

## CHORLEY METHODIST CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

This is the Annual Report for the year **April 2023** to **April 2024** for Chorley Methodist Church.

Membership of the Church Council/Appointments/Team news – Rev. Helen Millward

This year we have very sadly lost a number of members at Church and these will be remembered at our AGM.

There have also been some changes in Council and Leadership Team:

- Freda Eccles had mistakenly requested to step down from the church council so was welcomed back onto it for the year.
- Due to ill health Lesley Duckworth stepped down from the leadership team and from the Safeguarding role in October.
- Sheila Halewood has joined the leadership team and the church council.
- Caroline Linfitt has moved out of Chorley and is stepping down from her role as Church council secretary in June 24. Her replacement will be agreed at the AGM in June 24.

Leadership Team now comprises: Rev. Helen Millward our Minister plus Ruth Malarkey, , Neil Saunt, David Hulse, Sheila Halewood, Simon Hardacre (Treasurer), Rev. Derek Oldham.

The Church Council now comprises:

Ruth Malarkey (Senior Steward), Helen Millward (Chair), Lincoln Shields, Keith Ashton, Lesley Duckworth, Sue Stout, Kath Hodson, Dave Hulse, Sheila Halewood, Wilf Lace, Bill Almond, Rev. Derek Oldham, Margaret Boulton, Caroline Linfitt (Secretary), Ian McCallum, Glenys Blundell, Simon Hardacre (Treasurer), Chris Hulse, Valerie Marsden, Pauline Curwen, Ruth Raynor, Neil Saunt, Sue Procter (Safeguarding Officer). Circuit Representative: Tim Melling

Information on Trustees has been updated on the Charity Commission website.

## **Spirituality and Worship – Rev Helen Millward**

The 10.30 Sunday morning service continues to be the main focus of our worship, with monthly communions. Services continue to be led by Circuit Ministers, Supernumerary Ministers and Methodist Local Preachers.

There have been monthly evening services on the last Sunday of the month. These are quieter services, communion would normally be served in them.

### **Other activities**

- Lectio – This has taken place Monday midday most weeks with variable numbers. It is seen as helpful and will continue.
- Fellowship Group - first Thursday of month - 7.30 in foyer. Different leaders. 10-12 regular members. Explores different ideas.
- Compass group – ran and though a small group they seemed to have found it helpful.
- We make the road by walking group started in September. This group developed out of the Compass group and for some people who were looking at a less formal way of being church.

### **Special Service**

1 Oct .A special service led by the Rev. Sally Ratcliffe to celebrate the 10 year anniversary of the reopening and refurbishment of Chorley Methodist Church.

### **Christmas services**

17 Dec - Nativity Service led by Sparx with congregation dressing up and participation included.

21 Dec - Blue Christmas

24 Dec – Lessons and Carols led by Church Stewards  
Crib Service was held at 4pm  
Midnight Communion.

25 Dec - Christmas Day - 10am - a shorter All Age service took place.

### **Easter Events..**

A reflective space was created looking at the events of Holy week. This was run on the Weekend that included Palm Sunday.

Some of the Easter services were shared with Chorley United Reformed Church.

Maundy Thursday's service was at the URC Church.

Good Friday Morning service was led by Rev. Derek Oldham at Chorley Methodist Church.

There were two services celebrating Easter Sunday held at Chorley Methodist Church

## **Finance Report - Simon Hardacre – Treasurer**

### **General**

Chorley Methodist Church started off the financial year with balance of £40,979 (Sept '22) which at the end of the financial year stood at £68,793 (Aug '23). Our current capital balance at the end of April '24 was £63,960.

The Accounts and Reserves Policy were signed off on behalf of the Church Council (November 2023). The Reserve policy is based on maximum of six months expenditure which is £34.9k approx. There are no restricted funds at present. However, a provision of £10k has been identified, to allow payment of initial fees or expenditure related to Church Hall/School closure /sale and also to cover any initial costs related to re-purposing Church rooms or storage provision (see expenditure detail).

### **Income**

Our Weekly Collection levels from the Envelope Scheme and Direct Debits have remained at a consistent level. Our income from lettings from the Hall has understandably dropped significantly, now the Hall has been de-commissioned. However, our expenditure on Heating and Lighting has equally fallen sharply. Our Gift Aid claim brought in a considerable sum of £8.6k in 2023.

### **Expenditure**

We have continued to fund our normal Church building maintenance, inspections and license renewals, but have also spent monies in line with our £10k provision, for increasing our storage capacity and upgrading the Church Kitchen facilities to meet our needs. Decoration of the Creche room and re-purposing the flower room have also been funded in line with our re-development vision. Other expenditure included a new (reconditioned) laptop to replace the old one.

### **Safeguarding**

The annual Safeguarding Policy was approved at the October meeting of the Church Council.

Lesley Duckworth, the church safeguarding officer has now retired from the role after many years service.

Sue Procter, was confirmed as the church safeguarding officer at the Church council in Feb 2024

There has been ongoing work to keep DBS registrations up to date, there are currently two Registrations to be updated, these are being actioned.

All people on the safeguarding database have now received (or are booked on to) either the foundation or the advanced module training/refresher training. This will continue to be monitored and those who are in need of safeguarding refresher training at both Foundation and Advanced level will be prompted to book onto training when it is available.

The process of safer recruiting continues to be updated.

## **Pastoral**

The pastoral care of the worshipping community has continued to be overseen by a small group of pastoral visitors. A meeting of this group has been held and there is ongoing work to maintain the contacts and to focus the care on those with greatest need.

For those who have not been able to access church, home communion continues to be offered quarterly.

There is an increasing number of the congregation who have been supported to attend worship by the people who fill the driving rota.

## **Children and Young People Report – Ruth Malarkey**

### **Sunday School – Sparx**

Sparx continues to be popular with our young people. It is run by a team of 7, all of whom hold a DBS and have completed safeguarding training.

The young people gather together at the beginning of the service, enjoying a range of activities; planting bulbs in the garden; crafts; discussions; games. They then join the congregation to share what they have been doing and join in with the final hymn and Blessing.

This year they have followed different themes including, characters from the Bible; Christian celebrations; Lent, Easter and Holy Week, Prayer, Love, and Harvest. They also led the Christmas Service.

Numbers vary week to week, the highest being around 12.

### **Creche**

We no longer offer a crèche, but activity bags, puzzles and books are available in the foyer to be brought into church or played with in the foyer (accompanied by a carer)

### **Messy Church**

Messy Church meets on the second Monday of the month 3.15- 5.30. It first started in 2012 and was designed for families to spend time together Creatively and to Worship together. Chorley Methodist Church is affiliated to Messy Church worldwide, which means we are on a register that people can access as they move into the area.

Over the years many families have been part of Messy Church and as their children have grown older they have moved on. For a few months we had 4 families attending but recently we have had new families coming in and enjoying time together, so once more our numbers are beginning to grow.

A session is made up of Craft (some clean, some messy), Song, Story, Prayer, Worship and Food. Our theme this year has been “people who met Jesus”, so we have shared many different Bible stories. The theme ends in July, August is a holiday and then back

in September with a new theme to divide up into different months. We have a team of about a dozen people all of whom have done the Safeguarding Course and have a DBS Certificate, three prepare and serve the meal we all enjoy together before we leave. It's an exhausting time but very rewarding as we see people getting used to using the space in a different way, chatting and helping one another.

### **Toddlers**

Toddlers continues to run term time on Tuesdays from 9:15-11:15am. From September 2023 they have been meeting in church.

Currently around 15 children attend on a regular basis, enjoying playing with toys, dressing up, craft activities and sitting down together for juice and biscuits.

The larger toys-climbing frame, kitchen and seesaw are in the church lounge; books, puzzles and a craft activity are located in the foyer; whilst floor toys and ride-ons are in church.

### **Uniformed Organizations**

The scout groups no longer meet on our premises but were invited and attended the parade services for Harvest and Remembrance Sunday. They will continue to be invited to these parade services in 2024.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides were also invited to the Harvest and Remembrance parade services.

### **Wednesday Brownie Group**

The Brownie group meets on a Wednesday , term time. This group has around 20 brownies, who enjoy a variety of games and activities, working towards badges; also going out on trips for example to the Alabaster Jar to make some pottery.

The annual sleepover will be held in August 2024, where an environmental theme will be followed.

Two new leaders are currently following the training and will soon be accredited as full leaders.

### **Wednesday Guide Group**

The Guide group continues to meet on a Wednesday, term time. This group has around 8 young people, who enjoy a variety of games and activities, working towards badges.

### **Rainbows Group**

The Rainbows group have moved to meeting on Fridays, term time and continues to be popular with a group of 22 girls, enjoying a variety of activities, including games and crafts outside when there has been good weather. A new brownie unit is also running at the same time on Fridays; both groups having 6 leaders overall.

## **Links with School**

There continues to be links with Gillibrand Primary School. They hold their harvest festival in the church in October. The year 2 pupils come up to the church for their Christingle service. The minister goes in to the school for an occasional assembly and some church members volunteer in the school.

## **Outreach & Fundraising**

### **The Cheerful Noise Singing Group**

This group is going well, meeting the first Wednesday of every month between 1.30 - 3.00 we get people inside and outside of the church attending. It's a way for people to meet together socially and enjoy singing which improves people's mental health and well being. The group is open to all and a good singing voice isn't required

### **Ladies Circle**

This has been a good year for us with some interesting speakers and events. We now have 27 regular members, plus a few ladies who join us when they can. It has also been welcome to see a few new faces, as we have sadly lost Rowena Curwen, one of our founder members and Mary Lace during this year. They are sadly missed.

In June last year we had an update about schools project in Nepal from Chris Hughes. We always remember the happy smiles.

In July we enjoyed our summer lunch at Leyland golf club – always a pleasure.

September saw the visit of Norman Harris, who gave us a very well prepared talk about Chins, as he said, a long way to go in all respects.

We were closer to home in October, when we heard about the work of the local Street Pastors in Chorley. In November we were entertained by a group TO OLD TO BE TOLD, always fun to listen too. Finally in December we made our second visit of the year to the golf club for our Christmas Lunch, a lovely social event..

This Year began for us in February, with a talk by Sid Calderbank, a local enthusiast of Lancashire dialect and poetry and history. Very entertaining, even if we did need an interpreter times. March saw the visit of our own Suzanne Cornthwaite, who recounted the trials of running the London Marathon and coping with her son's diabetes, a brave lady. In April we had a dramatic presentation about the struggles of the Suffragettes to improve the lot of women.

Looking forward to the rest of the year, we will have visits from Brian Halliwell in June, exploring the quirks of life. Norman Harris is back to tell us about his Everest trip in September and we will hear from Carol Halton in October about her Charity work in Chorley and in Africa. Ending the year on a more fun note, we will see some magic in November and gather for Christmas at the golf club in December. So, an interesting year, I hope. I would like to say a big thank you to you all for joining us regularly and especially to Margaret, Elizabeth and Kath, who have done so much, setting up chairs and tables, refreshments when Freda was not here and knowing where everything is after the big move.

**Craft afternoon**

This is new group that began in December 2023 and continues to meet on the last Tues afternoon of the month. All are welcome to come and try a different craft activity each month, bring their own craft to do and enjoy a coffee and chat.

**Coffee Morning**

Continues to go well with a good attendance and a variety of 'themes'.

**Fundraising Team**

Have been in action though out the year, with regular events which also bring everyone together socially too. Many thanks to them for all their hard work and enthusiasm.

**Property****General**

As mentioned in the Finances, there has been several property expenditures related to the closure of the hall and re-purposing/improving elements of the Church rooms/facilities. Annual License renewals and regulator inspections have continued. Clearing of the undergrowth around the sides and back of the Church was carried out. Thanks to all who help with maintaining the buildings with their free time over a multitude of tasks.

**Church Halls project – Rev Derek Oldham**

AGM briefing will be summarized and included within this annual report.\_

THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Chorley Methodist Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

Chorley & Leyland Circuit	Circuit no	41203
---------------------------	------------	-------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1151134

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:

Revd Helen Millward

Church Stewards:

Neil Saunt	Sheila Halewood
Ruth Malarkey	Caroline Linfitt
	David Hulse

Treasurer:

Simon Hardacre



SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>Note</b>			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	51,391		<b>51,391</b>	51,009
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	2,170		<b>2,170</b>	1,213
a4	Lettings	4,113		<b>4,113</b>	18,615
a5	Other receipts	27,440		<b>27,440</b>	26,666
a6	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>85,114</b>		<b>85,114 (a7)</b>	<b>97,504</b>

SECTION B					
b1	<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	52,442		<b>52,442</b>	47,055
b3	Donations				
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	7,271		<b>7,271</b>	4,036
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	19,435		<b>19,435</b>	14,013
b6					
b7	Other payments	19,838		<b>19,838</b>	4,585
b8	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>98,986</b>		<b>98,986 (b9)</b>	<b>69,689</b>

SECTION C					
c1	<b>NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(a6-b8)</b>	<b>(13,873)</b>	<b>(13,873)</b>	27,814
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		68,794	<b>68,794 (c6)</b>	40,980
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>(c1+c2)</b>	54,921	<b>54,921</b>	<b>68,794</b>
c4	Transfers and adjustments				<b>(c7)</b>
c5	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>(c3+c4)</b>	<b>54,921</b>	<b>54,921 (c8)</b>	<b>68,794 (c6)</b>

SECTION D					
<b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b>					
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	<b>BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID</b>	<b>(d1+d2-d3)</b>			

**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
Mother and Toddler Group	1,143	1,415	(272)		338	66
Ladies Circle	394	366	28		385	413
Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	1,537	1,781	(244)		723 (e11)	479 (e12)
Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	85,114 (a7)	98,986 (b9)	(13,873)	(c7)	68,794 (c6)	54,921 (c8)
<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH</b>	<b>86,651</b>	<b>100,767</b>	<b>(14,116)</b>		<b>69,517 (x)</b>	<b>55,401 (y)</b>
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>				

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

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
Cash in hand		
Bank Current Account	265	275
Bank Deposit Account	40,404	26,686
Central Finance Board	28,125	27,960
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
Other funds		
<b>SUB TOTAL - Church accounts</b>	<b>68,794 (c6)</b>	<b>54,921 (c8)</b>
Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	<b>723 (e11)</b>	<b>479 (e12)</b>
<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH</b>	<b>69,517 (x)</b>	<b>55,401 (y)</b>

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

	At 1 September 2032	At 31 August 2024
Investments (include Endowments)		
Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	2,400,000	2,400,000
Other Assets		
Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
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)

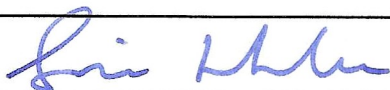


## DECLARATIONS

### Treasurer

I confirm that I have prepared the accounts from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church Council

Signature of Treasurer



Date

17.10.24

Name

Simon Hardacre

Address

67, Park Road  
Chorley  
Lancashire  
PR7 1QZ

### Presentation to the \*Church Council for approval.

I confirm that the Accounts have been presented to the Church Council on  
and were approved.

17.10.24

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev. Helen Millward

Date

13/11/2024

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

Chorley Methodist Church

This Report is on the Church Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August

2024

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed

Haslam Financial Services Ltd (appointed examiner)

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act) and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention ~~(other than that disclosed below\*)~~:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply appropriate*

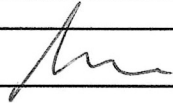
(3) I have/~~have not~~\* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB"), which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

*\* Please circle as appropriate*

Name

PETER HASLAM

Signature



Relevant Professional qualification or body

ACMA, MAAT

Address

12, NEW CHURCH ROAD  
BOLTON BL1 5QP

Date

24/01/2025

## Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention ~~(other than that disclosed below\*)~~:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply appropriate*

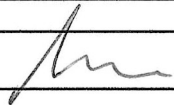
(3) I have/~~have not~~\* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes ("TMCP") or held in other Trusts, Bank balances and Funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church ("CFB"), which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

*\* Please circle as appropriate*

Name

PETER HASLAM

Signature



Relevant Professional qualification or body

ACMA, MAAT

Address

12, NEW CHURCH ROAD  
BOLTON BL1 5QP

Date

24/01/2025