

**CHRIST CHURCH BRAINTREE METHODIST/UNITED REFORMED
CHURCH LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP**

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR END 31ST AUGUST 2024

Christ Church Methodist/URC LEP (the LEP) is a local church of the United Reformed Church and a member church of the Eastern Synod of the URC and a member of the Chelmsford Circuit of the Methodist Church.

It is Registered as a charity under number 1137584. The church is situated on London Road Braintree Essex.

The members of the Elders meeting are the charity trustees. The members who served during the year were:

Beth Gask

Alison Fowler

Melanie Sebley

Margaret Payne

Colin Fowler

Linda Hendry

Alex Chamberlain

Gill East

The legal title to the church buildings is vested in The United Reformed Church (Eastern Province) Trust as trustee and held on behalf of the LEP in accordance with the trusts applicable to URC church properties and also subject to the Joint Sharing Agreement between the URC and Methodist Church.

The activities, administration care and maintenance of the church are overseen by the Elders meeting in accordance with the Constitution of the LEP. The Elders meeting have the benefit of reports from the Property, Business and Finance groups.

The Elders meeting has met monthly for either Business or Devotional and Development meetings; they also meet monthly on the first Saturday for a prayer breakfast at the Toby Carvery.

We spent time looking at 'The Bible Course' (by Andrew Ollerton) before studying this as a church last May which went very well; and the 'How to Pray' course (by Pete Greig) which we have just completed in our Life Groups over February and March, to encourage us all in our prayer lives both individually and as a church.

Our church mission events over the last year have included: 'Left to Their Own Devices' Care for the Family course in May; Doug Horley's 'Bubble Praise Party' Synod event held here in June; Family Fun Mornings during the school holidays led by our Family Link Worker, and a Holiday Club in August led by Nicola Grieves from Synod. We held an Open Day in September with an afternoon tea; a Christmas Bazaar at the end of November; and our 'Hope Mission' once again in the Clare Road area with carol singing at Christmas.

We had our first 'Blue Christmas' tree outside the church in preparation for our 'Bereavement Journey' course (in association with AtaLoss.org charity) over January and February in the afternoons. Our next course will be held in the evenings during the Autumn with a remembrance service at the end of the year for all those who have been bereaved.

'Wiggle Church' continued, held once a month before our All-Age Worship service; two events were held in February – a Pancake Party which was very popular, and the 'U R Loved' event with a visit from 'Tough Talk'. In March, we had an evening with the Oddments Theatre Company and their version of Corrie Ten Boom's, 'The Hiding Place'; a Puppet Training Day in April with 'One Way UK' from Grimsby; and a Women's Breakfast in April with Diane Regan, CEO of Kintsugi Hope.


Our Youth group attended the “Dreaming the Impossible” event in the Summer instead of Soul Survivor which they had gone to in previous years. They also took part in several local URC youth events. To support the cost of these trips they have, among other things, held a car wash and a cream tea afternoon.

Our Minister had his sabbatical between May and July 2024, and he has returned to us refreshed and full of ideas. The Leadership maintained and pushed forward the work and witness of the church in his absence, for which the Trustees are grateful.

We are continuing in our endeavour to promote the valuable work we do at Christ Church and are currently seeking various ways to do this including looking at our website and social media, although progress is slow. As Trustees we therefore seek to support and facilitate Braintree Area Foodbank (our Church is one of it’s bases), Saturday coffee mornings, weekly lunch club, a twice weekly Tots “R” Us session, children and youth activities on a Friday evening and Sunday morning and two services on a Sunday (traditional and modern), both of which are live streamed on YouTube, and a Sunday afternoon service once a quarter.

As Trustees of Christ Church, we review our safeguarding policies each year and have spent considerable time discussing church finances with David Gask the Church Treasurer regarding the increasing costs of utility bills and church expenditure.

Approved by Elders meeting on

Signed 

Chair of Trustees

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Christ Church Braintree	Church
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2024**

Chelmsford	Circuit	Circuit no	34/9
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

x542540

**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 242 of 2014)

Minister:

Revd David Sebley

Church Stewards:

Gillian East	Alison Fowler
Colin Fowler	Margaret Payne
Linda Hendry	Melanie Sebley
Sally Chapman	Alexander Chamberlain
Geraldine Channon	

Treasurer:

David Gask

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	£	£	£
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		82,645	82,645	91,559
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		1,198	1,198	309
a4	Lettings		18,460	18,460	18,676
a5	Other receipts		7,304	10,082	31,806
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		109,607	10,082	119,689 (a7)

SECTION B		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		50,806	50,806	51,622
b3	Donations				
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		11,657	11,657	29,024
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		25,802	25,802	23,498
b6	Mission payments		2,622	1,083	10,906
b7	Other payments		16,687	10,093	19,148
b8	Assets purchased		4,740	4,740	
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		112,314	11,176	123,490 (b9)

SECTION C		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(2,707)	(1,094)	(3,801)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	43,610	24,290	67,900 (c6)	59,748
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	40,903	23,196	64,099
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	40,903	23,196	64,099 (c8)

SECTION D		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
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 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						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	119,689 (a7)	123,490 (b9)	(3,801)	(c7)	67,900 (c6)	64,099 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	119,689	123,490	(3,801)		67,900 (x)	64,099 (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 2024**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	80	80
f2 Bank Current Account	26,746	21,774
f3 Bank Deposit Account	41,074	42,245
f4 Central Finance Board		
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	67,900 (c6)	64,099 (c7)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	67,900 (x)	64,099 (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	4,740	
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities	400	

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)

DECLARATIONS

Treasurer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church Council

Signature of Treasurer



Date

11/12/2024

Name

David Gask

Address

109 The Street, Black Notley, Braintree, Essex, CM778LL

Presentation to the *Church Council for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Church Council on
and were approved.

6/1/2025

Signature of the Chair of the
meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting

Revd David Sebley

Date

22/12/24



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the
trustees/
members of

On accounts for
the year ended

31/08/2024

Charity
no (if
any)

1137584

Set out on pages

One to four

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended

Responsibilities As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for
and basis of the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the
report requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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 gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

6/1/25

Name:

Andrew Robert Graham Green

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): FCCA

Address: The Maltings, Rosemary Lane, Halstead, Essex, CO9 1HZ

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.