

**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
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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	Note			
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							
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	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
e8	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)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

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

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

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 *Ch Holland*

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

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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
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ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

WESLEY

Church

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Signature of treasurer

Date

Name and address of treasurer Ken Fordjour

8 Keswick Close Tilehurst Reading RG30 4SD

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Signature of the Chair of the meeting

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

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Name of Church ... Wesley Methodist Church

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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 *8 May 2022*