)
Mary Ludlow (Lay pastoral worker)
Peter Frank (Chairman, Property group)
Jonathan Brown (Chairman, Worship team)
Anita Abbey-Quaye (church steward)
Fredua Agyeman (church steward)
Hannah Edwards (church steward)
Anna Ghelli (church steward)
Samuel Nyamakope (church steward)
Sohini Shama (church steward)
Stephen Appiah (church representative)
Peter Chapman (church representative)
John Clarkson (church representative)
Brenda de Souza (church representative)
Alan Langford (church representative)
Richard Langford (church representative)
Angela Marjoram (church representative)
Terry Rowell (church representative)
Norman Smart (church representative)

The Church's statutory particulars are as follows:

Full name: Wesley Methodist Church

Main communication address: Wesley Methodist Church, Queen's Road,
Reading RG1 4BW

Charity registered number: 1134691

Date of registration as Charity: 8 March 2010

Independent examiner: Mrs Christine Holland, 9 Ellerton Close, Theale,
Reading RG7 5QN

Bankers: HSBC Bank plc, including an account through the Central Finance
Board of the Methodist Church.

The Church is part of the Basingstoke & Reading Circuit, which is part of the
Southampton District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

Objectives and activities

Wesley Methodist Church has been at the centre of the community since its establishment in 1873. We are a thriving congregation representing a wide range of ages, backgrounds and ethnicities, committed to worshipping together and serving our communities in the best way we can.

Our core purpose is the furtherance of the Christian faith through the provision of regular public acts of worship which are open to members and non-members alike. We do this through a lively and supportive programme of worship on Sundays and at other times of the week, through sermons, courses of Bible study, music and singing, prayer and small group fellowships for people of all ages and backgrounds.

We support our members and those who see us as their spiritual home through pastoral work and prayer. Practical manifestations of this include extending friendship to those who come to us, and visiting and praying for members of the congregation.

We also commit to supporting other groups who use our building and to making links with others, both in our local area and internationally. We do this by providing space for groups, and by providing financial support to other charities.

Our membership is about 150, and various other people visit the church regularly.

The following is our vision and purpose:

We believe in a loving God who came into our world in the person of Jesus Christ to bring us to himself. In his life and teaching Jesus showed us the best way to live. On the cross he died in our place, offering us the free gift of forgiveness and a new start. By rising from the dead he assures us of eternal life. In his daily presence with us through the Holy Spirit he gives meaning and direction to our lives.

The Trustees confirm that the Church is a public benefit entity.

Achievements and performance:

During 2020-2021 we have carried out the following activities:

- Continued our family worship on Sundays throughout the year, both in church and online during times of lockdown. Online services have included prayer, teaching, and music, both instrumental and choral, supplied by our own congregation by recording separately and editing to form congregational hymn-singing.
- After the lifting of lockdown, continued to provide online worship for those who are unable to meet in person in church.

Continued to use the gifts of our congregation to lead and support worship online through music and other means.

Continued to offer an online series of 'Small Talks' on YouTube and Facebook, by our minister.

Continued our ecumenical links with our neighbouring church St Andrews URC, including the distribution of Easter eggs and Easter leaflets around the neighbourhood.

Taken our responsibilities towards the environment seriously by developing policies in keeping with being an Eco-Church, working towards achieving a Bronze Award.

Supported our children and young people in Junior Church by continuing to hold Zoom gatherings, as well as resuming in-church sessions.

Drawn up specifications and tender documents for Phase 1 (accessible ground-floor toilets) of a major refurbishment project of the adjoining former manse building (known as 84 Queens Road), to create more usable space for church and community. This will be followed by Phase 2 (a kitchen and café area), to support Reading Frontline Christian debt agency. We successfully applied for a grant from Methodist Insurance to support this project. Others were pending at the end of this accounting period.

Supported a network of other voluntary groups when possible through the provision of space, including and a number of support groups for people with addictions.

The future:

As part of the developing work of the church we are looking at how best we can use the resources and skills of the congregation, the gift of the buildings and the space they offer, together with the financial resources of the church, and to identify what else we should develop to meet our objectives as a church and a key part of the community. Plans for 2021/2022 include:

- Submission of further applications for grant funding for development of the former manse for church and community use.
- Joint community outreach with St Andrew's URC, to distribute free Easter eggs with leaflets around the neighbourhood, and to offer a free Street Afternoon Tea for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Continuing to support other church communities through the use of our buildings.

Supporting other community service projects as well as continuing existing ones. Re-start our services for parents and babies through the Spokes parent and toddler session.

Resuming participation in Bed For The Night.

Financial review

Income and expenditure:

Church income is primarily drawn from the Sunday collections paid by the congregation plus the related Gift Aid tax credits, and lettings income paid by local community groups using the premises. Owing to lockdown, collections and tax credit fell by £538 over the previous year to £73944, and lettings by £13857.

The major expense is the assessment paid to Basingstoke & Reading Circuit. The assessment this year was £70203 compared with £68728 the previous year. The assessment pays for the minister's salary, employer pension, NI contributions, travelling expenses and manse running costs; Circuit administration; and contributions towards denominational central costs. The other main expense is Church running costs, including heating and lighting, insurance and utilities, maintenance and improvements, which amounted to £43067 this year.

We were able to prepare for Phase 1 of the refurbishment of the ground floor of the old manse (84 Queen's Road) during this current financial year.

Reserves policy:

General funds: It is the Church's policy to have in hand sufficient to cover at least three months assessment, plus a further amount to cover any emergencies which occur in the short term and other one off payments which may arise, and to this end it will endeavour to have £27,000 readily available to cover these payments.

General funds held at Y/E 31/08/2021 £10271.

Restricted funds: No funds have been drawn from the TMCP Investments during the last financial year. It is intended to carry out work to the ground floor of 84 Queens Road for which consents have now been obtained. It is anticipated that some of these funds will be used for this purpose, but it is our intention to keep some funds in reserve for any major works that arise to our Victorian buildings which are now over 140 years old.

Restricted funds held at Y/E 31/08/2021: £24,186.

Review of the year 2020-2021:

The year got off to a good start, with healthy giving and other income. From March 2020 income from lettings and other sources dropped by more than 75%. In spite of the unprecedented circumstances and the financial challenges that we have encountered, we have managed to meet most of our expenses, mainly due to generous giving of our members. As the financial year 2021-2022 began, it looked as though we could continue to hold our own.

Outline of Wesley Methodist Accounts (at 31/08/21):

TMCP Account £56,394

CFB Deposit fund account £32,212

Current account balance £9,325

Structure, governance and management

Wesley Methodist Church is a Christian organisation that is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976. Detailed governance arrangements are outlined in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD) by order of the annual Conference. Day-to-day management of the Church is undertaken by the Church stewards along with the Minister under the authority of the Church Council, who are the Trustees. The Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the Church.

Mr Kenneth Fordjour (one of the managing trustees) as Treasurer oversees the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Church during the year, supported by a Property & Finance group chaired by Mr Peter Frank.

A range of guidance produced by the Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the church and the role of the Trustees is given to the Church Trustees at various meetings and/or training sessions.

Risk management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Trustees with professional advice taken as required. A regular annual review process is undertaken as required. Income and expenditure is reviewed and monitored against budget on a quarterly basis as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes that each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
Establishing safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
Carefully selecting and training all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
Responding without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
Seeking to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
Seeking to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our Church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
In all these principles following legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Wesley Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

Wesley Methodist Church also commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Approved by the Trustees on 14 June 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Signed:

Rev. David Shaw *Date: 17 June 2021*

Accounting responsibilities

Charity law requires trustees to prepare annual accounts that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs to the Church at the year end and of its financial activities during the period. The Trustees are required to:

- a. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them prudently
- b. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- c. Prepare accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Church will continue in operation.

Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Church, so that the accounts comply with the charity accounting SORP 2015. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

The Church is entitled to exemption from audit under the Charities Act but is required to have an independent examination of its accounts; the Church has therefore taken advantage of this exemption.

**CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

WESLEY Church

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2021**

Basingstoke & Reading	Circuit	Circuit no	26/4
----------------------------------	----------------	-------------------	-------------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1134691

If not a registered charity **Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs**

Gift Aid number

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Rev. David M Shaw

Church Stewards:

Anita Abbey-Quaye

Hannah Edwards

Anna Ghelli

Fredua Agyeman

Sohine Shama

Treasurer:

Ken Fordjour

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

WESLEY

Church

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	73,944		73,944	79,803
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	217	8	225	570
a4	Lettings	12,827		12,827	26,684
a5	Other receipts	6,675	23,187	29,862	4,181
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	93,663	23,195	116,858 (a7)	111,238

SECTION B		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	70,203		70,203	68,728
b3	Donations			0	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	13,093		13,093	25,254
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	29,974		29,974	22,070
b6	Aspire project	0		0	14,019
b7	Other payments	688		688	208
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	113,958	0	113,958 (b9)	130,279

SECTION C		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year	
		£	£	£	£	
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(20,295)	23,195	2,900	(19,041)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		92,357	2,014	94,371 (c6)	113,412
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	72,062	25,209	97,271	94,371
c4	Transfers and adjustments		0	0	0 (c7)	0
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	72,062	25,209	97,271 (c8)	94,371 (c6)

SECTION D		£	£
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS			
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		
d1	Balance brought forward from last year	0	(54)
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	0	752
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	0	698
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)	0	0

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1 Women's Fellowship	0	100	(100)		207	107
e2 Junior Church	756	1,026	(270)		1,295	1,025
e3 Women's Bright Hour	0	100	(100)		614	514
e4 Spokes	0	210	(210)		210	0
e5			0			0
e6			0			0
e7			0			0
Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	756	1,436	(680)	0	2,326 (e11)	1,646 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	116,858 (a7)	113,958 (b9)	2,900	(c7)	94,371 (c6)	97,271 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	117,614	115,394	2,220	0	96,697 (x)	98,917 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	24,032	9,325
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	14,021	31,551
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	56,318	56,395
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	94,371 (c6)	97,271 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	2,326 (e11)	1,646 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	96,697 (x)	98,917 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	8,404,305	8563760
g3 Other Assets	152,252	155,141
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

Name of Church ... Wesley Methodist Church

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer



Date

20-04-2022

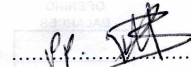
Name and address of treasurer Ken Fordjour

8 Keswick Close Tilehurst Reading RG30 4SD

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 03.03.2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Rev David M Shaw

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev David M Shaw

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Wesley Methodist Church

Charity Number .. 1134691

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Wesley Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages 2 to 3. As the Church'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 Church'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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church ... Wesley Methodist Church

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 (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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.

I have not obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner *CHolland*

Name of independent examiner Christine Holland

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner CPFA

Address 9 Ellerton Close, Theale, Reading. RG7 5QN

Date *8 May 2022*

**CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

WESLEY Church

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2021**

Basingstoke & Reading	Circuit	Circuit no	26/4
----------------------------------	----------------	-------------------	-------------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number **1134691**

If not a registered charity **Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs**
Gift Aid number

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:
Revd. David M Shaw

Church Stewards:

Anita Abbey-Quaye	Hannah Edwards
Anna Ghelli	Fredua Agyeman
Sohine Shama	

Treasurer:
Ken Fordjour

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

WESLEY

Church

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	73,944		73,944	79,803
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	217	8	225	570
a4	Lettings	12,827		12,827	26,684
a5	Other receipts	6,675	23,187	29,862	4,181
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	93,663	23,195	116,858 (a7)	111,238

SECTION B		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	70,203		70,203	68,728
b3	Donations			0	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	13,093		13,093	25,254
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	29,974		29,974	22,070
b6	Aspire project	0		0	14,019
b7	Other payments	688		688	208
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	113,958	0	113,958 (b9)	130,279

SECTION C		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year	
		£	£	£	£	
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(20,295)	23,195	2,900	(19,041)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		92,357	2,014	94,371 (c6)	113,412
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	72,062	25,209	97,271	94,371
c4	Transfers and adjustments		0	0	0 (c7)	0
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	72,062	25,209	97,271 (c8)	94,371 (c6)

SECTION D		£	£
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS			
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		
d1	Balance brought forward from last year	0	(54)
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	0	752
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	0	698
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)	0	0

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1 Women's Fellowship	0	100	(100)		207	107
e2 Junior Church	756	1,026	(270)		1,295	1,025
e3 Women's Bright Hour	0	100	(100)		614	514
e4 Spokes	0	210	(210)		210	0
e5			0			0
e6			0			0
e7			0			0
Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	756	1,436	(680)	0	2,326 (e11)	1,646 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	116,858 (a7)	113,958 (b9)	2,900	(c7)	94,371 (c6)	97,271 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	117,614	115,394	2,220	0	96,697 (x)	98,917 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	24,032	9,325
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	14,021	31,551
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	56,318	56,395
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	94,371 (c6)	97,271 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	2,326 (e11)	1,646 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	96,697 (x)	98,917 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	8,404,305	8563760
g3 Other Assets	152,252	155,141
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

Name of Church ... Wesley Methodist Church

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer



Date

20-09-2022

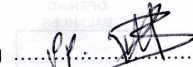
Name and address of treasurer Ken Fordjour

8 Keswick Close Tilehurst Reading RG30 4SD

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 03.03.2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Rev David M Shaw

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev David M Shaw

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Wesley Methodist Church

Charity Number .. 1134691

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Wesley Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages 2 to 3. As the Church'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 Church'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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church ... Wesley Methodist Church

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 (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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.

I have not obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner *CHolland*

Name of independent examiner Christine Holland

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner CPFA

Address 9 Ellerton Close, Theale, Reading. RG7 5QN

Date *8 May 2022*

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH READING

England & Wales - Charity number 1134691

Accounts

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
For the year ended 31 August 2020**

**Wesley Methodist Church, Reading
Basingstoke and Reading Circuit**

Charity registration number: 1134691

Minister: Reverend David Shaw

Church Treasurer: Kenneth Fordjour

Church Trustees (at May 2021):

Rev. David Shaw (Minister)
Kenneth Fordjour (Treasurer)
Patricia Brown (Secretary)
Julie Marsh (Pastoral co-ordinator)
Cindy Thompson (Junior Church superintendent)
Mary Ludlow (Lay pastoral worker)
Peter Frank (Chairman, Property group)
Jonathan Brown (Chairman, Worship team)
Anita Abbey-Quaye (church steward)
Fredua Agyeman (church steward)
Wayne Coles (church steward) (retired April 2021)
Samuel Djanie (church steward) (retired April 2020)
Hannah Edwards (church steward)
Anna Ghelli (church steward)
Samuel Nyamakope (church steward)
Sohini Shama (church steward)
Stephen Appiah (church representative)
Peter Chapman (church representative)
John Clarkson (church representative)
Brenda de Souza (church representative)
Alan Langford (church representative)
Richard Langford (church representative)
Angela Marjoram (church representative)
Terry Rowell (church representative)
Norman Smart (church representative)

The Church's statutory particulars are as follows:

Full name: Wesley Methodist Church

Main communication address: Wesley Methodist Church, Queen's Road, Reading RG1 4BW

Charity registered number: 1134691

Date of registration as Charity: 8 March 2010

Independent examiner: Mrs Christine Holland, 9 Ellerton Close, Theale, Reading RG7 5QN

Bankers: HSBC Bank plc, including an account through the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

The Church is part of the Basingstoke & Reading Circuit, which is part of the Southampton District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

Objectives and activities

Wesley Methodist Church has been at the centre of the community since its establishment in 1873. We are a thriving congregation representing a wide range of ages, backgrounds and ethnicities, committed to worshipping together and serving our communities in the best way we can.

Our core purpose is the furtherance of the Christian faith through the provision of regular public acts of worship which are open to members and non-members alike. We do this through a lively and supportive programme of worship on Sundays and at other times of the week, through sermons, courses of Bible study, music and singing, prayer and small group fellowships for people of all ages and backgrounds.

We support our members and those who see us as their spiritual home through pastoral work and prayer. Practical manifestations of this include extending friendship to those who come to us, and visiting and praying for members of the congregation.

We also commit to supporting other groups who use our building and to making links with others, both in our local area and internationally. We do this by providing space for groups, and by providing financial support to other charities.

Our membership is about 150, and various other people visit the church regularly.

The following is our vision and purpose:

We believe in a loving God who came into our world in the person of Jesus Christ to bring us to himself. In his life and teaching Jesus showed us the best way to live. On the cross he died in our place, offering us the free gift of forgiveness and a new start. By rising from the dead he assures us of eternal life. In his daily presence with us through the Holy Spirit he gives meaning and direction to our lives.

The Trustees confirm that the Church is a public benefit entity.

Achievements and performance

During 2019-2020 we have carried out the following activities:

- Continued our family worship on Sundays throughout the year. During times of lockdown this has moved online and has included prayer, teaching, and music, both instrumental and choral, supplied by our own congregation by recording separately and editing to form congregational hymn-singing.
- As permitted, met together in church for communion services.
- Found new ways of developing the skills of our congregation to lead and support worship online through music and other means.
- Developed our online presence with a series of 'Small Talks' on YouTube and Facebook, by our minister.
- Maintained a local witness by using the church railings to post pictures and posters for Easter and Pentecost, created by our Junior Church and other members of the congregation.
- Continued our ecumenical links with our neighbouring church St Andrews URC.
- Taken part in the Reading Churches initiative 'Bed For The Night', in which homeless people were offered bed, breakfast and evening meal every night during January 2020, each church being responsible for one night a week.
- Taken our responsibilities towards the environment seriously by developing policies in keeping with being an Eco-Church.
- Supported our children and young people in Junior Church by holding Zoom gatherings, which have been very well attended.

- Maintained our services for parents and babies through the Spokes parent and toddler session, until being forced to suspend them because of lockdown.
- Continued to plan for a major refurbishment project of the adjoining former manse building (known as 84 Queens Road), to create more usable space for church and community. To this end we have refurbished the top floor to provide offices now occupied by local charity Graft Thames Valley. We are now embarking on the process of developing the ground floor to provide accessible toilets and a kitchen and café area, to support Reading Frontline Christian debt agency. We applied for grants, some of which were turned down because of the pandemic. Others were pending at the end of this accounting period.
- Supported a network of other voluntary groups when possible through the provision of space, including and a number of support groups for people with addictions.

The future:

As part of the developing work of the church we are looking at how best we can use the resources and skills of the congregation, the gift of the buildings and the space they offer, together with the financial resources of the church, and to identify what else we should develop to meet our objectives as a church and a key part of the community. Plans for 2021/2022 include:

- Submission of further applications for grant funding for development of the former manse for church and community use.
- Further joint community outreach with other local churches, including the resumption of the Big Lunch and Walking Nativity, suspended because of lockdown.
- Continuing to support other church communities through the use of our buildings.
- Supporting other community service projects as well as continuing existing ones.
- Resuming participation in Bed For The Night.

Financial review

Income and expenditure:

Church income is primarily drawn from the Sunday collections paid by the congregation plus the related Gift Aid tax credits, and lettings income paid by local community groups using the premises. Owing to lockdown, collections and tax credit fell by £4574 over the previous year to £74482, and lettings by £13715.

The major expense is the assessment paid to Basingstoke & Reading Circuit. The assessment this year was £68728 compared with £66237 the previous year. The assessment pays for the minister's salary, employer pension, NI contributions, travelling expenses and manse running costs; Circuit administration; and contributions towards denominational central costs. The other main expense is Church running costs, including heating and lighting, insurance and utilities, maintenance and improvements, which amounted to £47324 this year. A further £10,000 was spent on refurbishment of the top floor of the old manse building known as 84 Queens Road, to provide offices which are now let to a local charity at £400/month.

Reserves policy:

General funds: It is the Church's policy to have in hand sufficient to cover at least three months assessment, plus a further amount to cover any emergencies which occur in the short term and other one off payments which may arise, and to this end it will endeavour to have £27,000 readily available to cover these payments.

General funds held at Y/E 31/08/20: £30653.

Restricted funds: No funds have been drawn from the TMCP Investments during the last financial year. It is intended to carry out work to the ground floor of 84 Queens Road for which consents have now been obtained. It is anticipated that some of these funds will be used for this

purpose, but it is our intention to keep some funds in reserve for any major works that arise to our Victorian buildings which are now over 140 years old.

Restricted funds held at Y/E 31/08/2020: £2014.

Review of the year 2019-2020:

The year got off to a good start, with healthy giving and other income. From March 2020 income from lettings and other sources dropped by more than 75%. In spite of the unprecedented circumstances and the financial challenges that we have encountered, we have managed to meet most of our expenses, mainly due to generous giving of our members. As the financial year 2020-2021 began, it looked as though we could continue to hold our own.

Outline of Wesley Methodist Accounts (at 31/08/20):

TMCP Account £56,318

CFB Deposit fund account £14,021

Current account balance £24,032

Structure, governance and management

Wesley Methodist Church is a Christian organisation that is governed by the Methodist Church Act 1976. Detailed governance arrangements are outlined in the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD) by order of the annual Conference. Day-to-day management of the Church is undertaken by the Church stewards along with the Minister under the authority of the Church Council, who are the Trustees. The Trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the Church.

Mr Kenneth Fordjour (one of the managing trustees) as Treasurer oversees the day-to-day financial management and accounting for the Church during the year, supported by a Property & Finance group chaired by Mr Peter Frank.

A range of guidance produced by the Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the church and the role of the Trustees is given to the Church Trustees at various meetings and/or training sessions.

Risk management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Trustees with professional advice taken as required. A regular annual review process is undertaken as required. Income and expenditure is reviewed and monitored against budget on a quarterly basis as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes that each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.

- Establishing safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- Carefully selecting and training all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- Responding without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, co-operating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- Seeking to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- Seeking to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our Church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles following legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Wesley Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the Circuit and in the churches.

Wesley Methodist Church also commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Approved by the Trustees on 14 June 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Signed:



Rev. David Shaw *Date: 17 June 2021*

Accounting responsibilities

Charity law requires trustees to prepare annual accounts that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs to the Church at the year end and of its financial activities during the period. The Trustees are required to:

- a. Select suitable accounting policies and apply them prudently
- b. Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- c. Prepare accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Church will continue in operation.

Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Church, so that the accounts comply with the charity accounting SORP 2015. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

The Church is entitled to exemption from audit under the Charities Act but is required to have an independent examination of its accounts; the Church has therefore taken advantage of this exemption.

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

Wesley Methodist Church Reading

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2020

Basingstoke & Reading

Circuit

Circuit no

26/4

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1134691

If not a registered charity **Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs**

Gift Aid number

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status.

Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Revd. David M Shaw

Church Stewards:

Anita Abbey-Quaye

Wayne Coles

Fredua Agyeman

Sam Djanie

Hannah Edwards

Anna Ghelli

Sam Nyamakope

Sohini Sharma

Treasurer:

Ken Fordjour

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	74,482	5,321	79,803	79,056
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	533	37	570	641
a4	Lettings	26,684		26,684	40,399
a5	Other receipts	4,181		4,181	5,531
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	105,880	5,358	111,238 (a7)	125,627

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		68,728	68,728	66,237
b3	Donations				4,115
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		25,254	25,524	30,549
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		22,070	22,070	20,597
b6	ASPIRE		6,388	7,631	14,019
b7	Other payments		208	208	1,786
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		122,648	7,631	130,279 (b9)

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(16,768)	(2,273)	(19,041)	2,232
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		109,125	4,287	113,412 (c6)	111,180
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	92,357	2,014	94,371	113,412
c4	Transfers and adjustments				0 (c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	92,357	2,014	94,371 (c8)	113,412 (c6)

SECTION D					
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS					
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)			£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			(54)	775
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			752	1,294
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			698	2,123
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)		0	(54)

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

SECTION E Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1 Junior Church	381	364	17		1,278	1,295
e2 Women's Fellowship	71	106	(35)		242	207
e3 Women's Bright Hour	982	1,280	(298)		912	614
e4 Spokes	250	651	(401)		611	210
e5			0			0
e6			0			0
e7			0			0
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	1,684	2,401	(717)	0	3,042 (e11)	2,326 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	111,238 (a7)	130,279 (b9)	(19,041)	(c7)	113,412 (c6)	94,371 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	112,922	132,680	(19,758)	0	116,454 (x)	96,697 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2020

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	30,921	24,032
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	26,543	14,021
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	55,948	56,318
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	113,412 (c6)	94,371 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	3,042 (e11)	2,326 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	116,454 (x)	96,697 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2019	At 31 August 2020
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	8,280,000	8,404,305
g3 Other Assets	150,000	152,252
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board
 f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
 g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of Church: Wesley Methodist Church, Reading

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer [Signature] Date 12-05-2021

Name and address of treasurer 8 BESWICK CLOSE

WILKINS ROAD Post Code RG30 4SD

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting [Signature]

Name of the Chair of the meeting DAVID MICHAEL SHAW Date 23/5/21

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of

Wesley Methodist Church, Reading

Charity Number 1134691

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Wesley Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages 2 to 3. As the Church'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 Church'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.

Name of Church: Wesley Methodist Church, Reading

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 give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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.

I have not obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner *Cholland*

Name of independent examiner: Christine Holland

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: CPFA

Address: 9 Ellerton Close, Theale, Reading RG7 5QN

Date: 2 May 2021