

Trustees Annual Report

Reporting Period: 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

Members of the Council

Minister	REV PATRICK STONEHEWER
Circuit Minister	Rev Sally Spencer
Church Secretary	VERONICA WILSON
Co-ordinators	
Worship	DAVID PLEASANTS
Learning	HUGH LLOYD JONES
Outreach	JANE STACEY, TIM MELLING, JOY MORISON
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	Dora Alderson David Ball (Property) Sarah Ball Ian Campion Smith (Assistant Treasurer) Diana Casey Helen Davies James Gibbs Robert Harrison Michael Hazell Sheelagh Hiley Ruth Hudson (Pastoral Secretary) Chris Morison

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

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 vision is 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'.

Review of the year

The church continued to offer a regular pattern of worship, led by a mixture of ordained and lay leaders. The main Sunday worship continues to be a hybrid worship service (on-line and in-person). This is supplemented by a shorter act of online worship on a weekday evening, a monthly evening service using material from the Taizé community, and a quarterly 'All Together' service bringing all ages together in a less formal style. We are grateful for the musical, creative and technical gifts of all those who support this core activity of the church. Our online music on Youtube, a particular focus during the pandemic, grew slowly during the year.

Beyond this regular worship, a key focus was the 'Articles of Faith' exhibition which we hosted during Lent 2023, a backdrop to interfaith discussion meetings with neighbouring Muslim and Jewish friends, which were very useful and informative and helped us understand what we hold in common. We also facilitated a study of John's Gospel earlier in the year, and 'At the Foot of the Cross,' a Holy Week/ Easter meditative presentation in words and music. A range of University Music concerts used the premises throughout the year and we have continued

to share space with the Art School next door, both of which complemented our own contributions to exploring spirituality through the creative arts.

The work of the church Eco Champions group has continued on further reducing our carbon footprint, following up on the previous Energy Audit; we started to look at the practicalities of installing solar panels on church roof.

Our commitment to a range of ministries addressing issues of poverty and social inclusion continued, working with other local Methodist churches and our neighbouring ecumenical partners. Bristol Street Pastors are based in our premises, and were pleased to mark their 10th anniversary in April 2023, as well as providing two members for their oversight group. 'Calm, Create, Community' provided an ongoing opportunity each week for a quiet and reflective space based in the church premises. Work has been completed to reshape support for the Free Church Chaplaincy for the University of Bristol, and to form a charity to oversee this.

Our minister, Rev Richard Sharples, left for another appointment elsewhere in the Methodist Church at the end of August 2023; Rev Patrick Stonehewer was appointed to take his place in September 2023.

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Victoria Methodist

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

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:

Patrick Stonehewer

Church Stewards:

John Barnett	Shingai Manyiwa
Ian Campion-Smith	Tim Melling
Kevin Cornelius	Joy Morison
Janet George	Dottie North
Helen Harrison	David Pleasants
Hugh Lloyd-Jones	Jane Stacey

Treasurer:

Onkhopotse Moeng CA (SA)

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	140,549		140,549	197,583
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	9,622		9,622	1,092
a4	Lettings	46,696		46,696	30,543
a5	Other receipts	8,281		8,281	7,247
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	205,148		205,148 (a7)	236,465
SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	59,347		59,347	54,429
b3	Donations	11,000		11,000	25,000
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	36,482		36,482	28,193
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	33,093		33,093	35,628
b6					
b7	Other payments	29,224		29,224	21,769
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	169,146		169,146 (b9)	165,019
SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR (a6-b8)	36,002		36,002	71,446
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	359,928		359,928 (c6)	285,505
c3	Sub total (c1+c2)	395,930		395,930	356,951
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7) 2,977
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c3+c4)	395,930		395,930 (c8)	359,928 (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				
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations				
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (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 2023 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							
e2							
e3							
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds						(e11)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	205,148 (a7)	169,146 (b9)	36,002	(c7)	359,928 (c6)	395,930
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	205,148	169,146	36,002		359,928 (x)	395,930
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 2023**

		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand		
f2	Bank Current Account	44,995	41,952
f3	Bank Deposit Account		
f4	Central Finance Board	249,691	286,966
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	65,243	67,012
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	359,929 (c6)	395,930
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)	
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	359,929 (x)	395,930

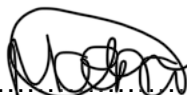
SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

		At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

Name of Church Victoria Methodist Church No: 07/02

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 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: 15/05/2024.....

Name and address of treasurer: Onkhopotse Moeng CA (SA).....

29 Clark Drive Yate..... Post Code: BS37 7EH

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 21/3/24

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting: Patrick Stonehewer Date 29/5/2024

Name of Church: Victoria Methodist Church No 07/02

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 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: Elorm Numadzi CA (Gh)

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: CA (Gh)

Name of firm (where appropriate): NA

Address: 33 Montgomery Avenue, Wellesley, Aldershot

..... Post Code: GU114DG ...

Date: 16/05/2024