

NEW CROSS COMMUNITY CHURCH



**The Annual Report of the Local Ecumenical
Partnership**

For the period September 2024- August 2025

MISSION STATEMENT

New Cross Church- ‘A Community of FAITH, HOPE & LOVE to ALL.’

We are located in the New Cross area of the town of Sutton in Ashfield, North Nottinghamshire. We meet as ONE Church with two distinct strands; New Cross Community Church is a partnership of The Methodist Church & The Church of England-known as a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) The LEP has been in place since 2000.

As a Community of FAITH, HOPE & LOVE, we strive to BE, SAY & DO all of this (M&V Statement) in Worship, Discipleship, Mission & Service. We are committed to share the good news of God’s love in Christ, in this part of town. We seek to be SALT & LIGHT for and with New Cross.

We want to encourage each other and all people to learn more about the Christian way; to follow Jesus Christ in FAITH- to have the HOPE that Jesus brings; to LOVE others as Jesus loves us and all. We want- in the power of God, Jesus & the Holy Spirit- to be a Community that grows in FAITH, HOPE & LOVE”

INTRODUCTION & HOW WE ARE STRUCTURED CURRENTLY

New Cross Community Church is an LEP (local ecumenical partnership) between the Church of England and Methodist church. However, we have a smattering of other parts of the Christian family engaging in worship and witness in the New Cross area of Sutton- in Ashfield where the church is based. We came together in 2000 at a time when the two congregations felt that God was moving them to join together to further the kingdom.

Ministerial leadership is given by Rev. Peter Taylor from the Methodist Church, Rev. Richard Kellett, Area Dean from the Church of England. The Church Council, elected at the AGM are responsible for all aspects of the church, and is comprised of 7 members, Joanne Parr, Saralee Parr, Callum Parr, Michelle Chadwick, Vanessa Keeling, Lynne Sykes, Gemma Self and Adrian Self, Methodist Circuit representative Margaret Lee and the afore mentioned Minister. The council meets approximately 4 times a year.

In the background are many people who do many things that allow the church to exist and continue to fulfil the vision of when the LEP came into existence. An advance THANK YOU to all who do so much.

OUR MEMBERSHIP & CHURCH ATTENDANCE

The membership of the church has an interesting levelling effect. We meet together as a worshipping community and the distinctions of the parental churches are blurred to give New Cross a unique way in which it operates and worships.

We have one service on a Sunday at 10.00 a.m. We also have extra services at times in the year when appropriate.

Church attendance is stable averaging between 16 and 20 per week.

OUR SERVICES

Our services continue to reflect the unique nature of the LEP. We have two services per month reflecting the Anglican style of worship and two reflecting the Methodist style of worship. We have a family service every 4th Sunday with breakfast run and led by Joanne Parr LLM . We are so thankful for those members, who in spite of not being able to attend, still kindly support the work of the church financially. We remember and miss all those members of the congregation who are no longer with us. Thanks to all who have played a part over the last year in making it so the church can function with all of its worship and activities especially Rev Peter Taylor, Rev. Richard Kellet, Adam, Joanne, Michelle, Adrian.

REPORT FROM OUR MINISTER REV PETER TAYLOR

WWED!? What would Ecclesiastes do!? What do we do with our New Cross TIME?

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: ² a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to break down and a time to build up; ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; ⁶ a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away; ⁷ a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; (Ecclesiastes 3 selected verses-NRSV)

Time moves on so fast! Here we are approaching Easter season and another AGM season.

My time with this Circuit, five churches and the associated communities comes to an end this Summer. I cannot believe that it will be nine years in August when I moved to Sutton in Ashfield. As a family we have been very happy in Sutton. This is the longest time we have ever lived in one place since Sam and I got married. But I know I am ready for a new TIME and

season for my ministry. And likewise, for you and the other churches, a new TIME and season will come. I know you will welcome Rev. John Wiseman when he comes in September. He brings experiences of LEP Churches too.

What will the future TIME hold for you and me? In Methodism ministers often serve for a set amount of TIME. I feel a bit apprehensive but looking forward to a new time and place.

As you know, we are currently involved in **a review of the New Cross LEP**. Financially, practically, Spiritually, mission-ally, we have a lot to face up to. I will be honest, being in an LEP is not always easy. I have found it to be a huge learning curve, strange and difficult at points. Two denominations, people on the ground trying to work out How & Which way to move!

There is a time for everything- I believe now is **the time to be open to all possibilities for this church**. Do we have the time and energy to keep the 'show on the road?' ('Show' is the wrong phrase, but you know what I mean!) Do we have the appetite to do all that needs to be done? To raise a lot of money to address vital repairs needed in the next 24 months? Remember most of the church is an old Victorian building.

Do we need to be in this building? Could we be New Cross Community Church in another form, space/location in this part of town? No easy answers, but I have pondered and prayed on this recently. There is a heart to serve the community, although we need to create & encourage more discipleship-amongst ourselves and others. We can still be the Body of Christ-a worshipping community in a community hall, a rented unit or school hall?

In our thinking and praying we hold onto God- What Ecclesiastes calls (in the NIV) **'the cord of three strands:'** *Two are better than one.. .¹¹ if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹² And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.* (Ecclesiastes 4:10-11- NRSV) **God is the third cord.**

Finally, for us all we remember these words from a hymn: *"Tis Jesus, the first and the last,
whose Spirit shall guide us safe home; we'll praise him for all that is past,
and trust him for all that's to come.* " Joseph Hart (1712–1767)

Thank you to you all-who serve God in this place. And Thank you New Cross for your support for me and my family. God Bless you all,

Pete

Rev. Peter Taylor- Methodist & Ecumenical Minister

It has been good these last twelve months to travel alongside New Cross Community church and getting to know the team well. It has been good to work with your wonderful Licensed Lay Ministers, Adrian and Joanne to help focus their work and ministry. It has been great to see what has been achieved in helping people grow deeper in discipleship and the resurgence of children mid-week and on Sundays as we seek to grow the church younger.

I am part of the review group that is reporting back to your two sponsoring bodies: The Methodist District and The Church of England Diocese. We're looking at your strengths and opportunities you have as well as considering the challenges you face, not least the financial challenges of depending on regular lettings. It is good to see how much the church is used by the community every day of the week and I'm especially grateful for all the hard work that the team of volunteers puts in to make everything happen.

Do continue to pray with me for the Lord's ongoing guidance as we seek to bring the Living Hope of Jesus to the people of New Cross by Growing Disciples of Christ with Compassion, Confidence and Courage.

Rev Richard Kellett

DIOCESE DEANERY CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT

Methodist Circuit

Adrian Self is the Methodist Circuit representatives and they have attended meetings around the circuit representing New Cross. They meet every 3 months to discuss matters concerning the Methodist Churches in our circuit.

Newstead Deanery Synod meets around 4 times a year to discuss matters concerning the Church of England. Joanne Parr and Michelle Chadwick are our Deanery Reps.

They report back to the ECC what has been discussed. Matters raised included finance, property, safeguarding and special announcements.

THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

Safeguarding

Gemma Self is the named safeguarding representative, the policy has been updated. A reminder safeguarding training takes place at times during the year through the circuit and Rev Peter Taylor does the DBS

Prayer Chain

The prayer chain is still active. This is a small group of people who, when contacted, hold people up in prayer. All information regarding people who want prayer is confidential.

Giggles-Girls in God Growing Loving Eating and Sharing

Giggles is still a popular group, between 25 and 35 attendees, they meet monthly on a Saturday night to share a meal, activities, speakers and often a testimony. Some of the meetings have been based on a theme. Thanks are extended to all who help to run the group.

New Cross Community Bingo

A group of 15 to 20 ladies and gentlemen meet between 1.00 and 3.00 p.m. on a Tuesday to play bingo for small prizes and a good chat. This group is always busy.

Toddlers

The toddler group is a popular group with families the group meets on Monday mornings between 9.30 and 11.00 a.m. The children enjoy snacks, Christian activities, a safe environment in which to play and singing.

Children's Bingo

The children's bingo attracts approximately 30 children, they play for little prizes. They also do crafts.

Choir

A group of people meet on Tuesday evenings at 7.15 p.m.. They enjoy singing and learning songs old and new.

Children's Disco

Children and families enjoy the discos. There are 30 plus children who come for food and fun.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club runs during the school holidays, the families are offered breakfast, craft activities and a time of fun. This is always a popular event.

Friendship Friday

This group of approximately 35 people runs between 9.00a.m. and 12.00p.m. on Fridays. They meet up for breakfast, knitting, painting, Christian activities, bingo and a good chat.

Young People's Prayer Group

Little Lambs aged between 0 and 8 and Raised Together 0 to 16 meet fortnightly for prayer, worship, activities and food. Around 15 children and 10 adults attend.

Book Club

This group led by Michelle, one of our churchwardens, meets the first Monday in the month. They read different genre of books chosen by the group, and chat about it. There are about 10 regulars who attend.

We also continue to hire the building as a polling station, for groups such as ATTFE, offering courses to the wider community, Slimming World and for private parties.

Thanks are extended to all who have contributed to the running of this church and its endeavors to reach out to the people of New Cross.

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

New Cross Community Church LEP

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2025

Borders Mission	Circuit	Circuit no.	22/13
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

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:

Peter Taylor (Methodist Presbyterian) & In Vacancy (Anglican)

Church Stewards:

Joanne Parr & Michelle Chadwick

Treasurer:

Michelle Chadwick

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/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	28,460 (a7)	32,499 (b9)	(4,039)	(c7)	34,228 (c6)	30,189 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	28,460	32,499	(4,039)		34,228 (x)	30,189 (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 2024**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	11,913	5,866
f3 Bank Deposit Account	12,371	14,379
f4 Central Finance Board		
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds	9,944	9,944
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	34,228 (c6)	30,189 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	34,228 (x)	30,189 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	4,543	4,948
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	1,732,283	1,732,283
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)

New Cross Community Church LEP

Church

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	8,102		8,102	8,826
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	2,025		2,025	1,391
a4	Lettings	7,753		7,753	5,826
a5	Other receipts	9,620	960	10,580	18,256
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	27,500	960	28,460	34,299

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	18,688		18,688	19,283
b3	Donations				
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	255		255	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	6,134		6,134	6,401
b6					
b7	Other payments	7,422		7,422	8,190
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	32,499		32,499	33,874

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(4,999)	960	(4,039)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	10,355	23,873	34,228	33,803
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	5,356	24,833	30,189
c4	Transfers and adjustments				
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	5,356	24,833	30,189

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)	£	£
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)

Name of Church .. New Cross Community Church LEP

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.

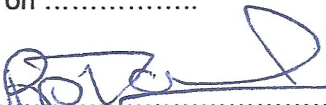
Signature of treasurer Michelle Chadwick 

Name and address of treasurer 4 Beeley Avenue Sutton in Ashfield Notts 23.11.25

..... Post Code....NG17 1GF

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 20²⁵~~24~~ were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting PD TAYLOR Date 4/1/26

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

New Cross Community Church LEP

Charity Number

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the New Cross Community Church LEP for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages ... to 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 .. New Cross Community Church LEP

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 JOANNE DOCHERTY

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCCA

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 4 LARCHDALE CLOSE, BROADMEADOWS,

SOUTH NORMANTON, DERBYSHIRE Post Code DE55 3NZ

Date 6/12/25

* delete or circle as appropriate