

THE METHODIST CHURCH
REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)
for the year ended 31 August 2023

Wesley Methodist Church, Chester

Registered Charity - Registration number

1138016

North Cheshire Circuit	Circuit No	11/1
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Ministers

Revd J Neil Stacey
Deacon Suzanne Sale

Stewards

Mr Michael Haynes
Mrs Heather J Walker
Professor David Clough
Dr David Acquaye
Ms Sarah Pearson

Church Treasurer

Mrs Shirley Stacey

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION FOR WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER (CHARITY NO. 1138016): YEAR ENDING 31st AUGUST 2023

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW REPORT

1. Introduction

Wesley Methodist Church Chester has the working name of The Wesley Church Centre; it is simply known as 'Wesley' by many people locally. The charitable objects are those of the Methodist Church, and include commitment to Christian service through worship, prayer and community involvement, which provides significant public benefit.

2. Wesley's Mission Statement

As part of the Methodist Church, Wesley's mission is: **"To proclaim and affirm our conviction of God's love in Christ for us and for all the world; and renew confidence in God's presence and action in the world and in the church."**

The Wesley family is gathered from all over Chester and beyond. Our premises themselves form a primary point of connection with each other, and our particular calling arises from their location in the heart of the city.

We are called:

- to open the Wesley Church Centre as a resource for all;
- to encounter and engage with people beyond our fellowship's margins; and so
- to make new relationships with individuals, groups and organisations.

We aim to create a space of warmth and openness in which we can:

- offer **hospitality** to those coming into the city centre
- sensitively offer friendship, a sense of **belonging** and pastoral care
- offer opportunities for **worship, prayer and reflection**
- provide opportunities for personal, social and spiritual **development**
- promote action for **social justice** and transformation
- form **pathways** to engagement in Christian community and to faith commitment

3. Review of Wesley Church Centre Life: 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023

3.1 Sunday Worship, Weekday Activities and Church Life

Deacon Suzie Sale joined Revd Neil Stacey on 1.9.22 to share in ministry at Wesley.

Wesley's membership at 1st September 2023 was 121. Sunday morning worship continued throughout the year in a hybrid format i.e. worship in the building together with online participation by Zoom and streaming to Facebook. Wesley's junior church ('SPLAT!') met fortnightly, although numbers continue to reduce.

Wesley is a member of the national Inclusive Church Network, preaches a strong message of inclusion and extends a welcome to all. An ecumenical 'Open Table' monthly Sunday evening communion service for the LGBTQIA+ community and their supporters continued throughout the year.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

Sunday evening meditative services, 'Quiet Space', also took place monthly throughout the year.

A number of midweek bible studies, fellowship meetings, discussion groups and other learning opportunities took place throughout the year.

Revd Claire Heald continued to co-ordinate the Wesley pastoral care team during the year with telephone calls and visits being made where needed.

3.2 Centre Activities

3.2.1 To Open the Wesley Church Centre as a Resource for All

Wesley continued to be valued as a place of hospitality where conversation is always possible and where friendships can be made. Church centre footfall and event attendances continued to recover following the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Café run by Wesley Coffee Bar (Wesley's related 'limited by guarantee' company) continued to be the heart of Wesley's 'Open Door', Tuesday to Saturday. The Fair Trade Shop run by Chester Fair Trading Limited also played an important part in Wesley's community outreach and offering to visitors. Wesley is a Fair Trade Church, so is committed to using fair trade goods wherever reasonably practicable.

The letting of Wesley's rooms and spaces to a wide range of organisations and community groups also continued to grow during the year as other organisations recovered from the pandemic.

3.2.2 To Encourage and Engage with People Beyond Our Fellowship's Margins

'Music at Wesley' ran 45 Tuesday lunchtime concerts between early September and mid July, together with 10 Saturday organ events and recitals and 1 evening orchestral concerts in the year. The average concert attendance of 87, an increase of 10 on the previous year. Three organ events celebrated the completed restoration of Wesley's pipe organ and included a recital by Chester Cathedral's Director of Music, a five hour organ marathon by Wesley's organist and an Organ Day of recitals by local organists. These raised a total of £2.470 for the benefit of Christian Aid and Ukrainian relief efforts.

Community Bread Making sessions continued on Mondays, organised by the co-operative social enterprise 'Bread Together', in partnership with Wesley. People came to make new friendships, build confidence and to learn to make bread. They included adults and children, those with learning and/or physical disabilities, those recovering from mental health problems, addictions and homelessness. The activity was a valued resource for social care agencies and one-to-one care staff. On a number of Wednesdays in the year additional breadmaking sessions were held for a support group for autistic/neurodiverse adults.

The Wesley Crèche is Wesley's longest standing form of community outreach. Crèche sessions continued on Thursday and Friday mornings, together with a Wesley run parent & toddler group on Wednesday mornings.

3.2.3 To Make New Relationships with Individuals, Groups and Organisations

Meet-up sessions for Ukrainian guests taking refuge from the war in Ukraine and their local hosts continued throughout the year. The Saturday afternoon sessions were run by Wesley volunteers and included the provision of refreshments, clothing, and toiletries as well as craft activities for the adults, games for the children and an opportunity to meet and chat. In July the decision was taken to reduce sessions from weekly to monthly as it was felt that guests had become more integrated into their local communities and there was therefore no longer such a need for sessions to be available weekly. A 15 week, 4 hours per week, series of English lessons was also provided.

Grant support from the Benefact Trust/Church Urban Fund which supported these activities, as well as providing reconditioned bikes to Ukrainian guests, is gratefully acknowledged.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

A Ukrainian Christmas Fair was held at Wesley in December, with Ukrainian food provided and Christmas traditions/carols shared with supporters and volunteers. A vigil was held by our local Ukrainian friends on February 24th to mark the first anniversary of the current conflict; attended by over 70 people.

3.3 Church Premises

In January 2023 Wesley engaged Inspired Efficiency Limited to conduct an energy audit of the Wesley premises and chart a path towards net zero carbon in future years. The trustees accepted their report and committed to implementing its short to medium term energy saving recommendations.

Apart from general repairs and regular equipment servicing, the following projects were carried out during the year:

- Replacement of the Church Centre's failing rear flat roof by one with a 'warm roof' specification.
- Replacement of the fire alarm system panel.
- Replacement of a quarter of the light fittings in the Church Centre with LED lighting.
- Fitting of power saving devices to the kitchen's five fridges and freezers.

The terms of a new scaffolding licence were agreed with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes and Cheshire West and Chester Council for a period of up to 3 years commencing in August 2023. This licence permits the continued presence and use of the scaffolding erected in 2020 behind the church to support the collapsed section of the city walls, to carry the diverted city walls walkway and to facilitate the essential city walls repair.

4. Future Plans

We are continuing to work towards the achievement of a silver award from the A Rocha organisation as an Eco Church.

The next steps recommended by the January 2023 energy audit are planned to be implemented in 2023/24, i.e.

- Further replacement of Church Centre light fittings with LED lighting.
- Enhanced insulation of the Crèche Room ceiling.
- Insulation of Boiler Room fittings.
- Exploration and definition of a project to fit a solar photovoltaic array to the south facing section of the Worship Area roof.

As indicated last year, Wesley began the process of reviewing mission priorities as well as the common life of the Wesley community as a whole during the course of the year. The ground work having been undertaken during the summer; the autumn will see a number of focus groups meeting to discuss issues under the banner of 'Shaping our Future'.

5. Conclusion

During 2022/23 we saw a very gradual increase in both Sunday worship attendance and midweek coffee bar footfall. It has, however, continued to be a challenge to re-establish the range of midweek activities that took place prior to the Covid lockdowns.

It is hoped that the outcome of the 'Shaping our Future' sessions will inform a review of Wesley's mission statement and help discern sustainable priorities for the future.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

SECTION 2: TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT ON FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

2.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF ACCOUNTS

Wesley Methodist Church, Chester is a church within the Methodist Connexion in Great Britain and these accounts are prepared in accordance with the constitution, practice and discipline of that Church. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS102))* applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities applicable in the UK (effective from 1 January 2015), the Financial Reporting for Smaller Entities (effective 1 January 2015) and the Charities Act 2011. The accounts relate to the Church and its various organisations and its wholly owned subsidiary and related company.

Full Name of Charity / Church: **Wesley Methodist Church, Chester**

Registration Charity Number: **1138016**

Date of registration: **15th September 2010**

Main communication address: **Wesley Methodist Church, St John Street, Chester CH1 1DA**

The members of the Church Council of Wesley Methodist Church, Chester are the Charity Trustees. The membership is made up of Circuit Ministers, church office holders and representatives appointed by the church at the Annual General Church Meeting.

The full list of Church Council members, including changes during the financial year, are shown as Appendix A to this report.

Treasurer: **Mrs Shirley Stacey**

Independent Examiner: **Integrity Partnership, Chartered Certified Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisers**

Investment Bankers: **Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes**

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

2.2 GOVERNANCE

2.2.1 Aims and organisation

As registered with the Charity Commission (Charity no. 1138016):

Wesley is a Christian faith community offering regular Christian worship and community hospitality through its premises during the week, including arts and music events and exhibitions, cafe facilities (via its affiliated company, Wesley Coffee Bar), crèche and toddler groups, community bread making sessions and lettings to a variety of local groups.

2.2.2 Purposes of the Methodist Church

The purposes of the Methodist Church are and shall be deemed to have been since the Date of Union the advancement of:

- a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and discipline of The Methodist Church;
- b) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, District, Circuit, local church or other organisation of The Methodist Church;
- c) Any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church;
- d) Any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to The Methodist Church

2.2.3 Main activities of the church

Wesley Methodist Church engages in a wide range of activities aimed at both its own members and the wider community:

- The celebration of God's love in worship and prayer.
- The organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship which aim to be open and accessible to all.
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- The conduct of baptisms, weddings and funerals.
- The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
- Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.
- Provision of hospitality throughout the week through the Wesley Café.
- Provision of regular lunchtime and evening concerts and arts activities and events.
- Provision of community bread making sessions.
- Hosting of crèche and toddler groups.
- Provision of facilities for various organisations and community group meetings.

2.2.4 Public Benefit

We confirm that the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit which has been delivered in the areas of religious worship, community support, and other charitable activities.

2.2.5 Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the church is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the church is undertaken by the Church Leadership Team which is made up of the Church Stewards, Treasurer and the Ministers.

Some of the Trustees are appointed ex officio as Circuit Ministers and the others are appointed as church role holders and as representatives by the annual General Church Meeting.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

2.2.6 Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the church and the role of Trustees is given to the Church Trustees at various meetings and/or training sessions.

2.2.7 Related Parties

The Church is part of the North Cheshire Methodist Circuit which is part of the Chester & Stoke-on-Trent Methodist District and is also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

2.2.8 Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the Trustees with professional advice taken as required. There is a regular annual review process undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is being monitored in total and is compared with the approved annual budget on a regular basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

2.2.9 Safeguarding

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable.
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

Wesley Methodist Church, Chester commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

Wesley Methodist Church, Chester commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

2.2.10 Reserves Policy

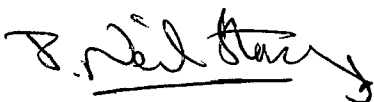
The Reserves Policy for the Church is to aim to hold a minimum sum in the General Fund equivalent to 6 months' non-discretionary expenditure based on the following year's budget. This should be sufficient to meet unforeseen items of expenditure and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full expenses including the assessment payable to the Methodist Circuit. A separate and more detailed Reserves Policy document, updated annually, covers the policy of building provisions in contingency funds to cover for known major expenditures (e.g. Church Centre flat roof replacement) that are likely to be required in the next 5 years.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

Signed on behalf of the Managing Trustees of Wesley Methodist Church, Chester

Name: Revd J N Stacey

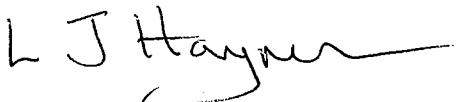
Role: Chair of the Managing Trustees of Wesley Methodist Church, Chester

Signature: 

Date: 17th March 2024

Name: Mr L Haynes

Role: Secretary of the Managing Trustees of Wesley Methodist Church, Chester

Signature: 

Date: 17th March 2024

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

APPENDIX A: CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP (i.e. MANAGING TRUSTEES): from 1.9.22 to date

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY		NAME (as at 1.9.22)	CHANGES SINCE 1.9.22
Ministers		Revd Neil Stacey Deacon Suzanne Sale	Appointed 1.9.22
Church Stewards		Michael Haynes Heather Walker Prof. David Clough Dr David Acquaye Sarah Pearson Dr Heather Pearson	Resigned 31.8.23 Appointed 1.9.23
Church Safeguarding Co-ordinator		Jane Krause	
Church Treasurer		Shirley Stacey	
Secretary of Church Council		Leyland Haynes	
Admin. Committee Secretary		Brian Heald	
Property Steward		Stephen Bowden	
Secretary of Pastoral Committee		Gillian Langrick	
Junior Church Liaison			
Circuit Steward Representative		Gill Townsend	
Not less than 6 and not more than 15 representatives elected by the annual General Church Meeting <i>(who are members of the Church)</i>	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15.	Helen Haynes Malcolm Pearson Andrew Ramsey Dr Derek Fry Julie O'Connell Laura Etheridge Angela Macquiban Jeremy Heald Chris Royton Terry Green Pauline Goodlad Dr Mark Gant Denise Kingsnorth	Resigned 2.7.23 Resigned 2.7.23 Appointed 2.7.23 Appointed 2.7.23

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
Income relating to the Church	4	106,416	-	321	10,000	116,737	157,875
Fundraising Income	5	28,665	-	-	-	28,665	22,216
Interest & Investment Income	6	5,466	-	63	-	5,529	1,206
Income supporting the Mission of the Church	7	2,290	-	6,673	-	8,963	6,520
Other Charitable Income	8	3,545	-	-	-	3,545	3,780
Other Income	9	39,189	-	-	-	39,189	36,988
Trading Income	10	66,510	-	-	-	66,510	52,258
Total income		252,082	-	7,056	10,000	269,138	280,843
Expenditure							
Expenditure relating to the Church	11	131,973	16,567	-	-	148,540	302,134
Fundraising Expenditure	12	7,977	-	-	-	7,977	6,596
Interest & Investment costs		556	-	-	-	556	528
Expenditure on the Mission of the Church	13	5,015	500	6,433	-	11,948	6,192
Other Charitable Expenditure	14	7,115	852	-	-	7,966	7,520
Other Expenditure		1,546	-	-	-	1,546	1,333
Depreciation	20	604	-	-	-	604	934
Trading Expenditure	15	61,319	-	-	-	61,319	50,900
Total expenditure		216,105	17,918	6,433	-	240,456	376,138
Gains/(losses) on monetary investments		-	-	-	369	369	986
Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		35,977	- 17,918	623	10,369	29,051	- 96,281
Transfers between funds	16	3,149	- 3,149	-	-	-	-
Gains/(losses) on Fixed Assets	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		39,125	- 21,067	623	10,369	29,051	- 96,281
Total funds brought forward		788,531	132,121	6,593	18,470	945,714	1,041,996
Total funds carried forward		827,656	111,054	7,216	28,840	974,765	945,714

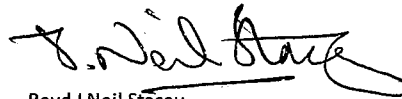
The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets							
Church building and other property	20	754,143	-	-	-	754,143	754,747
Investment properties		-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	23	-	-	-	28,840	28,840	18,470
Total fixed assets		754,143	-	-	28,840	782,983	773,217
Current Assets							
Debtors and prepayments	21	17,040	-	-	-	17,040	16,679
Stock		1,359	-	-	-	1,359	707
Central Finance Board Deposits		-	143,147	4,958	-	148,106	135,128
Cash at Bank and in hand		58,972	32,094	2,258	-	29,137	25,346
Total current assets		77,372	111,054	7,216	-	195,641	177,860
Current liabilities							
Creditors (under 1 yr)	22	3,452	-	-	-	3,452	4,840
Total current liabilities		3,452	-	-	-	3,452	4,840
Net current assets/liabilities		73,920	111,054	7,216	-	192,190	173,019
Total assets less current liabilities		828,063	111,054	7,216	28,840	975,173	946,236
Provision for liabilities	22	407	-	-	-	407	522
Net assets		827,656	111,054	7,216	28,840	974,765	945,714
Funds of the Church							
General Fund (Unrestricted)		827,656				827,656	788,531
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			111,054			111,054	132,121
Total Unrestricted Funds						938,710	920,651
Restricted Funds				7,216		7,216	6,593
Endowment Funds					28,840	28,840	18,470
Total Funds		827,656	111,054	7,216	28,840	974,765	945,714

The Financial Statements were approved by the Managing Trustees and authorised for issue on 17th March 2024 and are signed on behalf of the Managing Trustees by



Revd J Neil Stacey
Date: 17th March 2024

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 August 2023

Statement of cash flows

Cash from operating activities

Net cash used in operating activities, as below

Cash flows from investing activities

Dividends, interest and rents from investments

Purchase of property, plant and equipment

Acquisition/disposal of Investments

Net cash provided by investing activities

Cash flows from financing activities

Transfer between funds

Net cash used in financing activities

Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period

Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2022

Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2023

Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

Net income for the reporting period (per SOFA)

Adjustments for:

Depreciation and amortisation charges

Dividends, interest and rents from investments

Gains/(losses) on investments

Decrease/(increase) in stocks

(Increase)/decrease in debtors

Increase/(decrease) in creditors

Increase/(decrease) in long term liabilities

Net cash used in operating activities

Analysis of cash and cash equivalent

Cash in hand and bank balances

Short term deposit (less than 3 months)

Total cash and cash equivalents

2023
£

16,065
10,703
-
- 10,000
703
-
-
16,768
160,474
177,242

29,051
604
- 10,703
- 369
- 652
- 362
- 1,389
- 115
16,065

29,137
148,106
177,242

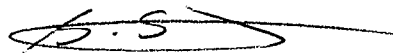
WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

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 Managing Trustees of Wesley Methodist Church, Chester.

Signature of Treasurer



Name

S Stacey

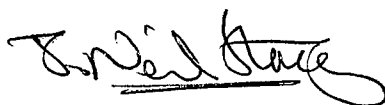
Address

35 Vincent Drive, Westminster Park,
Chester, CH4 7RQ

Presentation to the Managing Trustees at a Church Council Meeting for Approval

I confirm that the Accounts were presented to the Managing Trustees at a Church Council Meeting and were approved on 17th March 2024.

Signature of Chair of meeting



Name

Revd J N Stacey

Date

17th March 2024

TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Church will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Church and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and its constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Church and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE TO THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

- a) So far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant information of which the independent examiner is unaware and;
- b) The Trustees have taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the independent examiner is aware of that information.

Wesley Methodist Church
St John Street
Chester, CH1 1 DA

S Stacey
Treasurer
Date: 17th March 2024

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER



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

Wesley Methodist Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31st August 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1138016

Set out on pages

1 to 26

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/8/2022.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity'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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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.

Independent
examiner's statement

I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

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:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Signed:

C Jones

Date:

25 March 2024

Name:

Christopher Jones

Relevant professional
qualification

FCCA

Address:

Integrity Taxation

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

Sigma House, Hadley Park, Telford

Shropshire TF1 6QN

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.

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WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS: YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Basis of accounting and accounting policies

1.1 Accounting standard

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS102))* 2015.

1.2 Basis

Wesley Methodist Church, Chester is a church within the Methodist Connexion in Great Britain and these accounts are prepared in accordance with the constitution, practice and discipline of that Church. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 in accordance with the *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP (FRS102))*. The accounts relate to the Church and its various organisations and its wholly owned subsidiary and related company.

Its related company is Wesley Coffee Bar, a company limited by guarantee, which operates a café on the Wesley Methodist Church premises. Its directors are appointed by Wesley Methodist Church Council and ultimate control lies with the Managing Trustees of Wesley Methodist Church.

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except that fixed assets are shown at valuation or cost of acquisition less accumulated depreciation and investments are shown at their market value at the end of the year. The accruals basis has been used and the Trustees present accounts that show a true and fair view of the Church's financial position and activities. The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

1.3 Content

The financial information presented is relevant, reliable, comparable and complete. Where estimates are used these are based on experience, research and judgement. The accounts are expressed in Pound Sterling, rounded to the nearest pound. Rounding differences should be ignored. Where the content of this year's accounts is different from that of the previous year, the comparative year's numbers have been adjusted and restated to be in the same format and on the same basis.

1.4 Going concern

To the best of their knowledge and belief the trustees confirm that there are no material uncertainties that would call into question the Church's financial viability for at least 12 months from the date of approval of these accounts.

1.5 Consolidation

These accounts are the consolidated accounts of Wesley Methodist Church, Chester and Wesley Coffee Bar. Where cross-charging has taken place, these have been eliminated upon consolidation.

1.6 Income recognition

Income is brought into account when it is more likely than not that the economic benefit of the income will be forthcoming.

1.7 Expenditure

This is recognised when a liability is incurred, or a constructive obligation arises, that results in the payment being unavoidable. Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Circuit to pay out resources.

1.8 Capital Commitments

On 31st August 2023 there were no outstanding commitments.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

1.9 Tangible fixed assets

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes are custodian trustee for the church land and premises, which is a Model Trust property, and they hold the freehold title.

The Trustees of Wesley Methodist Church, Chester policy is to value the freehold property on the basis of a market valuation, prepared by an independent chartered surveyor and to base value the organ on the lower of its historic purchase cost or net realisable value. A market valuation was undertaken by Savills which valued the freehold property at £750,000. The value of the organ was re-stated in 2017/18 to a historic purchase cost as this also equated to its net realisable value. Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment individually costing more than £5,000 are now capitalised and written off on a straight-line basis over the useful life of the asset. The useful lives will depend on the nature of the asset acquired. The consolidated financial statements reflect the assets owned by Wesley Coffee Bar. The depreciation policy is shown within the separate accounts for Wesley Coffee Bar.

1.10 Investments

The investments are in monetary assets and are held by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP) as custodian trustees. The valuations, at market value, are those provided by TMCP. The unrealised gains arising on investments at the end of the year are shown in the SOFA and in Note 19 below.

1.11 Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

1.12 Basic Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument. Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

1.13 Bank and Cash

The liquid funds of bank balances and deposit account balances are shown at the realisable values.

1.14 Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors and Prepayments are stated at the amounts owed to or prepaid by the Church and Wesley Coffee Bar.

1.15 Creditors

Creditors are amounts owed by the Church and Wesley Coffee Bar and are measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid.

1.16 Funds

Wesley Methodist Church, Chester has a number of funds; General Fund (unrestricted), Designated Funds (unrestricted), Designated Funds (restricted) and Endowment Funds (restricted). Wesley Coffee Bar is included in the General Fund, in these consolidated accounts. Any surpluses on the General Fund in excess of the required 6 months' expenditure are usually transferred to the Designated Funds (unrestricted), which have been established to provide for the long-term maintenance of the building.

1.17 Tax

Being a charity Wesley Methodist Church does not pay corporation tax. It does claim Gift Aid on donations. Wesley Coffee Bar does pay corporation tax on any profits.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

2. Independent Examination

Accruals have been made for the fee for the independent examination in the sum of £1,458 (2022: £1,800) for the year, to include reviewing the statutory accounts of Wesley Coffee Bar.

3. Glossary of Terms

CFB:	The Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church manages a Common Deposit Fund and a series of pooled investment funds for Methodist entities in Great Britain and provides investment advice to those entities
Church:	Wesley Methodist Church, Chester
Circuit:	The North Cheshire Methodist Circuit
HMRC:	His Majesty's Revenue and Customs
LPWGS:	Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme
SOFA:	Statement of Financial Activities
CJRS:	Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme
SORP:	Statement of Recommended Practice
TMCP:	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds
WMC:	Wesley Methodist Church, Chester
WCB:	Wesley Coffee Bar

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

4 Income Relating to the Church

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Collections (including gift aid)	103,014	-	-		103,014	102,232
Donations	3,377	-	-	10,000	13,377	23,418
Grants	-	-	-		-	26,693
Regenerate Project			321		321	583
Other	24	-			24	4,949
Total	106,416	-	321	10,000	116,737	157,875

The £10,000 donation shown under Endowment Funds relates to a generous bequest from the estate of a long standing church member.

5 Fundraising Income

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Concerts	28,353				28,353	22,057
Other	312				312	159
Total	28,665	-	-	-	28,665	22,216

6 Interest & Investment income

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	4,826				4,826	705
Investment Income	640		63		703	500
Total	5,466	-	63	-	5,529	1,206

Cash surplus to immediate requirements is deposited with the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church. Investments are managed by the Methodist Trustees for Church Purposes.

7 Income supporting the Mission of the Church

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Benevolent activities			1,829		1,829	1,692
Work with the disadvantaged		-	144		144	2,524
Grants			4,700		4,700	-
Work with Children	2,215				2,215	2,127
Church Fellowships	75				75	177
Total	2,290	-	6,673	-	8,963	6,520

The restricted fund grant relates to a grant from the Churches Urban Fund to support work with Ukrainian refugees.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

8 Other Charitable Income

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	3,545				3,545	3,780
	3,545	-	-	-	3,545	3,780

9 Other Income

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Lettings	33,115				33,115	31,250
Wayleaves and licences	5,668				5,668	5,668
Other	406				406	70
	39,189	-	-	-	39,189	36,988

10 Trading Income

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Wesley Coffee Bar	66,510				66,510	52,258
Total	66,510	-	-	-	66,510	52,258

Wesley Coffee Bar is company limited by guarantee which operates a Café on the Wesley Methodist Church premises. Its directors are members of the Methodist Church and ultimate control lies with the Managing Trustees of Wesley Methodist Church. The income represents the sales of Wesley Coffee Bar.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

11 Expenditure relating to the Church

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Assessment to the Methodist Church	65,311				65,311	65,756
Utilities	12,699				12,699	12,179
Cleaning	9,910				9,910	9,244
Insurance	5,426				5,426	5,179
Maintenance	8,567	14,325			22,892	14,200
Methodist Church Pension Contribution					-	35,000
Office	2,079				2,079	10,669
Organ Restoration		2,242	-		2,242	131,667
Project Regenerate					-	-
Reopening Expenses/Church Centre	18,531				18,531	6,262
Other	9,451				9,451	11,978
Total	131,973	16,567	-	-	148,540	302,134

The Reopening Expenses were costs incurred in providing a safe environment for visitors following the reopening of the premises when permitted under the COVID-19 regulations. Since re-opening a church centre co-ordinator has been employed. In 2022 the restoration of Wesley's nearly 100 years old historic and valuable organ was undertaken. It is a significant asset for both worship and for concerts and recitals.

12 Fundraising Expenditure

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Concerts	7,977				7,977	6,596
Other						-
Total	7,977	-	-	-	7,977	6,596

13 Expenditure on the Mission of the Church

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Mission Development					-	-
Benevolent activities			1,227		1,227	388
Work with the disadvantaged	100		5,206		5,306	1,364
Work with Children	4,915				4,915	4,439
Church Fellowships					-	-
Other		500			500	-
Total	5,015	500	6,433	-	11,948	6,192

14 Other Charitable Expenditure

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations to Charities	3,545	852			4,396	3,780
Donations to the Methodist Church	3,570				3,570	3,740
Total	7,115	852	-	-	7,966	7,520

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

15 Trading Expenditure

General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
£	£	£	£	£	£
Wesley Coffee Bar	61,923			61,923	51,834
61,923	-	-	-	61,923	51,834

The expenditure represents the total supply, wages and administration costs of Wesley Coffee Bar.

16 Transfer Between Funds

General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
£	£	£		£	£
To General Fund (unrestricted)	8,779			8,779	
To Designated Funds (unrestricted)		5,630		5,630	55,439
To Designated Funds (restricted)				-	-
From General Fund (unrestricted)	-	5,630		-	5,630
From Designated Funds (restricted)				-	-
From Designated Funds (unrestricted)				-	-
	-	8,779		-	8,779
3,149	-	3,149	-	-	-

17 Payment to Trustees

Payments made to trustees for additional services provided to the Church by agreement with the Church Council Meeting
Number of trustees who were paid expenses

2023 2022

2 2

£ £

Total amount paid

1,180 1,210

None of the trustees is an employee of the Church. The payments are to two trustees in respect of an honorarium and fees for playing the organ.

18 Fees for examination or audit of the accounts

2023 2022

£ £

Independent examiner's or auditors' fees for reporting on the accounts

1,550 1,440

19 Paid employees

2023 2022

£ £

Staff Costs paid during the year were:

Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind

68,968 58,123

Employer's National Insurance costs

0 0

Pension costs

2,668 2,621

Total staff costs

71,636 60,743

Average number of staff employed during the year were:

6 6

There were no employees earning above £60,000 per year and no key management personnel received any benefits for their services to the charity.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

20 Tangible Fixed Assets

Cost or valuation	Church (non investment) land and buildings £	Other non investment land and buildings £	Investment properties (land and buildings) £	Other fixed assets £	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total 2023 £
Balance brought forward	750,000			2,000	37,808	789,808
Additions					-	-
Revaluation						-
Disposals						-
Transfers						-
Balance carried forward	750,000	-	-	2,000	37,808	789,808
Accumulated depreciation						
Balance brought forward					35,061	35,061
Depreciation charge for year					604	604
Revaluations						-
Disposals						-
Transfers						-
Balance carried forward	-	-	-	-	35,665	35,665
Net book value						
Brought forward	750,000	-	-	2,000	2,747	754,747
Carried forward	750,000	-	-	2,000	2,143	754,143

The valuation of land and buildings is based on an external valuation based on the market value. The organ is valued on its net book value, calculated on the original cost adjusted for material expenditure on the organ.

21 Debtors and Prepayments

	General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (restricted) £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Wesley Methodist Church					-	
Circuit assessment prepayment	16,671				16,671	16,328
Wesley Coffee Bar						-
Trade Debtors					-	-
Prepayments	370				370	351
	17,040	-	-	-	17,040	16,679

The Wesley Methodist Church Circuit Assessment is paid quarterly in advance

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

22 Creditors and Provisions

Creditors (under 1 yr)

Wesley Methodist Church

Audit fees

North Cheshire Circuit

Other

Wesley Coffee Bar

Trade Creditors

Audit fees

Corporation Tax

General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
£	£	£	£	£	£
1,170				1,170	1,440
				-	-
				-	30
1,992				1,992	3,010
288				288	360
2				2	-
3,452	-	-	-	3,452	4,840

Provision for liabilities

Wesley Coffee Bar

Deferred Tax

General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
£	£	£	£	£	£
407				407	522
407	-	-	-	407	522

23 Investments

The funds that support the various funds are held by TMCP in Trustees Interest Funds on which interest is credited to the accounts each month. These are regarded as medium and long term investments.

TMCP is the legal owner and Custodian Trustee of all Methodist Model Trust property, including Legacies, Endowments and Accumulated Funds. Trust property is held for and on behalf of local Managing Trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of trust property.

Analysis of investment movements

Change in investment values

Market value at beginning of year

New Investments

Interest earned

Interest paid

TMCP costs

Gains/(losses) on investments

Market value at end of year

COIF Charities Investment Fund	TMCP Fund 11226A	TMCP Fund 11226B	TMCP Fund 11480	Total 2023	Total 2022
£	£	£	£	£	£
15,027	1,566	783	1,094	18,470	19,457
			10,000	10,000	
449	46	23	194	712	510
- 449	- 42	- 21	- 191	- 703	- 499
-	- 4	- 2	- 3	- 9	- 10
470	66	33	1	369	987
15,497	1,500	750	11,093	28,840	18,470

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

24. Central Finance Board (CFB) and Cash at Bank

The Church has current accounts at Lloyds Bank plc and the Co-operative Bank p.l.c., authorised institutions. The sums held on those accounts are immediately available. In addition, the Church has deposit accounts at CFB, a common deposit fund. Interest is earned on these accounts and credited monthly; the sums deposited can be withdrawn without notice and without loss of interest. The Church has no other financial instruments. These sums are viewed as being liquid and are shown as Current assets on the Balance Sheet.

24.1 Designated Funds (unrestricted) – balance £111,054 on 31 August 2023 (2022: £132,121)

These funds are to serve specific purposes but are not restricted by any document or deed to that purpose alone. These funds comprise:

- Contingency Fund: balance £95,503 (2022: £118,607) is available to meet long-term maintenance of the Church premises.
- Designated Supplementary Music Fund: balance £3,890 (2022: £6,132). The last major overhaul of the Church organ was undertaken in 2022.
- Wesley Mission Fund: balance £2,512 (2022: £2,382) to resource and support Wesley's Chester City Centre mission initiatives as agreed by Wesley's Trustees.
- Stewardship Fund: balance £9,149 (2022: £5,000) to support Wesley's outreach.

24.2 Restricted Fund - balance £7,216 on 31 August 2023 (2022: £6,593)

These funds are to serve specific purposes and are restricted by a document, deed or resolution of the Managing Trustees of Wesley Methodist Church, Chester to that purpose alone. These funds comprise:

- Regenerate! Fund: balance £4,082 (2022: £3,761) was established to hold the monies raised to undertake the Regenerate! Project. The project is complete.
- Benevolent Funds: balance £2,258 (2022: £1,594) provides support for those in need.
- Ukrainian Meet Ups Fund: balance £876 (2022: £1,238). Supports the work of Wesley in supporting refugees from Ukraine.

25. Related Party Transactions

	Description	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£
Methodist Insurance	Insurance policy premiums	5,426	5,179
North Cheshire Methodist Circuit	Annual Assessment	65,311	65,756
Methodist City Centre Network	Donations	50	50
Action For Children	Donations	156	193
All We Can	Donations	2,003	681
Fund for Support of Presbyters & Deacons	Donations	-	-
Methodist International House	Donations	-	-
Fund for World Mission	Easter Offering	288	-
Fund for World Mission	Annual Stewardship grant	2,520	2,640
Mission in Britain	Annual Stewardship grant	630	660
Fund for Property	Annual Stewardship grant	420	440
Methodist Church Pension Fund	Donation	-	35,000
		76,804	110,598

All these organisation are independent of Wesley Methodist Church but come under the umbrella of The Methodist Church in Great Britain.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

26. Controlling Interest

As Wesley Methodist Church is part of the Methodist Connexion in Great Britain, ultimate control rests with the Methodist Connexion.

27. Volunteer contributions

Every entity (Connexion, District, Circuit, and Church) within the Methodist Church in Great Britain is heavily reliant on volunteers who contribute their skills, time and money in the furtherance of the work of the Church. At Wesley Methodist Church, many members contribute to its mission and activities. We are grateful to all of them for their help and commitment. No attempt has been made by this Church to value the non-monetary contributions to the Church in monetary terms.