

# **NORTON METHODIST CHURCH**

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 August 2022**

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

Norton Methodist Church is a member of the Methodist Church and 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 105 (which is one less than last year).

The Managing Trustees are the Church Council members. The membership of the Church Council consists of Ministers, appointed officeholders and representatives elected by the General Church 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 2022, the Church Council (Trustees) held four planned meetings (September 2021, February 2022, June 2022, and July 2022). These covered the general governance and management of the Church and all associated activities.

Various Committees with delegated responsibilities have also met throughout the year, providing reports and updates to the Church Council (Managing Trustees) – including a Finance and Property Committee, Pastoral Committee, Family Committee and Missions Committee.

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 practices to ensure we meet current standards and requirements. Safeguarding training is planned and carried out for all those with particular roles in the church to ensure good practice and high standards are maintained.

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 serving others, we aim to be good neighbours to people in need and challenge injustice, to be a presence in the community.

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

The ongoing COVID pandemic from 2021 into 2022 significantly affected activities in the church, particularly for the first six months between September 2021 and February 2022, with government guidance being regularly updated. The church adhered to the relevant guidance throughout. At the end of February 2022, the government announced the lifting of all legal domestic COVID restrictions. The church continued to adopt a cautious approach to opening activities as, despite the successful vaccination programme, it was recognised that COVID remained present in the church and community. Throughout this year, all activities have been

subject to appropriate COVID risk assessments which were reviewed in the light of changing government guidance.

Despite this, most of our internal activities and groups have now restarted and our premises have reopened to external community groups and commercial organisations. The Norton Methodist Playgroup and Parent and Toddlers group have continued to meet throughout the period providing early years provision.

The church has been developing ongoing preparation and support for families wishing to have their children baptised at the church. The request for baptisms continues to be strong.

In addition to our regular church and community activities, this year the church has launched several new initiatives (see Achievements and Performance section) in support of our stated mission and objectives. These included: - Developing a 'Community Pantry', a 'Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide' (SOBS) support group, responding to the Methodist Church 'God in Love Unites Us' initiative, including same-sex marriages and improved provision for families with young children.

We have also been carrying out a full review of our future mission planning, potential linked activities and updating/modernising our church buildings, which we have called 'Building the Future in Faith'.

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

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

Pastoral support has continued to be offered to members and adherents throughout the year.

Monthly Newsletters and Weekly Notices have been produced for members and friends and circulated via electronic means and/or as paper copies.

Toys were collected and delivered to the Salvation Army locally in response to their annual Christmas 2021 appeal, and the church supported Christian Aid in its annual fundraising week in May 2022.

**Community Pantry** -- A Community Pantry was set up and running every Sunday. Linked to reducing food waste, collections are made from various Tesco and other local supermarkets on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. The donated food collected is laid out in the Church Hall, and around 80 people, mainly from the local community, visit the Pantry each week. The Pantry has received a number of grants and donations and does not call on general church funds. This initiative helps reduce food waste and provides free food every week for those who need it.

**Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide (SOBS)** -- The church now hosts a group meeting once per month for those who have been bereaved by suicide. The leaders of this group are trained to provide support and care for those who attend.

**God in Love Unites Us** -- The church has responded positively to the Methodist Church 'God in Love Unites Us' report. Following consultation within the church, the Trustees have approved the registration of Norton Methodist Church premises for same-sex marriages. Once the application has been accepted by the local and national registrar offices, this will be publicised locally.

**Provision for families with young children** -- Within the main church building, we have created a dedicated area for young children to allow them and their families to attend services in a more relaxing environment. This has also proved successful for families and friends attending baptism services.

**Building the Future in Faith** – The church has been running a process to create a Church Mission Development Plan for the future. This will become the foundation for the life and mission-related activities of the church going forward. We intend to carry out significant developments to our premises to facilitate and expand these activities. Various options for upgrading, modernising, and reconfiguring our buildings have been developed and proposed to the Church Council.

It is recognised that each option will require significant fundraising and successful grant applications, which will now become a key focus for the church. It is also recognised that our current premises are ageing and becoming increasingly unfit for purpose.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESERVE POLICY**

Our primary source of income comes from our weekly and monthly offerings (including Gift Aid). We also generate income from letting our premises to community and commercial groups.

We have a reserve policy to ensure there is always sufficient cash-backed unrestricted general funds available to cover six months' expenditure.

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

Following on from 2020/2021, this year has remained challenging financially. There has been an improvement relative to last year in income from offerings (and gift aid) and from the hiring of the premises as lettings have gradually increased post-COVID restrictions.

However, costs had also increased this year (primarily in the Circuit Assessment relative to 2020/2021 when there was a temporary reduction) and also linked to essential building maintenance and repairs.

As can be seen in the Standard Form of Accounts (Receipts and Payments), the result has been a financial deficit over the year, albeit relatively modest.

Efforts continue both to increase income and reduce costs.

However, there are currently sufficient funds to cover our known short-term requirements.


## **APPROVAL**

This report has been approved by Church Council on: -

Monday 13th February 2023

And is signed on behalf of the Council by: -

Rev Dr Vincent Jambawo 

Steve Dye 

Margaret Murray 

THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

NORTON METHODIST	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2022

STOCKTON - ON - TEES 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. VINCENT JAMBAYO

Church Stewards:

TRUDIE HORSEMAN

CATHERINE BEMROSE

IRENE BARCLAY

COLIN BELL

CAROLYN OLIVER

Treasurer:

MARGARET MURRAY

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year	
		£	£	£	£	
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		54 925	54 925	48 635	
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		218	218	189	
a4	Lettings		5207	5207	1395	
a5	Other receipts		2407	8675	5177	
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		62 757	8675	71 432 (a7)	55 396
SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		40,000	40,000	31800	
b3	Donations		-	-	200	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		6600	6600	8416	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		9290	9290	7700	
b6						
b7	Other payments		9849	9849	7325	
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		65 739	-	65 739 (b9)	55 441
SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(2982)	8675	5693	(45)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		52 313	23 076	75 389 (c6)	75 434
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	49 331	31 751	81 082	75 389
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	49 331	31 751	81 082 (c8)	75 389 (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)					

## 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 2022 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	14102	12776	1326	(2)	7271 (e11)	8595 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	71432 (a7)	65739 (b9)	5693	(c7)	75389 (c6)	81082 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	85534	78515	7019	(2)	82660 (x)	89677 (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 2022

f1	Cash in hand
f2	Bank Current Account
f3	Bank Deposit Account
f4	Central Finance Board
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
f6	Other funds
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH

OPENING  
BALANCES

1
14395
-
8081
52912
75389 (c6)
7271 (e11)
82660 (x)

CLOSING  
BALANCES

16498
-
11575
53009
81082 (c8)
8595 (e12)
89677 (y)

## Section G

## OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

1 September 2021

MARCH 2023  
31 August 2022

g1	Investments (include Endowments)
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)
g3	Other Assets
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end
g5	Other Liabilities

3090306
476000

2192733	CHURCH
1629499	HALL
93586	CONTEI

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. 1303

## Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 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 M. Murray Date 20/4/2023

Name and address of treasurer MARGARET MURRAY  
12 FALCON LANE, NORTON, STOCKTON-ON-TEES Post Code TS 20 1LS

### Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were/will be\* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 9/5/2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting: 

Name of the Chair of the meeting: VINCENT JAMBALO Date 9/5/2023

### 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 2022 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.

\* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church NORTON METHODIST No 1303

### 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 [Signature]

Name of independent examiner JACK MEY

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner RETIRED BURSAR / COMPANY  
TREASURER (DIRECTOR)

Name of firm (where appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_

Address 3 FALCON LANE

NORTON Post Code TS20 1LS

Date 30th APRIL 2023

\* delete or circle as appropriate

September 2022

THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

NORTON METHODIST	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

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REV. VINCENT JAMBAYO
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Signature of independent examiner [Signature]

Name of independent examiner JACK MEY

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner RETIRED BURSAR / COMPANY  
TREASURER (DIRECTOR)

Name of firm (where appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_

Address 3 FALCON LANE

NORTON Post Code TS20 1LS

Date 30th APRIL 2023

\* delete or circle as appropriate

September 2022