

# **NORTON METHODIST CHURCH TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 August 2024**

## **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 95.

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 2023, the Church Council held four planned meetings (9th and 23rd October 2023, 12th February 2024 and 14th May 2024). 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 – 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 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 (No. 1143687).

## **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 church has been developing ongoing preparation and support for families wishing to have their children baptised at the church.

In addition to our Sunday morning services and Tuesday morning Fellowship, our regular weekly activities in support of our stated mission and objectives include: Playgroup, Toddler group, Boys Brigade and Girls Association, Wesley Guild, Community Pantry (see below), 'Messy Church' for children and young families, 'Bible and Chat', 'Warm Spaces' (see below) – and various other ad-hoc groups meeting less frequently.

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 are produced for members and friends and circulated via electronic means and/or as paper copies. In addition, there has been increased use of social media to publicise events and activities more widely.

Toys were collected and delivered to the Salvation Army locally in response to their annual Christmas 2023 appeal, and the church supported Christian Aid in its annual fundraising week in May 2024.

**Special Mission Project** – The church bi-annual Mission Project in support of a charity supporting children in Zimbabwe, called the Matthew Rusike Children's Home (MRCH) concluded in December 2023 raising £4,224 for this charity.

**Community Pantry** – The Community Pantry, now in its 4th year, continues to run every Sunday. Linked to reducing food waste, collections are made from various Tesco and other local supermarkets on Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. The donated food collected is laid out in the Church Hall, and around 80-100 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. The Pantry is run by a 'Pantry Development Group' which meets regularly and reports to the Missions Committee.

**'Warm Spaces'** – The church continues to run the 'Warm Spaces' – which started in response to the cost of living and energy price crisis through the winter of 2022/23. The church hall is opened to the public for 3 hours on Friday afternoons. This proved a popular initiative with growing numbers attending and so was continued into the spring / summer becoming a regular and expanding weekly group / meeting.

**Mission and Building Developments** – The church has continued with plans for redevelopment of its buildings linked to our forward-looking Mission Development Plans. We have received a grant from the ASDA Foundation to allow for first steps in this initiative. We will now employ an architect to develop plans for a new open-plan space in the church to be created including a new kitchen and toilets – and some repairs to the infrastructure.

## 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. Our largest expense is the 'assessment' paid to the Circuit to support the Circuit Ministers and associated costs.

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 Church Council have agreed that the accounts will continue to be presented in a 'Receipts and Payments' format.

There has been an improvement in income from offerings (and Gift Aid) and from the hiring of the premises relative to last year.

As can be seen in the Standard Form of Accounts (Receipts and Payments), following a small deficit last year, the result for this year has been a financial surplus, albeit relatively modest.

Efforts continue both to increase income and reduce costs.

There are currently sufficient funds to cover our known short-term requirements.


## APPROVAL


This report has been approved by Church Council on: -

13<sup>th</sup> May 2025

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

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

|          |         |             |       |
|----------|---------|-------------|-------|
| Stockton | Circuit | Circuit no. | 13-03 |
|----------|---------|-------------|-------|

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

114 36 87

If not a registered charity His 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 Jambawo

Church Stewards:

CATHERINE BEMROSE

IRENE BARCLAY

CAROLYN OLIVER

TRUDIE MORSEMAN (to 30.4.2024)

VALERIE WOOTTON (from 1.5.2024)

Treasurer:

Mrs Margaret Murray

| SECTION A |   |      | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|-----------|---|------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
|           |   | Note | £                  | £                | £                | £                |
| a1        | RECEIPTS                                    |      |                    |                  |                  |                  |
| a2        | Offerings and Tax recovered                 |      | 61,809             |                  | 61,809           | 57,762           |
| a3        | Bank and CFB interest and Investment income |      | 4,567              |                  | 4,567            | 2,731            |
| a4        | Lettings                                    |      | 8,209              |                  | 8,209            | 6,896            |
| a5        | Other receipts                              |      | 12,248             | 6,161            | 18,409           | 16,076           |
| a6        | TOTAL RECEIPTS                              |      | 86,833             | 6,161            | 92,994 (a7)      | 83,465           |

| SECTION B |   |  | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| b1        | PAYMENTS  |  |                    |                  |                  |                  |
| b2        | Circuit Assessment or Share                               |  | 40,000             |                  | 40,000           | 40,000           |
| b3        | Donations   |  |                    | 4,224            | 4,224            | 7,699            |
| b4        | Repairs and Maintenance                                   |  | 2,334              |                  | 2,334            | 4,624            |
| b5        | Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting) |  | 9,356              |                  | 9,356            | 10,728           |
| b6        | Norton 200  |  | 3,032              |                  | 3,032            |                  |
| b7        | Other payments  |  | 6,894              | 3,938            | 10,832           | 9,295            |
| b8        | TOTAL PAYMENTS  |  | 61,616             | 8,162            | 69,778 (b9)      | 72,346           |

| SECTION C |  |         | Unrestricted Funds | Restricted Funds | Totals this year | Totals last year |
|-----------|--|---------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| c1        | NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR         | (a6-b8) | 25,217             | (2,001)          | 23,216           | 11,119           |
| c2        | Total funds brought forward from last year |         |                    |                  | 92,201 (c6)      | 81,082           |
| c3        | Sub total                                  | (c1+c2) | 25,217             | (2,001)          | 115,417          | 92,201           |
| c4        | Transfers and adjustments                  |         |                    |                  | (c7)             |                  |
| c5        | TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR                 | (c3+c4) | 25,217             | (2,001)          | 115,417 (c8)     | 92,201 (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 2024 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/<br>Payments | Adjustments | Opening<br>balances | Closing balances |
|---|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------|------------------|
| c1 Play group   | 12,281         | 13,876            | (1,595)                   |             | 3,622               | 2,027            |
| c2 Wesley Guild   | 355            | 390               | (35)                      |             | 439                 | 404              |
| c3 Toddlers   | 2,750          | 3,379             | (629)                     |             | 629                 |                  |
| c4 Men's Breakfast  | 132            | 86                | 46                        |             | 191                 | 237              |
| e5 Boys Brigade   | 6              | 252               | (246)                     |             | 1,279               | 1,033            |
| c6  |                |                   |                           |             |                     |                  |
| c7  |                |                   |                           |             |                     |                  |
| c8 Sub total of Internal<br>Organisations funds                               | 15,524         | 17,983            | (2,459)                   |             | 6,160 (e11)         | 3,701 (e12)      |
| c9 Church accounts (totals<br>brought forward from page<br>2 - totals column) | 92,994 (a7)    | 69,778 (b9)       | 23,216                    | (c7)        | 92,201 (c6)         | 115,417 (c8)     |
| c10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD<br>BY CHURCH  | 108,518        | 87,761            | 20,757                    |             | 98,361 (x)          | 119,118 (y)      |
| Continue on a separate sheet<br>if necessary and bring the<br>totals forward  | TOTAL RECEIPTS | TOTAL<br>PAYMENTS |                           |             |                     |                  |

**SECTION F****STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024**

|   | OPENING<br>BALANCES | CLOSING<br>BALANCES |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| f1 Cash in hand   | 29                  | 872                 |
| f2 Bank Current Account   | 35,761              | 43,712              |
| f3 Bank Deposit Account   |                     |                     |
| f4 Central Finance Board  | 1,851               | 13,481              |
| f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes   | 54,560              | 57,352              |
| f6 Other funds  |                     |                     |
| f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts  | 92,201 (c6)         | 115,417 (c8)        |
| f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing<br>balance total from above) (e12) | 6,160 (e11)         | 3,701 (e12)         |
| f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH  | 98,361 (x)          | 119,118 (y)         |

**SECTION G****OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

|  | At<br>1 September 2023 | At<br>31 August 2024 |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| 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                               |                        |                      |

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 CHURCH No. CIRCUIT No: 1303

## Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 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 23/4/2025  
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 2024 were/will be\* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 15/2025.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting [Signature]  
Name of the Chair of the meeting VINCENT SAMBAWO Date 13/5/2025

### Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

NORTON METHODIST Church

Charity Number 114 3687

### 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 2024 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 13/03 .....

### 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 .....  .....

Name of independent examiner ..... J.G. MONKHOUSE .....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... FCA - Retired .....

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address ..... 12. Whinflower Drive .....

..... Stockton on Tees ..... Post Code TS20 1TR .....

Date ..... 17-04-2025 .....

\* delete or circle as appropriate