

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

NORTON METHODIST	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2021

STOCKTON	Circuit	Circuit no	1303
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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 DR. VINCENT JAMBAWO

Church Stewards:

TRUDIE HORSEMAN
CATHERINE BEMROSE
IRENE BARCLAY
COLIN BELL
CAROLYN OLIVER

Treasurer:

KAY DODSWORTH

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	48635		48635	52406
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	189		189	577
a4	Lettings	1395		1395	3553
a5	Other receipts	4414	763	5177	12350
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	54633	763	55396 (a7)	68886

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	31800		31800	43600
b3	Donations	200		200	400
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	8416		8416	10083
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	7700		7700	8359
b6					
b7	Other payments	6551	774	7325	13270
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	54667	774	55441 (b9)	75712

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(34)	(11)	(45)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		52347	23087	75434 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	52313	23076	75389
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	52313	23076	75389 (c8)

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)			

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 2021 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						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	12305	11501	804		6467 (e11)	7271 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	55396 (a7)	55441 (b9)	(45)		75434 (c6)	75389 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	67701	66942	759		81901 (x)	82660 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	41	1
f2 Bank Current Account	14590	14395
f3 Bank Deposit Account	0	0
f4 Central Finance Board	7963	8081
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	52840	52912
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	75434 (c6)	75389 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	6467 (e11)	7271 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	81901 (x)	82660 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	3090306	3090306
g3 Other Assets	476000	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 2021 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

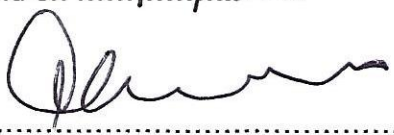
Signature of treasurer Kay Dodsworth Date 28.10.21

Name and address of treasurer KAY DODSWORTH

3 KEITHLANDS AVENUE, NORTON Post Code TS20 2QP

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 15/2/2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: 

Name of the Chair of the meeting: VINCENT AMBROSE Date 15/2/2022

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 2021 set out on pages 2 to 3. 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.

Name of ChurchNORTON 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 examinerV Wootton.....

Name of independent examinerVALERIE WOOTTON.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examinerRETIRED BANK OFFICIAL.....

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address.....

..... Post Code

Date22-11-21.....

* delete or circle as appropriate

NORTON METHODIST CHURCH TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 August 2021

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 106 (which is a small decrease on last year).

The Managing Trustees are the Church Council members. The membership of the Church Council consists of Ministers, appointed office holders and representatives elected by the Church General Meeting (open to all church members). New Trustees are thus appointed from time to time at the discretion of the existing Trustees.

For the year ending 31st August 2021, the practical governance and management of the church has been significantly affected by the COVID pandemic. There were 2 National Lockdowns in the year (5th November to 2nd December 2020 - and - 6th January to 8th March 2021) in addition to local restrictions affecting sectors and activities.

Because of these lockdowns and other legal restrictions and related government guidance, it has not been possible for the usual church planning and decision making meetings to take place physically. In the period from the end of August 2020 through to early July 2021 the elected Church Stewards together with the Minister have acted as 'operational trustees' (with the full support and agreement of the Church Council members).

During these first 10 months of the year the Stewards and Minister held regular 'virtual' meetings to progress business and make relevant decisions on behalf of the full Council. For significant issues / decisions, the Stewards consulted with others in the church with relevant skills and knowledge - and the full Council was kept informed throughout.

The first physical (socially distanced) Church Council meeting was finally held on 11th July 2021 where formal operational responsibilities were handed back to the full Council. It is anticipated that the Council will now be able to meet physically going forward (subject to any relevant guidance and prevailing health and safety advice).

Throughout this year all activities have been subject to appropriate COVID risk assessments which are reviewed in the light of changing government rules.

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.

Public worship is normally held on Sunday and Tuesday mornings in planned services. We also continue to develop ecumenical links with other churches in Norton through 'Churches Together in Norton'. Norton Methodist Church is part of the Stockton Methodist Circuit.

As with the governance and management of the church, since August 2020 most of the activities of the church have been affected by restrictions arising from the ongoing COVID pandemic. The normal church services were suspended during the National Lockdown periods but resumed when permitted in accordance with COVID safe practices and guidance from the Methodist Church and Stockton Circuit. Throughout this year the Stockton Methodist Circuit, has held virtual Sunday services (on Zoom) for those not able or wishing to attend physical services.

It has been recognised that some of the church 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.

During this year, most of the regular activities offered or hosted by the church had to be suspended due to COVID restrictions. The exception to this has been the Norton Methodist Playgroup. The Playgroup, offering early years provision, has continued to meet (whenever the guidance allowed) on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings during school term time. Indeed, the numbers attending and demand for places has been such that the intention is to increase staffing levels and hence offer more places to local children.

In July 2021 following further relaxation of COVID restrictions, the Church Parent and Toddlers group also re-started on a Thursday morning. Again, demand for places has been high and it was decided to hold a second weekly session on a Tuesday morning.

Norton Methodist Church Safeguarding policy is regularly updated in alignment with the Methodist Connexional policy and practice, and statutory regulations and guidance. The church has a Safeguarding Officer who advises Church Council (trustees) regularly on policies and practice to ensure we meet current standards and requirements. Safeguarding 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.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The COVID pandemic continues to have a significant impact on achievements and performance this year. As mentioned above, there were two extended National Lockdowns during the year, as well as significant restrictions imposed for most of the rest of the year, aimed at reducing the spread of the virus.

Given this situation the church has in summary achieved the following (in addition to the activities mentioned above) :-

- Contact has been maintained with local community groups including those who have been regular users of our premises prior to the COVID pandemic.
- Pastoral support has been offered to members and adherents throughout the year.
- Monthly newsletters have been produced for members and friends and circulated via electronic means as well as paper copies.
- When permitted the church has been open for prayer.
- The church supported Christian Aid in its annual fundraising week in May 2021.
- Toys were collected and delivered to the Salvation Army locally in response to their annual Christmas 2020 appeal.
- The church has been actively considering the way forward in readiness for future lifting of restrictions.

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESERVE POLICY

Our main source of income comes from our weekly and monthly offerings (including Gift Aid).

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 due to COVID lockdowns and ongoing restrictions.

It should be noted that the church was able to take advantage of the dispensation not to pay the fourth instalment of the Circuit Assessment which saved expenditure of £10,000.

Given the current 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 short / medium or long term.

Looking ahead, it is likely that income will improve to some extent from the hiring of the premises. It is, however, unfortunately increasingly likely that building maintenance and repair costs will increase to a greater extent. The church has now set up a group specifically to look at options going forward. Whilst these options do relate to our buildings and facilities they will primarily be driven by our vision for the future and how best to fulfil our aims and purpose going forward.

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

APPROVAL

This report has been approved by Church Council on :-

Tuesday 15th February 2022

And is signed on behalf of Council by :-

Rev Dr Vincent Jambawo 

Steve Dye 

Kay Dodsworth 