

June 2025 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 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 two 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 styles. 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 3-10 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 Avenue Church Family Worker was appointed Sept 2024. The role supports children and families through pastoral contact, Tea & Tots Group, Mini Messy Church and engagement through local schools. 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.

The Avenue Church hosted a pantomime again in Feb 2025 after a couple of years break. It was directed by and starred many members of the church and friends.

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)
- 'Carrots' support group (Tuesdays 10:30-12:00, fortnightly)
- Northumbria Morning Prayer & Praise (Wednesdays 8:00-8:30am on Zoom)
- Straight Talk Homegroup (normally 3rd Wednesday 7:30-9:30pm, September to June)
- 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)
- Youth Nights (for 11-16year olds last Friday of month 7:30-9:00pm)
- Kidz n Coffee (3rd Saturday of month 10:00-11:30am)
- Men's Breakfast (1st Saturday of month 8:15-9:30am at "Our Pavilion" in Forde Park)
- Sunday Club (2nd Sunday each month 10:15-11:30am)
- 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 2023 to August 2024 showed a net receipt versus payments of minus £120,889 (Receipts being £118,282 while payments were £239,171). The deficit was due mainly to expenditure for the upstairs toilet project totalling £128,245.

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 2024 had funds of £139,746. 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 2023/24 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/ Co-opted members

Rev. Gill Daniel - Chairperson/Methodist Minister

Sarah Wood – Children and Family Worker

Elected Trustees

Sheila Bendall – Worship and Hospitality

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

Margaret Fisher - Secretary

Jean Francis – Children, Youth & Communication

Kathryn Garnett – Joint Pastoral Co-ordinator

Duncan Knight- Treasurer

Linda Ranjit - Welcome

Gill Sinden – Joint Pastoral Co-ordinator

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

THE AVENUE CHURCH	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

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

1137080

**If not a registered charity His 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 G Daniel

Church Trustees:

Sheila Bendall	Kay Fice
Margaret Fisher	Jean Francis
Kathryn Garnett	Linda Ranjit
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	66,842		66,842	68,224
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	11,035		11,035	11,089
a4	Lettings	6,910		6,910	10,847
a5	Other receipts	14,856	18,639	33,495	93,302
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	99,643	18,639	118,282 (a7)	183,462

SECTION B		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	64,736		64,736	71,040
b3	Donations	100		100	400
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	12,019		12,019	10,715
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	12,850		12,850	13,223
b6					
b7	Other payments	53,259	96,207	149,466	19,380
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	142,964	96,207	239,171 (b9)	114,758

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(43,321)	(77,568)	(120,889)		68,704
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		93,677	166,958	260,635	(c6)	191,931
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	50,356	89,390	139,746		260,635
c4	Transfers and adjustments		19,500	(19,500)		(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	69,856	69,890	139,746	(c8)	260,635 (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)	142
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	1,422	1,337
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	1,422	1,479
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(0)	(0)
	(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 2024 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	460	523	(63)		470	407
e2	Newtork (MWIB)		136	(136)		136	
e3	Monday Club	1,845	1,737	108		149	257
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	2,305	2,396	(91)		755 (e11)	664 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	118,282 (a7)	239,171 (b9)	(120,889)	(c7)	260,635 (c6)	139,746 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	120,587	241,567	(120,980)		261,390 (x)	140,410 (y)
		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

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 2024

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	379	56
f2 Bank Current Account	26,577	17,679
f3 Bank Deposit Account	184,550	67,699
f4 Central Finance Board	7,653	10,713
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	41,476	43,599
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	260,635 (c6)	139,746 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	755 (e11)	664 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	261,390 (x)	140,410 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
g3 Other Assets	198,114	204,057
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 ...24/28...

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 Glenn Bladen

Name of independent examiner GLENN BLADEN

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ATT

Name of firm (where appropriate) GLENN BLADEN LTD

Address 79 WINDSOR AVENUE

NEWTON ABBOT - DEVON Post Code TD12 4AP


Date 17/4/25

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church The Avenue Church No...24/28..


Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 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... 05/05/2025
Name and address of treasurer DUNCAN KNIGHT
5 LAURESTON RD, NEWTON ABBOT Post Code... TQ12 1HN

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 
Name of the Chair of the meeting REV. GILL DANIEL Date 12th May 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

.....The Avenue.....Church

Charity Number ...1137080.....

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of " The Avenue Church" for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages ... to 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.

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Name of the Chair of the meeting REV. GILL DANIEL Date 12th May 2025

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Charity Number ...1137080.....

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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