

**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	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	74,482	5,321	<b>79,803</b>	79,056
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	533	37	<b>570</b>	641
a4	Lettings	26,684		<b>26,684</b>	40,399
a5	Other receipts	4,181		<b>4,181</b>	5,531
a6	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>105,880</b>	<b>5,358</b>	<b>111,238 (a7)</b>	<b>125,627</b>

SECTION B					
b1	<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	68,728		<b>68,728</b>	66,237
b3	Donations				4,115
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	25,254		<b>25,524</b>	30,549
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	22,070		<b>22,070</b>	20,597
b6	ASPIRE	6,388	7,631	<b>14,019</b>	111
b7	Other payments	208		<b>208</b>	1,786
b8	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>122,648</b>	<b>7,631</b>	<b>130,279 (b9)</b>	<b>123,395</b>

	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					
<b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b>					
d	<b>(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)</b>			<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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	<b>BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>(54)</b>
	(d1+d2-d3)				

**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	<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH</b>	<b>112,922</b>	<b>132,680</b>	<b>(19,758)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>116,454 (x)</b>	<b>96,697 (y)</b>
		<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>				

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	<b>SUB TOTAL - Church accounts</b>	<b>113,412 (c6)</b>	<b>94,371 (c8)</b>
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	<b>3,042 (e11)</b>	<b>2,326 (e12)</b>
f9	<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH</b>	<b>116,454 (x)</b>	<b>96,697 (y)</b>

**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 BISWICK CLOSE

ILLERSHURST READING 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 ..... *Ch Holland* .....

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