

THE METHODIST CHURCH
REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(ACCRUALS BASIS)
for the year ended 31 August 2024

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

Heather Walker
David Clough
David Acquaye
Sarah Pearson
Heather Pearson

Church Treasurer

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 2024

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 2023 to 31st August 2024

3.1 Sunday Worship, Weekday Activities and Church Life

Wesley's membership as of 1st September 2024 was 117. Sunday morning worship continued throughout the year in a hybrid format i.e. worship in the building together with online participation by Zoom. In the course of the year the average number of people attending worship remained consistent. Wesley's junior church ('SPLAT!') met occasionally during the year, although numbers continued 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. In August 2024 the first same sex marriage was celebrated at Wesley.

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.

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 number of people coming into the building during the week and those attending events has steadily increased. The Centre has been used by a wide range of organisations and community groups for many years; and during the year the number of lettings has also gradually increased.

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

'Music at Wesley' once again ran 45 Tuesday lunchtime concerts between early September and mid July, together with 10 Saturday organ events and recitals and 1 evening orchestral concert in the year. The average concert attendance this year rose to 115. Wesley was also the venue for concerts given by the Chester Bach Singers, Chester Festival Chorus and an Icelandic choir.

Two plays were also performed at Wesley during the year to large and appreciative audiences: 'The Mistake' by Michael Mears about the Hiroshima atomic bomb in September 2023 and 'The Beloved Son' by Murray Watts about the life of Henri Nouwen, performed by Andy Harrison, in May 2024.

Community Bread Making sessions continued on Mondays, organised by the co-operative social enterprise 'Bread Together', in partnership with Wesley. As well as making bread these sessions provide much-valued opportunities for people to meet and build confidence, not least for those with a range of needs. On a number of Wednesdays in the year additional breadmaking sessions were held for a support group for autistic/neurodiverse adults.

The Wesley 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 at Wesley monthly on Saturday afternoons until February. The 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 make connections. Art classes and Ukrainian language classes for young children ran for a few weeks longer. Ukrainian charity fundraising events took place in October, December and August. The needs of Ukrainian refugees have changed since this work first began. The Wesley community has continued to be in touch with Ukrainian friends and has supported different initiatives as a sign of our commitment to them.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

3.3 Church Premises

A new licence (agreed in August 2023) was completed in September with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes and Cheshire West and Chester Council, for a period of up to 3 years commencing on 14th August 2023. The 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.

In June Wesley Church Council approved a £48,400 project to install solar panels on the south facing section of worship area roof together with battery storage, and to replace the Church Centre windows fronting St John Street with double glazed windows.

In addition to general repairs and regular equipment servicing, the following projects were carried out during the year:

- External redecoration of the Wesley Church and Church Centre frontage to St John Street.
- Completion of the replacement of all regularly used light fittings in the Church Centre with LED lighting.
- Insulation improvements made to the crèche room ceiling and boiler room fittings.

Wesley achieved the A Rocha UK Silver Eco Church Award on 30th January 2024, based on the work spearheaded by Wesley's Eco Group.

4. Future Plans

Full implementation of the solar panel/double glazing improvement project is the main property priority for 2024/25.

Having achieved the silver award in 2023/24 we are continuing to work towards the achievement of a gold award from the A Rocha organisation as an Eco Church, and are hoping to become a recognised 'Church of Sanctuary' in 2024/25.

Following the 'Shaping our Future' consultation, a number of areas for further exploration and development were identified; and in 2024/25 we will be trialling some new initiatives to address these.

5. Conclusion

We have been pleased to see a consolidation of attendances, both in worship and in midweek activities, during the year. We continue to look for and develop partnerships with other churches and organisations in the city and beyond, and hope in the course of 2024/25 to discern further priorities for creative and sustainable mission.

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: **Clear Accountancy (Inc. Nira Smith Accounts) Ltd**

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.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

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.

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.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

2.2.10 Reserves Policy

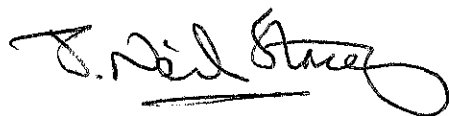
The Reserves Policy for the Church is to aim to hold a minimum sum in the General Fund equivalent to 6 months' non-discretionary expenditure based on the following year's budget. This should be sufficient to meet unforeseen items of expenditure and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding 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.

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:

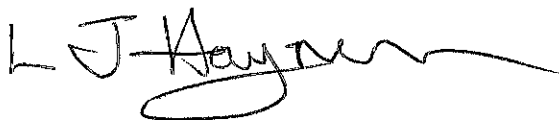


Date: 18th May 2025

Name: Mr L Haynes

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

Signature:



Date: 18th May 2025

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

APPENDIX A: CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP (i.e. MANAGING TRUSTEES): from 1.9.23 to date

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY		NAME (as at 1.9.23)	CHANGES SINCE 1.9.23
Ministers		Revd Neil Stacey Deacon Suzanne Sale	
Church Stewards		Heather Walker David Clough David Acquaye Sarah Pearson Heather Pearson Denise Kingsnorth Helen Johnson	Appointed 1.9.24 Appointed 1.9.24
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 Ian Evans	Resigned 22.1.25 Appointed 22.1.25
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 (who are members of the Church)	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15.	Helen Haynes Malcolm Pearson Andrew Ramsey Derek Fry Angela Macquiban Jeremy Heald Chris Royton Terry Green Pauline Goodlad Mark Gant Michael Haynes Ian Evans	Resigned 14.7.24 Resigned 14.7.24 Appointed 14.7.24 Appointed 14.7.24 (Appointed Property Steward 22.1.25)

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes to the accounts	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income							
Income relating to the Church	4	113,025	39,458	150	11,325	163,957	106,737
Fundraising Income	5	33,454	-	-	-	33,454	28,665
Interest & Investment Income	6	9,807	-	62	-	9,868	15,529
Income supporting the Mission of the Church	7	3,481	-	675	-	4,155	8,963
Other Charitable Income	8	3,019	-	2,813	-	5,833	3,545
Other Income	9	42,780	-	-	-	42,780	39,189
Trading Income	10	76,353	-	-	-	76,353	66,510
Total income		281,918	39,458	3,699	11,325	336,400	269,138
Expenditure							
Expenditure relating to the Church	11	149,233	6,880	-	-	156,113	148,540
Fundraising Expenditure	12	8,841	-	-	-	8,841	7,977
Interest & Investment costs		616	-	-	-	616	556
Expenditure on the Mission of the Church	13	6,539	248	155	-	6,941	11,948
Other Charitable Expenditure	14	6,653	4,241	741	-	11,635	7,966
Other Expenditure		1,463	-	-	-	1,463	1,546
Depreciation	20	281	-	-	-	281	604
Trading Expenditure	15	70,277	-	-	-	70,277	61,319
Total expenditure		243,902	11,369	896	-	256,167	240,456
Gains/(losses) on monetary Investments		-	-	-	1,438	1,438	369
Gains/(losses) on investment properties		-	-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		38,016	28,090	2,804	12,763	81,672	29,051
Transfers between funds	16	-	42,785	-	-	-	-
Gains/(losses) on Fixed Assets	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		-	42,785	-	-	-	-
Total funds brought forward		827,656	111,054	7,216	28,840	974,765	945,714
Total funds carried forward		822,887	181,928	10,020	41,603	1,056,437	974,765

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

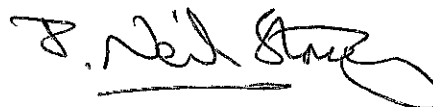
WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Notes to the Accounts	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets							
Church building and other property	20	753,862	-	-	-	753,862	754,143
Investment properties		-	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	23	-	-	-	41,603	41,603	28,840
Total fixed assets		753,862	-	-	41,603	795,465	782,983
Current Assets							
Debtors and prepayments	21	15,053	-	-	-	15,053	17,040
Stock		1,342	-	-	-	1,342	1,359
Central Finance Board Deposits		35,000	179,094	7,383	-	221,477	148,106
Cash at Bank and in hand		32,792	2,834	2,637	-	38,263	29,137
Total current assets		84,187	181,928	10,020	-	276,135	195,641
Current liabilities							
Creditors (under 1 yr)	22	14,809	-	-	-	14,809	3,452
Total current liabilities		14,809	-	-	-	14,809	3,452
Net current assets/liabilities		69,378	181,928	10,020	-	261,326	192,190
Total assets less current liabilities		823,240	181,928	10,020	41,603	1,056,791	975,173
Provision for liabilities	22	354	-	-	-	354	407
Net assets		822,887	181,928	10,020	41,603	1,056,437	974,765
Funds of the Church							
General Fund (Unrestricted)		822,887				822,887	827,656
Designated Funds (Unrestricted)			181,928			181,928	111,054
Total Unrestricted Funds						1,004,815	938,710
Restricted Funds				10,020		10,020	7,216
Endowment Funds					41,603	41,603	28,840
Total Funds		822,887	181,928	10,020	41,603	1,056,437	974,765

The Financial Statements were approved by the Managing Trustees and authorised for issue on 18th May 2025 and are signed on behalf of the Managing Trustees by

Rev'd J Neil Stacey
Date: 18th May 2025



WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

Cash flow statement for the year ended 31 August 2024

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 2023

Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2024

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

2024

£

81,259

12,564

-

11,325

1,239

-

-

82,498

177,242

259,740

81,672

281

12,564

1,438

17

1,987

11,357

53

81,259

38,263

221,477

259,740

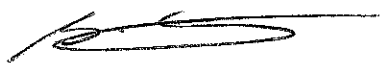
WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

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

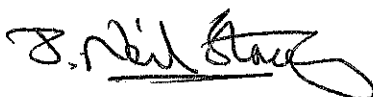
Address

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 18th May 2025.

Signature of Chair of meeting



Name

Revd J N Stacey

Date

18th May 2025

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
18th May 2025

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

Wesley Methodist Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31st August 2024

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 31/08/2024.

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

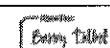
The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

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:


Barry Talbot

Date:

21-05-2025 | 17:38:36 BS

Name:

Mr Barry Talbot

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

FCCA

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

Address:	Clear Accountancy (Inc Nira Smith Accounts) Limited
	e-Innovation Centre, Priorslee
	Telford, TF2 9FT

Section B	Disclosure
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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.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS: YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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 Church to pay out resources.

1.8 Capital Commitments

On 31st August 2024 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 £1,228 (2023: £1,458) 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
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 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Collections (including gift aid)	104,506				104,506	103,014
Donations	5,234			11,325	16,559	13,377
Grants	3,269	1,463			4,732	-
Regenerate Project			150		150	321
Other	15	37,995			38,010	24
Total	113,025	39,458	150	11,325	163,957	116,737

The £11,325 donation shown under Endowment Funds relates to a generous bequest from the estate of a long standing church member.

The grants relate to monies received from the Department for Culture, Media & Sport under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme which funds VAT costs on eligible repairs to listed buildings used as places of worship.

In 2021 churches were encouraged to make donations to the Methodist Church Pension Reserve Fund in response to the pension deficit identified by actuarial valuations. In response to that appeal Wesley made a donation of £35,000 from contingency funds. Since then further valuations have confirmed that better than expected performance has resulted in the projected deficits being reduced. The 2024 Methodist Conference therefore resolved to return the donations made, with interest. The amount of £37,995 is shown as other income under Designated funds (unrestricted).

5 Fundraising Income

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Concerts	33,101				33,101	28,353
Other	353				353	312
Total	33,454	-	-	-	33,454	28,665

6 Interest & Investment income

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	8,629				8,629	4,826
Investment Income	1,176		62		1,239	703
Total	9,807	-	62	-	9,868	5,529

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.

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

7 Income supporting the Mission of the Church

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Benevolent activities			525		525	1,829
Work with the disadvantaged			150		150	144
Grants					-	4,700
Work with Children	2,342				2,342	2,215
Church Fellowships	175				175	75
Other	964				964	-
Total	3,481	-	675	-	4,155	8,963

The restricted fund grant in 2023 relates to a grant from the Churches Urban Fund to support work with Ukrainian refugees.

8 Other Charitable Income

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	3,019		2,813		5,833	3,545
Total	3,019	-	2,813	-	5,833	3,545

9 Other Income

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Lettings	28,012				28,012	33,115
Wayleaves and licences	14,668				14,668	5,668
Other	100				100	406
Total	42,780	-	-	-	42,780	39,189

10 Trading Income

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Wesley Coffee Bar	76,353				76,353	66,510
Total	76,353	-	-	-	76,353	66,510

Wesley Coffee Bar is a 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 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Assessment to the Methodist Church	56,616				56,616	65,311
Utilities	19,541				19,541	12,699
Cleaning	11,392				11,392	9,910
Insurance	5,685				5,685	5,426
Maintenance	16,950	6,858			23,808	22,892
Office	2,366				2,366	2,079
Organ Restoration		22			22	2,242
Project Regenerate					-	-
Church Centre	20,673				20,673	18,531
Other	16,010				16,010	9,451
Total	149,233	6,880	-	-	156,113	148,540

12 Fundraising Expenditure

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Concerts	8,841				8,841	7,977
Other						-
Total	8,841	-	-	-	8,841	7,977

13 Expenditure on the Mission of the Church

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Mission Development					-	-
Benevolent activities			146		146	1,227
Work with the disadvantaged	407		9		416	5,306
Work with Children	5,332				5,332	4,915
Church Fellowships					-	-
Other	800	248			1,048	500
Total	6,539	248	155	-	6,941	11,948

14 Other Charitable Expenditure

	General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations to Charities	3,019	4,241	741		8,001	4,396
Donations to the Methodist Church	3,634				3,634	3,570
Total	6,653	4,241	741	-	11,635	7,966

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH, CHESTER

15 Trading Expenditure

Wesley Coffee Bar

General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
£	£	£	£	£	£
70,558				70,558	61,923
70,558	-	-	-	70,558	61,923

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

16 Transfer Between Funds

To General Fund (unrestricted)
To Designated Funds (unrestricted)
To Designated Funds (restricted)
From General Fund (unrestricted)
From Designated Funds (restricted)
From Designated Funds (unrestricted)

General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
£	£	£		£	£
				-	8,779
	42,785			42,785	5,630
				-	-
- 42,785				- 42,785	- 5,630
		-		-	-
				-	8,779
- 42,785	42,785	-	-	-	-

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

2024 2023

2 2

Total amount paid

£ 1,210 £ 1,180

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

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

2024 2023
£ £
1,638 1,550

19 Paid employees

Staff Costs paid during the year were:
Gross wages, salaries and benefits in kind
Employer's National Insurance costs
Pension costs
Total staff costs

2024 2023
£ £
78,217 68,968
- -
3,003 2,668
81,220 71,636

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

Balance brought forward

Additions

Revaluation

Disposals

Transfers

Balance carried forward

Accumulated depreciation

Balance brought forward

Depreciation charge for year

Revaluations

Disposals

Transfers

Balance carried forward

Net book value

Brought forward

Carried forward

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 2024 £
750,000			2,000	37,808	789,808
				-	-
					-
					-
750,000	-	-	2,000	37,808	789,808
				35,665	35,665
				281	281
					-
					-
					-
-	-	-	-	35,946	35,946
750,000	-	-	2,000	2,143	754,143
750,000	-	-	2,000	1,862	753,862

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

Wesley Methodist Church

Circuit assessment prepayment

Wesley Coffee Bar

Trade Debtors

Prepayments

General Fund (Unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (unrestricted) £	Designated Funds (restricted) £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
				-	-
14,703				14,703	16,671
					-
					-
					-
350				350	370
15,053	-	-	-	15,053	17,040

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
Independent Examiner's Fees
Other
Cheshire West (Deferred Income)

Wesley Coffee Bar
Trade Creditors
Independent Examiner's Fees
Wages Accrual
Holiday Accrual
Corporation Tax

General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
£	£	£	£	£	£
1,229				1,229	1,170
2,392				2,392	-
8,500				8,500	-
596				596	208
302				302	288
590				590	-
1,195				1,195	1,784
5				5	2
14,809	-	-	-	14,809	3,452

Provision for liabilities

Wesley Coffee Bar
Deferred Tax

General Fund Unrestricted	Designated Funds Unrestricted	Designated Funds Restricted	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
£	£	£	£	£	£
354				354	407
354	-	-	-	354	407

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 2024	Total 2023
£	£	£	£	£	£
15,497	1,500	750	11,093	28,840	18,470
			11,325	11,325	10,000
452	45	23	757	1,277	712
- 452	- 41	- 21	- 725	- 1,239	- 703
-	- 4	- 2	- 32	- 38	- 9
1,264	116	58	-	1,438	369
16,761	1,616	808	22,418	41,603	28,840

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 plc, 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 £181,928 on 31 August 2024 (2023: £111,054)

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 £164,875 (2023: £95,503) is available to meet long-term maintenance of the Church premises.
- Designated Supplementary Music Fund: balance £4,240 (2023: £3,890). The last major overhaul of the Church organ was undertaken in 2022.
- Wesley Mission Fund: balance £2,906 (2023: £2,512) to resource and support Wesley's Chester City Centre mission initiatives as agreed by Wesley's Trustees.
- Stewardship Fund: balance £9,907 (2023: £9,149) to support Wesley's outreach.

24.2 Restricted Fund - balance £10,020 on 31 August 2024 (2023: £7,216)

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 £4,232 (2023: £4,082) was established to hold the monies raised to undertake the Regenerate! Project. The project is complete.
- Benevolent Funds: balance £2,699 (2023: £2,258) provides support for those in need.
- Ukrainian Meet Ups Fund: balance £1,017 (2023: £876). Supports the work of Wesley in supporting refugees from Ukraine.
- Kimbilio Support Fund: balance £2,072 (2023: Nil). This fund raises money to support a young woman in Democratic Republic of the Congo through higher education.

25. Related Party Transactions

	Description	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£
Methodist Insurance	Insurance policy premiums	5,685	5,426
North Cheshire Methodist Circuit	Annual Assessment	56,616	65,311
Methodist City Centre Network	Donations	50	50
Action For Children	Donations	154	156
All We Can	Donations	180	2,003
Methodist Homes	Donations	70	-
Fund for World Mission	Donations	88	-
Fund for World Mission	Easter Offering	530	288
Fund for World Mission	Annual Stewardship grant	2,565	2,520
Mission in Britain	Annual Stewardship grant	641	630
Fund for Property	Annual Stewardship grant	428	420
Methodist Church Pension Fund	Refund	- 37,995	-
		29,012	76,804

All these organisations 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.