

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for year ending 31st August 2024

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) which will merge with the Orpington and Chislehurst Circuit on 01 September 2024. BMC used to consist of 2 churches but the Clock House Church was transferred to the newly formed Freeman Ghanaian Methodist Church on 01 September 2023.

From September 2022 Rev Karen George has had pastoral charge of BMC, 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. Once the merger has gone ahead the plan is for Rev Duncan MacBean to become the Minister, as well as being the Circuit Superintendent.

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.

Joy's Kitchen is in the process of employing a Manager to operate the café. The plan is that the successful person would start on 01 September 2024.

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

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 £41,656, which was almost unchanged upon last year.

The Church Premises

The Trustees were responsible for the maintenance of the premises at Bromley Road (BR3 5JE) which 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. Various evening activities are occasionally held. 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. 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. 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 was put on hold during the year to build funds to a prudent level to be put towards a paid café manager. The manager will initially be funded three ways; from the café, the church and the circuit for a trial period of 3 years. 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. 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, 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, other income held steady and we received a repayment of a Methodist pension contribution we had made previously. We also paid off the remaining loans we had incurred for the redevelopment project in full. This is the first time the church has been debt free since 2019.

Church income was up compared with the previous year and like last year includes figures from the café. The long term trend of switching from cash giving to electronic giving continued. We pay cash and cheques in via the post office or at other branches as the HSBC in Beckenham closed in early 2023. An account for Joy's Kitchen is held at NatWest, whose Beckenham branch has also closed.

A tax refund payment was received during the year. 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 the concluding payments for our two new gas replacement boilers. They are performing well and are far more economical than the old set up. We had hoped to commence on a roof repair project over summer 2024, when the church is less busy with user groups. However our contractor could not start until after the school summer holidays so next year will be the year of roof repairs.

We are planning that following roof repairs we will proceed with solar panel installation. This should reduce our electricity bill and boost our Eco church credentials. One enabler we need to do is change our supply meter to a single 3 phase meter from the existing 3 separate meters for each phase. This will reduce standing charges and some electrical wiring has already been undertaken.

During the year our reserves increased by around 30% or just under £55,000 to £231,000. This increase puts us back to where we were pre-covid and pre 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 Joy's Kitchen. 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 13 th March 2025, on which date the Trustees were the following:	The Trustees during the year ending 31 August 2024 were the following:
Rev. Duncan MacBean	Rev. Karen George
Deacon Laura MacBean	Deacon Laura MacBean
Kojo Anokye	Irene Antwi
Irene Antwi	David Bishop
David Bishop	Hilary Cheverton
Hilary Cheverton	Andrew Cloke
Andrew Cloke	Tina Eshun
Tina Eshun	Theo Farmer
Theo Farmer	Micheline Faulkner
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	Stephen Olufunwa
Stephen Olufunwa	Sheila Priestman
Sheila Priestman	Judith Reep
Barry Stewart	Sandra Storch
Judith Reep	Paulette Tomlinson
Sandra Storch	Gordon Wilson
Paulette Tomlinson	Valerie Wilson
Margaret Toronka	Simon Young
Gordon Wilson	
Simon Young	

CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Beckenham	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

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, Graham McLeod
Theo Farmer, Paulette Tomlinson,
Judith Reep, Sandra Storch

Treasurer:

Simon Young

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Beckenham

Church

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		Note	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		69,358		69,358	75,483
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		7,236		7,236	3,682
a4	Lettings		81,197		81,197	68,246
a5	Other receipts		18,163	1,262	19,425	5,007
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		175,954	1,262	177,216 (a7)	162,418

SECTION B			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
			£	£	£	£
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		41,656		41,656	41,483
b3	Donations		2,995		2,995	1,000
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		35,247		35,247	42,116
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		19,628		19,628	24,266
b6						
b7	Other payments		29,039		29,039	30,268
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		128,565		128,565 (b9)	139,133

SECTION C			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
			£	£	£	£
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	47,389	1,262	48,651	13,285
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		162,835		162,835 (c6)	149,715
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	210,224	1,262	211,486	163,000
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(837) (c7)	(165)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	210,224	1,262	210,649 (c8)	162,835 (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		935	1,100
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		1,900	3,164
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		2,737	3,329
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)		98	935

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 Joy's Kitchen	11,868	5,233	6,635		13,650	20,285
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	11,868	5,233	6,635		13,650 (e11)	20,285 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	177,216 (a7)	128,568 (b9)	48,648	(837) (c7)	162,835 (c6)	210,649 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	189,084	133,798	55,286	(837)	176,485 (x)	230,934 (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		
f2 Bank Current Account	41,809	25,982
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	120,492	184,106
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	534	561
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	162,835 (c6)	210,649 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	13,650 (e11)	20,285 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	176,485 (x)	230,934 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1 Investments (Include Endowments) at TMCP		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re insurance value)	11,157,155	9,646,313
g3 Other Assets	656,595	210,000
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end	(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

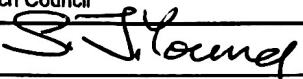
g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

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



Date

13/3/25

Name

Simon J Young

Address

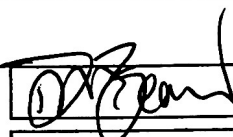
80 Village Way, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3NR

Presentation to the *Church Council for approval.

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

13/3/25

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev. Duncan MacBean

Date

13-3-25

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

2024

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

John Whittam

Relevant Professional qualification or body

ICAEW (7735068)

Address

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

Date

16 Feb 2025

Beckenham Methodist Church

2023-24

There was no formal audit report from the Examiner.

When the accounts were to his satisfaction they were signed off.

Simon Young