

CHRISTCHURCH CLARENDON PARK (BAPTIST/METHODIST)**ANNUAL REPORT, YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024****Administrative information**

Christchurch Clarendon Park is a Baptist/Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP), formed in 1992 by the former Clarendon Park Baptist and Clarendon Park Methodist Churches. The church meets in the premises of the former Methodist Church, which were extensively remodelled and refurbished in 1996/7.

We are members of the Leicester Trinity Methodist Circuit (23/7), the East Midland Baptist Association and the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

The address is Christchurch Clarendon Park

105a Clarendon Park Road

LEICESTER LE2 3AH

Tel. (0116) 270 5369

Website: www.christchurchcp.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/christchurchcp

Twitter: www.twitter.com/christchurch_cp

Email: enquiries@christchurchcp.org.uk

General correspondence should be addressed to the Church Secretary:

Mr Chris Whitford, 23 Brinsmead Road, Leicester LE2 3WD

Correspondence concerning the accounts should be addressed to the Church Treasurer:

Miss Jennifer Whillis, 90 St Leonard's Road, Leicester LE2 1WR

Christchurch is **Registered Charity No.1148934**.

Risk Assessment and review is carried out by the Finance and Property Team (in respect of buildings and health and safety) and by the Executive concerning the future viability of the Church.

The number of church members at the beginning and end of this period was

	31 August 2023	31 August 2024
Baptist	13	11
Methodist	29	27
Joint	<u>37</u>	<u>31</u>
	79	69

In addition, there are approximately a further 50 people on the community roll and a considerable number of contacts through groups which use the church premises on a regular basis.

The Managing Trustees are the members of the Executive. Ordained ministers in pastoral charge are *ex officio* members of the Executive. The other members are elected by the Annual Church Meeting. The Trustees have the power to co-opt up to a further four Trustees.

The current Trustees and those who served during the year ended 31 August 2024 are

Mr Mark Asher	Mr Alan Stead
Miss Alison Charlesworth	Mr Chris Whitford (Secretary)
Rev Kate Cook (until 31 Aug 2024)	Miss Jennifer Whillis (Treasurer)
Mr David Eyre	Dr Lawrence Whittaker
Rev Andrew Farrington (from 1 Sep 2024)	

Independent Examiner

Alison Murray, 184 Howard Road, Leicester LE2 1XL

Bankers

Barclays Bank, 1–3 Haymarket Towers, Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WA

National Westminster Bank, 1 Granby Street, Leicester LE1 6EJ

Aims and organisation

The purpose of Christchurch is to advance the Christian faith primarily in Clarendon Park, Knighton, Knighton Fields and Stoneygate, in the city of Leicester. In achieving its purpose, the Church engages in a range of activities both on its own and with others, as described later in this document. The agreed aims and objectives are the responsibilities of a number of Teams and Committees, especially the Executive, the Mission & Ministry Team and the Resources Team.

During the year, pastoral oversight was provided by Rev Kate Cook, a Methodist supernumerary Presbyterian. A Baptist input was maintained by our Associate Baptist Minister Rev John Rackley, who conducted services and gave other input when requested. (From September 2024 pastoral oversight has been provided by Rev Andrew Farrington.)

Public benefit

The Trustees are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and have regard to it in their administration of the Church. The Trustees believe that, by fulfilling their responsibility to work together with the ministers and co-operate in all matters of concern and importance for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, they provide benefit to the public by:

- Providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for the Church members and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers;
- Promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church to the community, to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole;
- Providing attractive meeting facilities to a wide range of community groups.

Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults

There were no *serious incidents* or other matters relating to Christchurch during the year ended 31 August 2024 which the Trustees should have brought to the attention of the Charity Commission.

Review of significant events, progress and achievements

The number of members has gone down again this year, although the size of the congregation at services remains steady at about 45. Several new people are worshipping regularly with us, who may become members.

Rev Kate Cook left us at the end of this connexional year, and we are very grateful for her leadership over the last 2½ years. In September we welcomed Rev Andrew Farrington as our minister, also serving as the Methodist Circuit superintendent. Revd John Rackley continues to provide valuable service as an Associate Baptist Minister. However there has been no response to the call for a part-time Baptist minister and we are looking for further ways to strengthen our links with the Baptist family.

The pattern of Sunday services is unchanged, with two services a month in the hall and the remainder in the Worship Centre, with a mid-week service fortnightly on Wednesday mornings. Streaming of services on Zoom has come to an end as there's no longer any demand for it.

Monthly church lunches resumed in January, with four "hosts" (providing the meal) and eight "guests". Limiting the number to twelve keeps it manageable and provides a space for relaxed conversation, particularly for those who find socialising more difficult.

The Bible study group and the contemporary theology group continue to meet; monthly 'Prayer Breakfasts' are held on Saturdays. A series of interfaith dialogues, "A Taste of Faith" was held during the winter. We continue to look for ways to engage with the local community; in Advent the visit by Avenue Road Primary School and the Community Carol Service have become regular events, and the weekly "Christchurch Crafting" is increasing its membership. The church is open to visitors during the twice-yearly Queens Road Fairs and the annual "Ride and Stride".

Financial review

Following a surplus in 2022/23, we have this year recorded an annual loss. There was a significant increase in expenditure on maintaining the property, with repairs to the heating system making up a large part of this. More expensive fuel contracts increased the amount we spent on gas and electricity.

Thanks to the work of our Lettings Officer, Jean Baxter, we again saw an increase in lettings income which meant that the deficit was much smaller than it might have been given the higher cost of maintaining the building this year.

Reserves Policy

Christchurch seeks to expand its membership amongst all age groups and makes provision for the expected expenditure in maintaining its witness. In common with most UK churches, however, its membership has declined in recent decades.

The income of the church depends critically on some two dozen key supporters, any of whom could move away or otherwise cease to be with us. As the membership falls, there are fewer volunteers for the tasks of maintenance, necessitating increased expenditure on professional services. With buildings valued at £9.2m, some of which are more than 120 years old, there is also the risk of exceptional property expenditure, for example for a new roof or the remedy of an infestation of dry rot.

The church therefore considers it appropriate to maintain financial reserves in the range £50,000 – £100,000, for uninsurable risks, such as loss of income and exceptional property expenditure. At 31st August 2023 the reserves (General Fund) amounted to some £65,100 (during the year the Legacy Fund was merged into the General Fund). There was one Designated Fund, a Renovation Fund (£19,900) for major maintenance of the fabric.

The Reserves Policy is reviewed each spring by the Finance and Property Team, whose recommendations are brought before the Trustees.

This Annual Report was approved by the Trustees


on 13th November 2024

and signed on their behalf by

(signature) 

full name Christopher Henry Whitford

office Church Secretary

(signature) 

full name Jennifer Whillis

office Church Treasurer

CHRISTCHURCH, CLARENDON PARK

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds, £	Restricted Funds, £	Total Funds, £	Last Year, £
		£			£
Receipts					
Planned Giving		34,793		34,793	39,268
Loose Cash		2,844		2,844	2,956
Donations		5,027		5,027	4,731
Legacies		-	-	-	-
Interest		3,056		3,056	2,214
Tax recovered		10,823		10,823	12,204
Sundry		2,396	5,825	8,221	4,227
Lettings		28,575		28,575	21,832
Benevolence		-	-	-	-
Collections, etc, for external orgs	3		719	719	1,889
Sub total		87,515	6,544	94,059	89,322
Asset & Investment sales, etc		-	-	-	-
Total Receipts		87,515	6,544	94,059	89,322
Payments					
Methodist Circuit		35,554		35,554	41,214
Baptist Ministry, etc	4	1,593		1,593	2,232
Charities		4,196		4,196	4,070
Benevolence			63	63	58
Communication		1,686		1,686	2,072
Utilities	5	13,722		13,722	10,578
Repairs & Maintenance		26,091		26,091	9,596
Sundry		6,727	5,468	12,195	7,503
Passed to external organisations	3		719	719	1,889
Sub total		89,570	6,250	95,820	79,211
Asset & Investment purchases		-	-	-	-
Total Payments		89,570	6,250	95,820	79,211
<i>Net of receipts/(payments)</i>	-	2,055	294	- 1,761	10,111
Transfers between funds	-	63	63		-
Cash funds last year end		85,072	614	85,686	75,575
Cash funds this year end		82,954	971	83,925	85,686

ASSETS and LIABILITIES as at 31 August 2024

		£	£
ASSETS			
Cash Funds			
Barclays Bank		18,900	11,115
National Westminster Bank		3,307	1,081
CFB Deposit Account		33,790	36,928
Deposits with Baptist Union Corporation		27,928	36,447
Cash in Hand		-	115
		83,925	85,686
Investment Assets			
		None	None
Land and Church Buildings			
	<i>Note 1.2</i>	606,381	606,381
Tangible Fixed Assets			
Church contents, including furniture, fixtures, fittings, computers and other equipment	<i>Note 1.3</i>	258,100	218,428
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
		None	None
Pension Scheme Liability			
	<i>Note 7</i>	-	42,800

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 August 2024**1 GENERAL**

- 1.1 The basis of preparation is in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, on a Receipts and Payments basis.
- 1.2 The Church Land and Buildings are valued at cost, as follows:
- | | |
|---|---------|
| Land and original buildings (1900) | 9,822 |
| Refurbishment and new buildings (1996/97) | 596,559 |
- 1.3 The Church Contents are valued as for insurance.
- 1.4 The current Restricted Funds which had a balance at 31st August 2024 are the *Key Deposits Fund* (£325), the *Event Deposits Fund* (£599) and the *WarmSpace Fund* (£47.02). There is one Designated Fund, a *Renovation Fund* (£11,694) for major maintenance of the fabric.

2 INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

The following organisations come within the control of the Church Meeting and operate their own independent accounts. Their transactions for the year, which have been independently examined, are summarised below:

	Balance 31.8.2023	Receipts	Payments	Balance 31.8.2024
Junior Church	830	-	-	830
Luncheon Club	1,425	2,139	2,492	1,072
Parent & Toddler Group	1,500	410	1,900	10
TOTALS	3,755	2,549	4,392	1,912

**3 COLLECTIONS, ETC,
FOR EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

Christian Aid	445
Action for Children	79
Spurgeon's Children's Charity	79
Methodist World Mission	35
BMS World Mission	35
Methodist Women In Britain	46
	719

4 BAPTIST MINISTRY, etc

Baptist Pension Scheme	66
Rev John Rackley	1,527
	1,593

5 UTILITIES

Gas	5,831
Electricity	3,847
Water	241
Insurance	3,803
	13,722

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 August 2024**6 BAPTIST FUNDS**

Various Baptist monies are held for the benefit of the church by the East Midland Baptist Trust Company (EMBTC) as Custodian Trustee, and these are set out below:-

	Capital	Income	Total
Balances as at 1 September 2023	103,789	75,648	179,437
Interest received		7,197	7,197
Balances as at 31 August 2024	103,789	82,845	186,634

The figures exclude accrued interest.

The amount held on Income Account can be used for any purpose agreed by the Church Meeting. Capital Account represents the proceeds of sale of the Baptist manse in 1999 for £99,620 plus surplus on disposal of investments in which the proceeds were originally held. Income Account represents the accumulated interest, etc, since received on the Capital Account.

7 BAPTIST PENSION SCHEME

At 31st August 2023 Christchurch had a potential liability, estimated at £42,800, to the Defined Benefit Section of the Baptist Pension Scheme (BPS).

This liability was not triggered because Rev John Rackley, our Associate Baptist Minister, was an interim member of the BPS.

In early 2024 there were two significant developments:

- 1) Rev John Rackley attained the age of 75 and was then no longer eligible as an interim member of the BPS. Soundings were made to recruit another interim member, but the developments under 2) below made this unnecessary.
- 2) Negotiations were concluded whereby the assets and liabilities of the BPS Defined Benefit scheme were acquired by an insurance company and the Trustees of the BPS confirmed that Christchurch Clarendon Park had no future financial obligation to the scheme. Christchurch successfully applied to be discharged from the Defined Benefit section of the BPS.

Name of Church CHRISTCHURCH CLARENDON PARK 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 ANSON MURRAY

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 184 Howard Road, Clarendon Park, Leicester

..... Post Code LE2 1XL

Date 10/11/2024

* delete or circle as appropriate