



Beckenham Methodist Church
Bromley Road BR3 5JE and Clock House Road BR3 4JP

Registered Charity No. 1138006

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for year ending 31st August 2023

Purpose

We are a body of people, drawn together by the love of God to worship, pray and try to follow the teaching of Jesus. To fulfil our purpose, we will:

Glorify God in worship

Develop our understanding of the love of God and the way of Jesus

Deepen our commitment to the Christian life

Enable and encourage our community to develop and use all their God-given talents

Offer Christian love and friendship to all

Respond to the needs of God's world, especially the people of Beckenham

The Methodist Church exists to exercise the whole ministry of Christ. The Local Church in Beckenham, with its membership and larger church community, exercises this ministry where it is and shares in the wider ministry of the Church in the world. In this one ministry worship, fellowship, pastoral care, mission and service are essential elements, enabled by training and prudent administration.

Organisation and governance

Beckenham Methodist Church (BMC) is part of the Bromley Circuit (No 35/42) of the Methodist Church, and arose from a merger of the Bromley Road and Clock House Road churches on 01 September 2004.

The number of members regularly attending services at Clock House Road never regained the numbers pre COVID and in the light of such low attendance, the Church Council authorised a suspension of services. Responsibility for the building was transferred to Bromley Circuit on 31 August 2023. In the meantime, in May 2023, the Circuit gave permission for a new Methodist society, Freeman Ghanaian Methodist Church to be established. On 31st August the trusteeship for the Clock House building was transferred to this church. Therefore, Beckenham Methodist Church is now only on the Bromley Rd site.

The Bromley Circuit during the year conducted merger discussions with an adjoining Circuit with a view to merging from 01 September 2024. These discussions favoured merging with the Orpington & Chislehurst Circuit thus covering virtually the whole borough of Bromley with one enlarged Circuit. All churches within the two existing circuits will vote on the proposal next financial year.

From September 2022 Rev Karen George has had pastoral charge of Beckenham Methodist Church, Rev David Morris offers 10 hours a week pastoral care and Deacon Laura MacBean continues to be involved in the management of Joy's Kitchen. Church services are led by the Circuit staff, visiting guest speakers and local preachers.

The various tasks in carrying out our ministry are undertaken by the local Church, through its Church Council and committees, in union with the ministry of the Circuit of which it is constituent. In accordance with its governing document, the Constitution Practice and Discipline (CPD) of the Methodist Church, the Trustees are all the members of the Church Council who are over the age of 18 years, some by virtue of posts they hold and some as elected representatives of the whole congregation.

BMC employs one lay person as a Church Administrator. An office is provided at Bromley Road but some work is undertaken off site. The person helps the ministers with church administration matters and the stewards with BMC administrative tasks, one of which is to manage the premises.

Worship and Prayer

Services were held at 10.30 a.m. on a Sunday. Holy Communion is usually celebrated on the first Sunday of the month. The regular congregation is a mixture of age groups, nationalities and backgrounds and everyone who comes through the doors is afforded a friendly welcome. Service books, hymn books and pew Bibles are provided, as well as printed sheets when appropriate. Audiovisual projection is now normally used at and all appropriate copyright licences are held.

Membership stands at 93. Minimum attendance at Bromley Road is 40 with many housebound or infirm and others not attending regularly because of work or family commitments.

A celebration service was held at Clock House Road on 13th May 2023. This was a thanksgiving service for the ministry that has taken place on the site. However, for the last 3 months of the year Clock House Church was used on a Sunday afternoon by the Freeman Ghanaian Methodist Church for holding services. This trial was successful and led to the group forming a church council and joining Bromley Circuit.

Circuit Meeting

Several Members of the Church Council also hold posts at Circuit level and the Church Council elects three representatives from amongst its number. The Circuit Meeting is a separate charity and its members are its trustees. The Local Church pays an assessment to the Circuit each year to cover the stipends and housing of ministerial staff and contributions to the Methodist Church nationally. BMC's assessment for this year was £41,483, which was a substantial reduction on last year as there was one less Minister to fund in the Circuit.

The Church Premises

The Trustees were responsible for the maintenance of the premises at Bromley Road (BR3 5JE) and at Clock House Road (BR3 4JP) until the site was transferred to Circuit (and then to Freeman Ghanaian Methodist Church) at the end of the financial year. The Church premises at both sites are extensively used by the local community as well as by Church members. At Clock House Road there is a long-established pre-school playgroup. Various evening activities are occasionally held.

The premises at Bromley Road are more extensive and are used by some 35-40 community groups on a regular basis as well as for annual meetings of local residents groups and management committees. Activities for young children and the elderly are all available as well as the Church's own sponsored Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Badminton Club and Social gatherings. According to Methodist Practice (CPD) no alcohol is allowed to be brought onto or consumed on the premises. A weekly AA meeting has been held on the premises for many years.

At Bromley Road we have been running a Community Café called TCs since July 2000 when a similar project run by Churches Together in Beckenham (CTiB) was forced to close. This has been very successfully staffed by volunteers from among the church membership as well as non members. At Bromley Road an extensive building project caused the café to relocate to one of the upstairs meeting rooms in November 2018. It then closed for covid but reopened in 2022, renamed Joy's kitchen, initially on 3 days a week basis later extending to 4 days a week as more volunteers were obtained. The aim is to reach full 5 days a week opening if sufficient volunteers come forward. In previous years a surplus was made and allocated to various mission projects at home and abroad. This policy recommenced during the year at a prudent level leaving some funds in reserve until it is clearer if a paid café manager is to be recruited. Joy's Kitchen accounts are included in the BMC accounts and the café management committee reports to the Church Council.

The Property and Finance Committee reports to the Church Council and is responsible for day-to-day management of cleaning and maintenance of both churches. Cleaning is carried out by professionals. Maintenance of the premises is an ongoing expense and is carried out by paid contractors and members helping.

Pastoral Care

The members of the Methodist Church are each allocated to a Pastoral Visitor who works closely with the minister to ensure all pastoral needs are met. The Pastoral Visitors and Church Stewards are members of the Pastoral Committee which reports to the Church Council. Those who are unable to attend services are visited and where requested the minister is able to celebrate Holy Communion with them in their own home.

Mission

The Methodist Church supports Mission in Britain as well as Mission in the Wider World. These funds are well supported by the members of BMC as well as other charities. The work of TCs has been mentioned. Others regularly supported are Christian Aid with participation in the street collections and Action for Children, the Methodist Children's charity, one of whose founders was also a member of Beckenham Methodist Church at its original foundation in 1887. Various other charities are supported annually, both locally and worldwide, e.g. Workaid and a food bank.

Ecumenical relationships

BMC is an active member of CTiB and participates in all its activities. On Ascension Day each year until recently a service has been shared with St. Paul's C of E Church in Brackley Road, alternating the venue and preachers. Close relationships are held with our nearest neighbours at St. George's Parish Church.

Financial review, including reserves policy, designation of material funds and likely timing of expenditure

The financial position improved during the year as letting income rose strongly. This will pave the way for the remaining loans incurred for the redevelopment project to be paid off early and in full next year at the close of the financial year £10,857 was outstanding.

Church income was up over 10% compared with the previous year and now includes the café. The long term trend of switching from cash giving to electronic giving continued. Our bankers, HSBC closed the Beckenham branch. We now pay cash and cheques in via the post office or at other branches. An account for Joy's Kitchen is held at NatWest.

A tax refund payment was received during the year unlike the previous year where it was noted as a timing issue. No grants were received. The café made a contribution to church costs reflecting the utilities cost of running the café.

Expenses during the year included normal maintenance costs together with two one off items. The first of these was to finish the organ refurbishment started last year. It is now fully working and should give excellent service for decades to come. A concert was held to mark its return to working order. The second project was replacement of the church boiler. Our boiler was 15 years old and it became apparent during the year that big costly maintenance was going to be needed to keep it running properly. It was decided to replace it with two smaller gas boilers. This would be more efficient and allow improved control over heating different parts of the church. It would also simplify servicing as the old big boiler could only be serviced by certain contractors but two domestic boilers can be serviced by a wide range of companies.

However, on the horizon is a flat roof replacement project over the hall at the rear of the church. The roof is leaking and initial investigations indicate repair is not a sensible option. BMC joined the Eco church project during the year and one idea is to install solar panels on the flat roof which could only be done

after the roof is replaced due to their considerable weight. A combined solar panel and replacement roof project is being put together.

During the year our reserves increased by around 25% or just over £33,000 to £166,000. This increase puts us back to where we were pre-covid but not to where we were before we started on the redevelopment project.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others:

Such funds are not material. They may include, during the financial year:

collections made for nominated charitable organisations, detailed in the Notes to the Receipts & Payments Account, but not yet distributed to them. Examples are Action for Children, Mind and on behalf of the Traidcraft Café. Movements of such funds, which are held temporarily on the main bank current account, are separately recorded in the Vestry Journal, receipts and payments ledgers, and documented in other papers on file; and balances of the Benevolence Fund, to be applied at the minister's discretion.

It is policy to disburse such collections in the same financial year in which they were received into the church accounts, except for the Benevolence Fund which may accumulate across year-ends.

Thanks

The Trustees would like to thank all those who work in a volunteer capacity to enable the smooth running of the Church in all its facets. As can be seen, BMC is an organisation devoted to providing public benefit with the assistance of its members. The Trustees, in exercising their powers and duties, complied with their obligation to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

This Report was approved at BMC's Church Council meeting on 05 th March 2024, on which date the Trustees were the following:	The Trustees during the year ending 31 August 2023 were the following:
Rev. Karen George	Rev. Karen George
Deacon Laura MacBean	Deacon Laura MacBean
Irene Antwi	Irene Antwi
David Bishop	Cynthia Campbell
Hilary Cheverton	Hilary Cheverton
Andrew Cloke	Andrew Cloke
Tina Eshun	Tina Eshun
Theo Farmer	Theo Farmer
Micheline Faulkner	Christine Handel
Christine Handel	David Jackson
David Jackson	Mary Jackson
Mary Jackson	David Keall
David Keall	Rev. David Morris
Rev. David Morris	Graham McLeod
Graham McLeod	Jenny Nichols
Jenny Nichols	Lum Ntumazah
Lum Ntumazah	Sheila Priestman
Stephen Olufunwa	Judith Reep
Sheila Priestman	Sandra Storch
Judith Reep	Paulette Tomlinson
Sandra Storch	Gordon Wilson
Paulette Tomlinson	Valerie Wilson
Gordon Wilson	Simon Young
Valerie Wilson	
Simon Young	

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Beckenham	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

Bromley	Circuit	Circuit no	35/42
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1138006

**If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and
Customs Gift Aid number**

N/A

(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. Karen George

Church Stewards:

Jenny Nichols, Christine Handel,
Sheila Priestman, Comfort Lawson,
Paulette Tomlinson, Graham McLeod,
Irene Antwi, Cynthia Campbell,
Lum Ntumazah

Treasurer:

Simon Young	
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SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		Note	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		75,483		75,483	56,819
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		3,682		3,682	371
a4	Lettings		68,246		68,246	64,706
a5	Other receipts		3,645	1,362	5,007	1,884
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		151,056	1,362	152,418 (a7)	123,780

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		41,483		41,483	64,530
b3	Donations		1,000		1,000	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		42,116		42,116	55,554
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		24,266		24,266	20,991
b6						
b7	Other payments		29,088	1,180	30,268	13,010
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		137,953	1,180	139,133 (b9)	154,085

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	13,103	182	13,285	(30,305)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		149,715		149,715 (c6)	179,066
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	162,818	182	163,000	148,761
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(165) (c7)	954
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	162,818	182	162,835 (c8)	149,715 (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		1,100		146
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		3,164		4,519
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		3,329		3,565
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)	935		1,100

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 Joy's Kitchen	9,871	4,664	5,207		8,443	13,650
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	9,871	4,664	5,207		8,443 (e11)	13,650 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	152,418 (a7)	139,133 (b9)	13,285	(165) (c7)	149,715 (c6)	162,835 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	162,289	143,797	18,492	(165)	158,158 (x)	176,485 (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		
f2 Bank Current Account	73,648	41,809
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	75,548	120,492
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	519	534
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	149,715 (c6)	162,835 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	8,443 (e11)	13,650 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	158,158 (x)	176,485 (y)

SECTION GAt
1 September 2022At
31 August 2023**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1 Investments (Include Endowments) at TMCP		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	10,133,539	11,157,155
g3 Other Assets	596,356	656,595
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	(25,429)	(10,857)
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)

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

S. J. Young

Date

5/3/24

Name

Simon J Young

Address

80 Village Way, Beckenham , Kent BR3 3NR

Presentation to the *Church Council for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Church Council on

5/3/24

 and were approved.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Karen George

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Karen George

Date

5/3/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Beckenham Methodist

Church

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31st August

2023

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*):

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;

• to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply appropriate*


(3) I have obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB"), which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

** Please circle as appropriate*

Name

John Whittam

Signature



Relevant Professional qualification or body

ICAEW (7735066)

Address

9 Badgers Way, Stratford-upon-Avon,
Warwickshire CV37 0UJ

Date

5/3/24

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Beckenham	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

Bromley	Circuit	Circuit no	35/42
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Karen George

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Karen George

Date

5/3/24

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** Please circle as appropriate*

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Signature



Relevant Professional qualification or body

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Address

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Date

5/3/24