

June 2024 Annual Report of the Avenue Church (Registered Charity 1137080)



A Christ-centred, Caring, Connected Community

The Avenue Church, The Avenue, Newton Abbot TQ12 2BY Minister: Rev. Gill Daniel

Mission Statement:

*The Avenue Church exists to glorify God, share the gospel
and to help people become disciples of Jesus Christ.*

*We aim to achieve this by being a
Christ-centred, Caring, Connected Community:*

***Caring:** We aspire to be Christ-centred in our approach to individuals within and without
the church - welcoming, nurturing, valuing differences and upholding each other in
prayer.*

***Connected:** We seek to deepen our connection with God and to support one another in
our spiritual journeys through worship, prayer, Bible study and wider opportunities.*

***Community:** We strive to serve God by serving the community - actively engaging with
local churches, charities and lay groups; promoting social justice and developing our
stewardship of the earth.*

The Church and Its Services

The Avenue Church is a Local Ecumenical Project made up of people from the Methodist and United Reformed Churches, but people from various Christian traditions are regular worshippers with us. The LEP came into being in the year 2000, following an informal sharing agreement which ran for over 15 years. The Avenue Church is the largest of 14 churches in the Teignbridge Methodist Circuit.

The church building was erected in 1966, on the site of the Queen Street Methodist Church, when people from that church and Courtenay Street Methodist Church joined together to form the new congregation. The accommodation is designed on simple, straightforward lines, airy and centrally heated. In the sanctuary there is a gallery, a good pipe organ and a well-used coffee area. For the hard of hearing, an effective sound amplification/loop system is in place. A computer is used to project the words of hymns, readings, and other PowerPoint presentations onto a large 'TV' screen, but hymn books and songbooks are still available for those members of the congregation who prefer to use them. For those who are unable to attend Sunday Worship in person, the service is available through YouTube streaming and recordings. For the housebound or those without technology, District 'Worship at home' service sheets, Ministers' 'Thoughts' and the most recent weekly diary is distributed fortnightly.

Worship

The Avenue is a friendly church and covers a wide range of worship. The weekly Sunday Morning Service at 10:30am has an average attendance of 50-75 adults. On the first Sunday of the month, there is a 9.30 am Worship and Discussion service, with an average attendance of 20 people. On the second Sunday, those under 18 attend Sunday Club, with a typical attendance of 3-7 children. On the fourth Sunday there is an All-Age Worship service, usually accompanied by the Worship Band.

Children and young people are welcome to all our services. There are generally art and craft activities available at the back of the Sanctuary, along with suitable books.

Holy Communion is shared approximately once per month; all are welcome to partake. The bread and wine are brought to the congregation to allow all to share equally. For hygiene purposes, individual glasses are used. Gluten free wafers are available, and the wine is non-alcoholic.

Other Worship opportunities include WhatsApp prayer, Sunday morning pre-service prayer, Prayer tree, Prayer and Praise via Zoom on Wednesday mornings and a range of Bible studies/ House-groups. The Avenue also conducts a number of baptisms, marriages, and funerals. We are authorised for both heterosexual and same-sex marriages.

Children and Family Support

The children and family worker role is currently vacant and a suitable candidate will hopefully be appointed soon. The role supports children and families through pastoral contact, Tea & Tots Group, Mini Messy Church and engagement through local schools. In the meantime, children's activities continue through the support of volunteers. Safeguarding policies are fully in place.

Other activities

The Avenue Church actively supports Christian Aid (e.g. hosting the 'Big Brekkie'), Action for Children, Homeless in Teignbridge Support (HITS), and "Our Pavilion" café in Forde Park which provides employment opportunities for adults with different needs. The Avenue Church participates fully in Christians Together in Newton Abbot and District.

The Avenue has established a sharing agreement with a local health and well-being charity called KingsCare which uses the church facilities several times a week for some of its activities.

As a Church, we are committed to World Justice issues and promote Fairtrade. We are also actively reducing use of plastic, aiming for zero plastic status.

Rooms are offered externally for lettings.

Church Groups and Regular Events

- Monday Club – social group for ladies (alternate Mondays 2:30 pm)
- Bible Chat group (Tuesdays 2:00-3:30pm)
- Fern Road Housegroup (alternate Wednesdays at 7:30pm September to April; likely to be held monthly from September 2024, continuing through to June. The name may also change as it no longer reflects its location.)
- Northumbria Morning Prayer & Praise (Wednesdays 8:00-8:30am on Zoom)
- The Avenue Church Coffee Morning (Wednesdays 10:30–noon)
- Walking Group (first Thursday of the month, meeting at 9:45am)
- Creative Crafters (2nd and 4th Thursdays 2:00–4:00pm)

- Badminton Club (Thursdays 7:30pm)
- Tea & Tots Group (Fridays 9:30-11:00am term time only)
- Men's Breakfast (1st Saturday of month 8:15-9:30am at "Our Pavilion" in Forde Park)
- Lydia's Link friendship & fellowship group for women (approx. monthly, no fixed date and time)

Pastoral Care and Outreach

All members of the church family come under the care of the ministerial team and the dedicated team of pastoral visitors under the leadership of the Pastoral Care Coordinators. Most members and some adherents now have an allocated Pastoral Friend, but many groups within the church also look after each other in that group.

Outreach is very important to The Avenue Church. Many of the church's activities benefit not only its members but others, giving the church an opportunity to deliver the Christian message.

Financial Review

The financial accounts for the year September 2022 to August 2023 showed a net receipts versus payments of £68,642 (Receipts being £185,072 while payments were £116,430). The surplus was due mainly to grants received for the upstairs toilet project totalling £58,800 plus fundraising of £16,994. The main WC project expenditure will appear in the financial accounts in the year to August 2024.

Reserves Policy

The current Reserves policy of the church aims to have available general funds which equate to six months of revenue expenditure. The church achieved this target throughout the year and at August 2023 had funds of £261,390. The funds which are not already designated to projects or held by Internal Organisations are kept for the maintenance and replacement of church buildings and assets.

Structure, Governance and Management

In 2010 a new ecumenical constitution was agreed. The church was granted charity status, registration number 1137080. The Church Trustees, formerly the Church Council, are responsible for the day to day running of the charity. They must report to the congregational meeting concerning their activities twice a year. The church manages its affairs through the Trustees, most of whom are responsible for an identified area of church life. The trustees meet regularly under the chairmanship of the minister and report to the wider Church Meeting. There were no serious incidents during 2022/23 financial year.

Administrative Information

The Avenue Church is situated in the centre of Newton Abbot. The correspondence address is:

Address: The Avenue, Newton Abbot, TQ12 2BY

Telephone: 01626 360 400

E-mail: office@theavenuechurch.co.uk

Website: www.theavenuechurch.co.uk.

Trustees

EX-officio members

Rev. Gill Daniel - Chairperson/Methodist Minister

Elected members

Sheila Bendall – Hospitality

Kay Fice – Property (Kay is also employed by The Avenue and Teignbridge Methodist Circuit as Office Administrator)

Margaret Fisher - Secretary

Jean Francis - Worship & Communication

Kathryn Garnett – Joint Pastoral Co-ordinator

Duncan Knight- Treasurer

Linda Ranjit - Welcome

Gill Sinden – Joint Pastoral Co-ordinator

Vacant - Children and Youth

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

THE AVENUE CHURCH NEWTON ABBOT

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

TEIGNBRIDGE	Circuit	Circuit no.	24/28
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1137080

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 Gill Daniel

Church Stewards:

Sheila Bendall	Sara Crouch
Kay Fice	Margaret Fisher
Jean Francis	Kathryn Garnett
Duncan Knight	Gill Sinden

Treasurer:

Duncan Knight

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	68,224		68,224	72,800
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	11,089		11,089	5,667
a4	Lettings	10,847		10,847	11,950
a5	Other receipts	10,796	82,507	93,302	68,507
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	100,956	82,507	183,462 (a7)	158,924

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	71,040		71,040	70,402
b3	Donations	400		400	11
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	10,715		10,715	12,083
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	13,223		13,223	10,391
b6					
b7	Other payments	12,677	6,704	19,381	24,844
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	108,055	6,704	114,758 (b9)	117,732

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(7,099)	75,803	68,704
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	89,053	102,879	191,931 (c6)	150,739
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	81,953	178,682	260,635
c4	Transfers and adjustments	11,723	(11,723)		(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	93,677	166,958	260,635 (c8)
					191,931 (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	142	
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	1,337	2,208
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	1,479	2,066
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	0	142
	(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 Flower Fund	580	566	14		455	470
e2 MWiB	340	340			136	136
e3 Monday Club	690	766	(76)		225	149
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	1,610	1,671	(62)		816 (e11)	755 (e12)
Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	183,462 (a7)	114,758 (b9)	68,704	(c7)	191,931 (c8)	260,635 (c8)
TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	185,072	116,430	68,642		192,748 (x)	261,390 (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 2023

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	66	379
f2 Bank Current Account	22,612	26,577
f3 Central Finance Board	122,387	184,550
f4 Central Finance Board URC	6,710	7,853
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	40,297	41,476
f6 Other funds	(142)	
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	191,931 (c6)	260,635 (c8)
Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	816 (e11)	755 (e12)
TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	192,748 (x)	261,390 (y)

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	173,481	198,114
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 THE AVENUE CHURCH No.....

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 [Signature] Date 12/5/24

Name and address of treasurer 5 LAURESTON ROAD, NEWTON

ABBOT Post Code TG12 1HN

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 ~~were~~ will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 28/5/24

Signature of the Chair of the meeting [Signature]

Name of the Chair of the meeting REV. GILL DANIEL Date 12/5/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

The Avenue Church, Newton Abbot.

Charity Number 1137080

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the The Avenue Church, Newton Abbot. for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 1 to 5. 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 The Avenue Church Newton Abbot No 1137080.


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~~ 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 

Name of independent examiner GLENN BLADON

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ATT

Name of firm (where appropriate) GLENN BLADON LTD

Address 79 WINDSOR AVENUE

NEWTON ABBOT DEVON Post Code TD12 4DP

Date 10/5/2024

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Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner GLENN BLADON

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ATT

Name of firm (where appropriate) GLENN BLADON LTD

Address 79 WINDSOR AVENUE

NEWTON ABBOT DEVON Post Code TD12 4DP

Date 10/5/2024

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