

NORTON METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 August 2020

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Norton Methodist Church is a member of the Methodist Church and as such is governed by 'The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church'.

Norton Methodist Church consists of members and adherents. The current number of members is 109 (which is a small decrease on last year).

The Trustees are the Church Council. The membership of the Church Council consists of ministers, appointed office holders and representatives elected by the Annual General Church Meeting. New Trustees are appointed from time to time at the discretion of the existing Trustees.

Between March and August 2020, the practical governance and management of the church has been significantly affected by the COVID pandemic. Due to government restrictions, it has not been possible for the usual meetings to take place physically including the full Church Council. In this period the elected Church Stewards together with the Minister have acted as operational trustees (with the full support and agreement of the Church Council members).

This has enabled more manageable 'virtual' meetings to take place and relevant decisions made on behalf of the full Council. For significant issues / decisions, the Stewards are consulting with others in the church with relevant skills and knowledge – and the full Council is being kept informed throughout. This temporary pragmatic arrangement will be kept under regular review. Other groups in the church have adopted similar practical steps to facilitate activities to progress within the relevant and changing COVID guidelines.

Norton Methodist Church is registered with the Charity Commission.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our vision is to be a caring Christian community showing God's love in Jesus through worship, welcome and witness.

The church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ. In worship we aim to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love and care for us all. We aim to help people to learn and grow as Christians through mutual support, fellowship, and care. By aiming to serve others we aim to be good neighbours to people in need and to challenge injustice; to be a presence in the community.

Worship is held on Sunday mornings and also on Tuesday mornings in planned services. We also continue to develop ecumenical links with other churches in Norton through 'Churches Together in Norton'.

As with the governance and management of the church, since March 2020 most of the activities of the church have been affected by restrictions arising from the COVID pandemic. The normal church services were stopped in March and replaced by

Circuit-wide virtual services. This situation continued through to the end of this reporting year. It has been recognised that some of the members and friends do not have ready access to electronic media and other forms of communication have been developed with the aim of being as inclusive as possible.

The regular activities prior to the pandemic were continued as usual. These included a registered Playgroup on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings and also a Parent and Toddlers group on a Thursday morning (both in school term time). In addition, the Community Lunch provided by a group of dedicated church members was running well and indeed numbers attending were increasing. The church premises (particularly the Church Hall) were being used throughout the week by a variety of groups both from the church and the wider community. From March 2020, most of these activities were not allowed under COVID restriction and so were necessarily if sadly suspended.

Norton Methodist Church Safeguarding policy was updated in alignment with the Connexional policy and practice and statutory regulations and guidance. The church has a Safeguarding Officer who ensures that local policies and practice meet current standards and requirements. The Safeguarding Statement and Policy are reviewed annually by Church Council for compliance. Safeguarding refresher training is planned and carried out for all those with particular roles in the life of the church to ensure good practice and high standards are maintained.

In exercising their powers and duties, the Trustees have due regard to the guidance etc. provided by the Charities Commission.

Prior to March and the COVID restrictions, the Church Council met regularly to maintain oversight of all activities within the church via reports, updates, proposals, and recommendations provided by several sub-committees (Family, World Missions, Finance and Property, and Pastoral Committees) which are responsible for progressing developments in their specific area of church life.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The COVID pandemic has had a significant impact on achievements and performance this year as since the end of March 2020 there have been significant restrictions placed on the church and congregation and on permitted activities. Between September 2019 and March 2020 various activities and initiatives were being progressed as below :-

Every 2 years the church supports an external charity in what we call our Special Missions Project. Through 2019 we supported a charity called Dorothy's Well which provides wells, and hence fresh clean water, for schools and villages in rural Tanzania. This Missions Project concluded successfully in December 2019 having raised £4,300 for Dorothy's Well.

The initiative which was started last year to develop new worship experiences (called 'Happenings') has continued through this year. There has been a varied programme of innovative events run by a group of members and friends which have generally been well supported.

The development of work with and support for baptismal families at Norton has continued through this year. Efforts have been made to involve more 'lay' individuals

as the demand for baptisms has continued. It has also been decided to convert one of the little used rooms in the church into a lounge type space to create a more relaxed and comfortable environment for meeting and conversations. This would include baptismal families as well as maybe some of the younger families and individuals in the church. This latter development was suspended due to COVID restrictions but will be progressed when this situation improves.

Norton Methodist Church continues to support the ongoing 'Meaningful Aging' initiative with several members from the church having received training in this area.

This year the church has been actively considering the Way Forward. Whilst initially linked to baptismal families, and the growing needs of an older congregation, there is a wider remit relating to how decisions are made in the church, best use of our property and changes in the way people now worship, learn about faith, and meet on-line. This is a work in progress and will continue in the future.

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESERVE POLICY

Our main source of income comes from our weekly and monthly offerings.

We have a reserve policy which is to ensure there are always sufficient cash backed unrestricted general funds available to cover :-

- Six months' expenditure
- Playgroup support (if needed)

As was the case last year, the Trustees have agreed that the accounts will continue to be presented in a 'receipts and payments' format.

This year has seen a reduction in income and a consequent deficit in the accounts. This is primarily due to a reduction in offerings from the congregation over the year, but also, in part, due to the loss of income relating to the hiring of the premises after the COVID lockdown in March 2020. It is anticipated that this situation will likely continue for some time into next year.

Given the current COVID pandemic situation, it is difficult to make accurate financial projections, however it will obviously not be possible to continue operating with a persistent deficit situation in the medium / long term.

Going forward it is likely that income will improve from the hiring of the premises but less likely so from offerings from the congregation. It is also likely that building maintenance and repair costs may increase to some extent. Thus, it is foreseeable that the church may have further deficit years. We are progressing our response through budgeting.

However, at present there are sufficient funds to cover all our current known requirements.

APPROVAL

This report has been approved by Church Council (Church Stewards) on

...17th December 2020.....

And is signed on behalf of Council by;

Rev Suva Catford

Scarf 24/1/2021

S. Dye

S.Dye 23/1/2021

K. Dodsworth

Kay Dodsworth 28/1/2021

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

NORTON METHODIST

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2020

STOCKTON

Circuit

Circuit no

1303

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1143687

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

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

REV SUVA CATFORD

Church Stewards:

QUAN LIM

TRUDIE HORSEMAN

CATHERINE BENROSE

IRENE BARCLAY

Treasurer:

KAY DODSWORTH

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
			£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note	2020			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		52406		52406	57429
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		577		577	635
a4	Lettings		3553		3553	6512
a5	Other receipts		9013	3337	12350	17397
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		65549	3337	68886 (a7)	81973

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		43600		43600	43600
b3	Contributions		400		400	2440
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		10083		10083	5299
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		8359		8359	10223
b6	Sound system		0		0	5468
b7	Other payments		7757	5513	13270	11668
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		70199	5513	75712 (b9)	78698

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(4650)	(2176)	(6826)	3275
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		57295	24965	82260 (c6)	78985
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	52645	22789	75434	
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(298)	298		(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	52347	23087	75434 (c8)	82260 (c6)

SECTION D				
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS				
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)			

NORTON METHODIST

Church

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	14416	17805	(3389)	(25)	9881	6467
Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	68886	75712	(6826)		82260	75434
TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD	83302	93517	10215	(25)	92141	81901
e10 BY CHURCH						
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2020

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	16	41
f2 Bank Current Account	17349	14590
f3 Bank Deposit Account	0	0
f4 Central Finance Board	12402	7963
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	52493	52840
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	82260	75434
Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	9881	6467
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	92141	81901

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2019	At 31 August 2020
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re insurance value)	3017842	3090306
g3 Other Assets	464839	476000
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

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

Name of Church NORTON METHODIST No.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer Kay Dodsworth Date 13th Oct 2020

Name and address of treasurer KAY DODSWORTH

3 KEITHLANDS AVE, NORTON Post Code TS20 2QP
STOCKTON-ON-TEES

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 22ND DECEMBER 2020

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: SWA CAYFORD

Name of the Chair of the meeting: REV SWA CAYFORD Date 29/12/20

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

NORTON METHODIST Church

Charity Number 1143687

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the NORTON METHODIST Church for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages 1 to 5. As the Church'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 Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church NORTON METHODIST No

Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I ~~have~~ have not* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner V Wootton

Name of independent examiner Mrs VALERIE WOOTTON

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner RETIRED BANK CLERK

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 34 TENNYSON ROAD

BILLINGHAM Post Code TS23 3YX

Date 16 NOVEMBER 2020

* delete or circle as appropriate

September 2020