

Trustees Annual Report

Reporting Period: 1st September 2020 to 31st August 2021

Objectives and Activities

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 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.

Mission

The **Mission** of Victoria Methodist Church is to respond to God's Love in Christ and to live out that love in God's world. As a Methodist Church, members and non-members alike are welcome to attend worship and activities. The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance for charities for the advancement of religion. In pursuit of its mission, the church has adopted a statement of its **Vision** to be 'a Methodist Church which seeks to share the Gospel through encouraging lifelong learning and engaging with and through media and the creative arts'.

Overview of the year

Last Spring, we reviewed the life of our church and laid out some priorities according to the four 'C's, which is a template for the life of our church offered by 'Heartedge' that we have found helpful. This overview of the year is presented with the findings of the review in mind:

Congregation:

The restrictions of sustained lockdown have called forth a deeper mutual commitment to pastoral care and have forced us to develop new ways of being a congregation. The midweek worship is here to stay, it seems, and Sunday morning worship will continue to be offered 'in person' and online. We've successfully shifted from Messy Church to an experience of being 'All Together' for worship once a quarter. The list of hymns and songs we've recorded now runs to four pages, and hundreds of churches have made use of them. We commissioned a researcher to review and recommend a pattern for our support of and outreach to students. The Junior Church and Den have continued to meet, and found ways of contributing to our journey towards becoming an Eco Church. Small groups have moved

online, and significant numbers of people have made journeys through the Psalms, Romans and the Acts of the Apostles.

Compassion:

For all people – under the banner of 'Inclusive Church' – and for all creation – expressed through Eco Church. We've begun to engage with what it will take for us to be more inclusive of those with non-binary sexualities.

During this last year we have registered on the arocha website to start the journey to accreditation as an eco-church. The areas covered are: worship and teaching, property, land, community and global engagement, lifestyle. The climate crisis and our response now regularly features in worship and there have been articles related to eco-church in every magazine and many of the weekly notices.

We have engaged a large proportion of the congregation in responding to the climate emergency; in prayer and worship, property and garden, lifestyle and lobbying. An important step on our journey was the Eco Fair and Climate Sunday worship held in July.

At the same time, we have sustained our commitment to a range of ministries addressing issues of poverty and social inclusion; more money was raised through the 'Giving Tree' project than ever, parcels were packed for those in prison as usual, support for those with poor mental health moved onto the telephone, and we are now offering a base to Bristol Street Pastors.

A "Listening Bench" project was trialled, as part of our Calm, Create, Community initiative, for an hour each Wednesday lunchtime when anyone can sit and talk with whoever is on the bench and ask for a prayer if they want this.

Before the pandemic, volunteers running the Thursday Mental Health Group were very aware that the group was an under-used resource. Various efforts had failed to identify an effective channel for referrals. We were aware that a few other local churches also offered individual and group support to people facing mental health issues and it was decided that it would be worthwhile to explore whether we could work together more to support individuals struggling with mental health issues. In November a useful video conference was held, hosted by Vic. Representatives from five of the local churches in the Whiteladies Road/Pembroke Road areas attended. We mapped the various mental health resources provided, or planned for the future, by local churches. This demonstrated that, pre-pandemic, a number of people had been accessing support through a variety of activities in the local churches. We were also joined by the local Social Prescribing Link Worker who shared information about some of the needs and themes in the area. Increased isolation has been a pressing issue during Covid. Telephone befriending schemes had been an important resource. He highlighted that churches are one of the key community assets in the area.

Culture:

Much of our planned programme of creative arts was cancelled (Refugee Art Exhibition, West Bristol Art Trail, Lunchtime Concerts, Come and Sing, and Passion Play); however, we were able to open the 'Searching for Home' Refugee Art Exhibition for 2 weeks in September as all the artworks/sculptures stayed in the Sanctuary throughout the first lockdown. This was appreciated by visitors who were pleased to have an opportunity to have time to reflect and be stimulated by such different images. We have been able to continue to develop our partnerships with the RWA (Royal Western Academy of Art) and Bristol School of Art (SGS College). We looked forward to hosting an exhibition of the RWA's permanent collection and their Drawing School in the Autumn. A small group is now planning in earnest towards an exhibition of the Methodist Modern Art Collection in the Spring of 2023. We were delighted once again to have our minds broadened and stretched through the excellent Lent Conversations organised by Churches Together in Clifton, Cotham and Redland.

Commerce:

The pandemic has resulted in a significant reduction in our Lettings income and in the delay of our plans to appoint a Centre Manager. However, we have a beautiful Lounge and Portland Coffee Bar, and now all the ground floor is fit for purpose. The next steps for our 'Faith in the Future' Project will be to improve the acoustics in the sanctuary and refurbish the Large Hall downstairs. Underneath all of this activity and change lie countless hours and prayers of God's faithful people here at Victoria.

Members of the Council

Minister	REV RICHARD SHARPLES
Circuit Minister	Rev Patrick Stonehewer
Church Secretary	MARY HILL
Co-ordinators	
Worship	DAVID PLEASANTS, JOY MORISON
Learning	HUGH LLOYD JONES, CHRISTINE STONES
Outreach	JANE STACEY, TIM MELLING
Faith in the Future	JOHN BARNETT
Property	KEVIN CORNELIUS
Events	HELEN HARRISON
Safeguarding	JANET GEORGE, Jill James (YP)
Communication	SHINGAI MANYIWA
Church Treasurer	ONKHOPOTSE MOENG
Circuit Steward	Mike Culshaw
Other Representatives to Church Council	Ruth Hudson (Pastoral Secretary) David Ball (Property) Sarah Ball Sheelagh Hiley Sheila Lang Dora Alderson Robert Harrison Diana Casey Ian Champion Smith Helen Davies Chris Morison

CAPITALS denotes member of Leadership Team (Also listed as Church Stewards)

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Victoria Methodist Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2021

Bristol & South Gloucestershire	Circuit	Circuit no	0702
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1135776

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:

Richard Sharples

Church Stewards:

John Barnett

Shingai Manyiwa

Kevin Cornelius

Tim Melling

Janet George

Joy Morison

Helen Harrison

David Pleasants

Mary Hill

Jane Stacey

Hugh Lloyd-Jones

Christine Stones

Treasurer:

Onkhopotse Moeng CA(SA)

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these accruals-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 Moeng Date 22 JUNE 2022

Name and address of treasurer ONKHOPOTSE MOENG CA(SA).....

29 CLARK DRIVE, YATE, BRISTOL..... Post Code BS37 7EH

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on Feb 6th 2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting RV Sharples

Name of the Chair of the meeting R.V. SHARPLES Date 23/6/22

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

Charity Number: 1135776

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Victoria Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages 3 to 6. 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.

Independent Examiner's Statement

The Church's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of SOUTH AFRICA INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS (SAICA).....

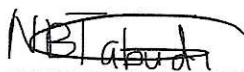
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination
- the trustees' annual report is not consistent with the accounts

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 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



Name of independent examiner NOMPUMELELO TABUDI
CA(SA).....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT CA(SA)
.....

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A.....

Address 25 CARAVEL HOUSE, 1 REGALIA
CLOSE.....

..... Post Code E16 2TA.....

Date 22 JUNE 2022

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020-21 £	Total 2019-20
Income							
1 Offerings	4	40,616	-	-	-	40,616	36,842
2 Donations	5	92,998	66,840	-	-	159,838	61,162
3 Tax reclaims	6	26,238	45,668	-	-	71,906	33,306
4 Interest and investment income	7	490	-	89	-	579	2,529
5 Income from residential properties		17,855	-	-	-	17,855	20,557
6 Internal organisations		-	-	-	-	-	-
7 Other charitable income	7	4,961	-	-	-	4,961	2,204
8 Total income		183,159	112,508	89	-	295,756	156,599
Expenditure							
9 Circuit assessment or share	8	52,486	-	-	-	52,486	63,256
10 Grants and donations	12	-	-	2,500	-	2,500	-
11 Property maintenance	9	27,388	265,178	-	-	292,566	60,880
12 Insurance, utilities etc	10	17,398	-	-	-	17,398	18,870
13 Depreciation		-	-	-	-	-	-
14 Office expenses	11	7,541	-	-	-	7,541	6,895
15 Other expenditure	12	10,081	-	-	-	10,081	7,487
16 Internal organisations		-	-	-	-	-	-
17 Total charitable expenditure		114,895	265,178	2,500	-	382,573	157,388
18 Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	-	-	-	-	-
19 Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	-	-	-	-	-
20 Net income/(expenditure)		68,264 -	152,670 -	2,411	- -	86,817 -	789
21 Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-	-
22 Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Net movement in funds	16	68,264 -	152,670 -	2,411	- -	86,817 -	789
24 Total funds brought forward	16	307,527	-	64,796	-	372,322	373,111
25 Total funds carried forward	16	375,791 -	152,670	62,385	-	285,505	372,322

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2021

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (Unrestricted) £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Totals 2021 £	Totals 2020 £
Fixed Assets							
	Total fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Current Assets							
Debtors and prepayments	14	-	-	-	-	-	55
Loans by the Churches		-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments with TMCP	13	65,251	-	-	-	65,251	4,718
Central Finance Board Deposits	13	205,021	-	-	-	205,021	325,795
Cash at Bank and in hand	13	18,210	-	-	-	18,210	41,754
Total current assets		288,482	-	-	-	288,482	372,322
Current liabilities							
Creditors (due in under 1 year)	15	2,977	-	-	-	2,977	-
Total current liabilities		2,977	-	-	-	2,977	-
Net current assets/liabilities		285,505	-	-	-	285,505	372,322
Total assets less current liabilities		285,505	-	-	-	285,505	372,322
Long term liabilities (due after more than one year)							
						-	-
Net assets		285,505	-	-	-	285,505	372,322
Funds of the Church							
General Fund (Unrestricted)	16	285,505				285,505	372,322
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)		-	-	-	-	-	
Total Unrestricted Funds		-				285,505	372,322
Total Funds		285,505	-	-	-	285,505	372,322

Date

22 June 2022

Signed

Moeng

Church Treasurer

Onkhopaise Moeng (ACSA)

Notes to the Accounts**1 Basis of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with SORP(FRS102) as updated, being the current version of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice, and the Charities Act 2011.

2 Funds

The funds held constitute: General Funds held for any purpose of the church which are unrestricted. Restricted funds which are held for a narrower purpose including those for internal organisations. There are no Endowment funds. Details of each material fund are disclosed in note 16. Funds are represented by cash and cash equivalents.

3 Accounting Policies**Basis of Preparation**

Other than Investments which are shown at their market value at the end of the year, these accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis applying the historical cost.

The Trustees have considered the consequences of COVID 19 and other events and conditions and have determined that they do not create a material uncertainty that casts significant doubt upon the church's ability to continue as a going concern.

The accounts present a true and fair view of the financial position and activities of the church during the year. The accounting policies adopted are outlined below.

Income

Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the church becomes entitled to the resources, and the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Expenditure

Expenses are recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is considered more likely than not under the legal or constructive obligation committing the church to pay out resources.

VAT

Since the church is not VAT registered, all input VAT is charged with the expenses to which it refers.

Investments

Investments are valued in the balance sheet at market value at the year end. Investment income is included in the accounts when receivable and any gains or losses on revaluation at the year end are shown in the SoFA.

Residential Property Income

The church's residential property is partly let to various community groups, schools and other social organisations to generate rental income.

Changes in Accounting Policy

The prior period accounts were prepared under the cash basis as the income of the church was below the threshold as stipulated by the Charities Commission.

In 2021, the church's gross income exceeded the £250,000 threshold stipulated by the Charities Commission, as such the accounts were prepared by applying the accrual basis of accounting. The income and expenses of the church in its normal course mostly align to its receipts and payments, therefore result of this change has had no material impact on both the current and prior period figures.

Accounting Estimates

The church does not make use of accounting estimates.

Material Prior Period Errors

No material prior year errors have been identified in the reporting period.

4. Offerings	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total FY21	Total FY20
Direct Debit	39,207	-	39,207	32,316
Envelope	1,060	-	1,060	2,681
Cash	349	-	349	1,845
	40,616	-	40,616	36,842
5. Donations	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total FY21	Total FY20
General	22,998	-	22,998	17,590
Redevelopment	66,840	-	66,840	43,572
Legacies	70,000	-	70,000	-
	159,838	-	159,838	61,162
6. Tax Reclaims	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total FY21	Total FY20
Gift Aid	26,238	-	26,238	8,478
DCMS	45,668	-	45,668	24,828
	71,906	-	71,906	33,306
7. Other Income	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total FY21	Total FY20
Outreach	2,044	-	2,044	-
Sundry Income	2,917	-	2,917	2,204
Interest Income	490	89	579	2,529
	5,452	89	5,541	4,733
8. Church Circuit Assessment	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total FY21	Total FY20
	52,486	-	52,486	63,256
	52,486	-	52,486	63,256
9. Property Maintenance	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total FY21	Total FY20
Redevelopment	265,178	-	265,178	18,672
Repairs and Maintenance	27,388	-	27,388	42,209
	292,566	-	292,566	60,880
10. Insurance and Utilities	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total FY21	Total FY20
Insurance	7,721	-	7,721	7,711
Utilities	9,677	-	9,677	11,160
	17,398	-	17,398	18,870
11. Office Expenses	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total FY21	Total FY20
Cleaning	7,541	-	7,541	6,895
	7,541	-	7,541	6,895
12. Other Expenses	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total FY21	Total FY20
Organist and Choir Leader	1,300	-	1,300	2,600
Sundry Expenses	5,532	-	5,532	4,887
Outreach	3,250	-	3,250	-
Grants	-	2,500	2,500	-
	10,081	2,500	12,581	7,487
13. Current Assets	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total FY21	Total FY20
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	65,251	-	65,251	4,718
Current Account held with Santander	18,210	-	18,210	41,754
Central Finance Board of Methodist Church	205,021	-	205,021	325,795
	288,482	-	288,482	372,267
14. Debtors and Prepayments	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total FY21	Total FY20
N/A	-	-	-	55
	-	-	-	55
15. Creditors	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total FY21	Total FY20
Repairs and maintenance	91	-	91	-
Cleaning	1,727	-	1,727	-
Sundry expenses	147	-	147	-
Utilities	1,013	-	1,013	-
	2,977	-	2,977	-
16. Funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total FY21	Total FY20
General	90,512	-	90,512	22,248
Redevelopment	130,827	-	130,827	283,497
Etheridge	62,385	-	62,385	64,796
Endowment	1,781	-	1,781	1,781
	285,505	-	285,505	372,322