

ST JOHNS METHODIST CHURCH SUDBURY

England & Wales · Charity number 1151379

Details

Other names ST JOHNS

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2013-03-26

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 5 Windsor Green
Cockfield
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
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Activities

Objects: THE PURPOSES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH ARE AND SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SINCE THE DATE OF UNION THE ADVANCEMENT OF -(A) THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DOCTRINAL STANDARDS AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH;(B) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CONNEXIONAL, DISTRICT, CIRCUIT, LOCAL OR OTHER ORGANISATION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH;(C) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY SOCIETY OR INSTITUTION SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH;(D) ANY PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CHARITY BEING A CHARITY SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Activities: 1 The furtherance of God's work in Sudbury and surrounding area 2 Propagation of the Christian faith.3 Providing and supporting positive opportunities for the development of activities to benefit the whole community.4 To work constructively with other churches of other denominations.5 Provide worship opportunities for all ages and a welcoming atmosphere for all, especially newcomers.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Essex
- Suffolk

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£230,795	£198,795	-	-
2024-08-31	£192,648	£190,665	-	-
2023-08-31	£198,153	£197,995	-	-
2022-08-31	£170,090	£172,652	-	-
2021-08-31	£135,814	£139,827	-	-
2020-08-31	£159,412	£144,421	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Jason Christopher Vinyard	Chair	2021-11-04
ANN DOREEN SMYTHE BA HONS		2013-01-27
CHRISTINE WILLIS BA HONS		2013-01-27
DIANE ELIZABETH BADRICK		2013-01-27
GILLIAN PHILLIPS		2013-01-27
ISABEL MARY HEBDEN		2013-01-27
JANE ELIZABETH BROOKER		2022-11-15
JULIE MARGARET RIX		2016-11-15
John Simon Willis		2023-11-20
Judith Reed		2021-11-04
MAUREEN HEARN		2013-01-27
Norma Phyllis Newcomb BA Hons		2020-03-13
PETER GODFREY RIX		2013-01-27
PHILIP RICHARDSON		2014-05-27
REV RUTH KAREN RIDGE		2016-05-17
RICHARD GEORGE STANFORD		2013-01-27
Rev Rita Andrea Carr		2015-09-01
SIMON FRANCIS CHARLES BADRICK ACA		2013-01-27
SUSAN PUGH BA, PGCE		2013-01-27
Sue Rampling		2014-05-27

Accounts



ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH, SUDBURY

ANNUAL REPORT 2026

Minister
The Rev Ruth Ridge
4 Kedington Court, Acton, CO10 0XB
Tel: 07447091182

St John's Methodist Church
York Road
SUDBURY
Suffolk
CO10 1ND
Church Office: 01787 373185
Registered Charity No. 1151379

CHURCH STEWARDS

Mrs G Phillips, 21 Old Court, Long Melford, CO10 9HA 01787 583557
Miss I Hebden, 3 Singleton Court, Great Cornard, Sudbury, CO10 0EN
01787 373736
Mrs J Rix, "Buxtons", Old Bury Road, Alpheton, Sudbury, CO10 9BT 01284
828775
Mrs N Newcomb, Nayland Hall Farm, Cock Street, Leavenheath, CO6 4PJ
01206 263263
Mr S Willis, 5 Windsor Green, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0LY 01284
828229

WORSHIP LEADERS

Mrs N Newcomb, Nayland Hall Farm, Cock Street, Leavenheath, CO6 4PJ
01206 263263
Mrs A Smythe, 8, Reddells Close, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2PW.
01787 585914

SENIOR COMMUNION STEWARD

Mrs D Badrick, 1 Park Road, Sudbury CO10 2QB 01787 379672

CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Mrs J Reed, 7 Turkentine Close, Great Cornard, CO10 0YR 01787 310795

TREASURER

Mr S Willis, 5 Windsor Green, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0LY 01284
828229

PROPERTY SECRETARY

Mr R G Stanford, 16 Chilton Court, Sudbury, CO10 2SH 01787 882181

CHOIR MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Mrs C Willis, 5 Windsor Green, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0LY 01284 828229

ACTION FOR CHILDREN SECRETARY

Mrs C Willis, 5 Windsor Green, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0LY 01284 828229

PASTORAL SECRETARY

Mrs M Hearn, 27, Windmill Close, Gt Cornard, CO10 0FL 01787 377524

LINK PERSON

Mr R G Stanford, 16 Chilton Court, Sudbury, CO10 2SH 01787882181

HERALD CONTACT Mrs G Phillips, 21 Old Court, Long Melford CO10 9HA 01787 583557

ST. JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL

Members (Trustees) at October 2024-2025

Rev Jason Vinyard –Superintendent Minister

Rev Ruth Ridge - Chairman



Diane Badrick	Communion Steward/Christian Aid rep
Simon Badrick	Finance/Christian Aid Rep
Jane Brooker	Circuit steward/Safeguarding Officer
Rev Rita Carr	Circuit minister
Maureen Hearn	Pastoral Secretary
Isabel Hebden	Senior Steward/Playbox Committee
Norma Newcomb	Steward
Gill Phillips	Steward/CTISD/Playbox Committee
Sue Pugh	Playbox Committee
Sue Rampling	Steward [RIP October 2025]
Judith Reed	Church Council Secretary
Philip Richardson	Administrator
Rev Ruth Ridge	Minister, St John's
Julie Rix	Steward
Peter Rix	Property/Finance
Ann Smythe	CTISD Rep
Richard Stanford	Property/Finance
Rev Jason Vinyard	Circuit Superintendent

Carol Whiteman	Resigned Nov 2025
Christine Willis	Choir Director/Action for Children
Simon Willis	Treasurer/Steward
Janet Woodard	Playbox Committee
<i>Elizabeth Lee (not a member or trustee)</i>	Community Worker

Annual Report

Minister: The Reverend Ruth Ridge

St John's Mission Statement;

St John's invites you to share the Good News of God's love in Christ.

We welcome everyone, and set out to give service to the community near and far.

Aims

1. The furtherance of God's work in Sudbury and surrounding area and supporting that work in the wider world.
2. Propagation of the Christian faith.
3. Providing and supporting positive opportunities for the development of activities to benefit the whole community.
4. To work constructively with other churches of other denominations and as appropriate with other organisations.
5. Provide worship opportunities for all ages, and a welcoming atmosphere for all, especially newcomers.



Dear Friends,

I am always amazed, when I come to write this letter, to reflect on how much happens in a year! This year we have welcomed new members and said farewell to much loved friends, we have celebrated baptisms and weddings and have taken time to study and reflect together.

Just after our last ACM, we were able to share in a church Lent

away-day at Bradfield Church, this was a wonderful opportunity to pause and think on the deeper meaning of the Easter story, before the busyness of Holy Week. Other opportunities to study come through regular bible study sessions and discussion in Book Club and at housegroups. There is also the opportunity to read more widely as our library box continues to be regularly updated.

Worship continues to be varied and enriching and we give thanks to all preachers and ministers on the plan for their dedication in preparing and leading services. Stewards and worship leaders continue to lead worship on Local Arrangement Sundays and this provides an opportunity for others to explore whether they might be called to lead worship. If you would be interested in being involved, please speak to Isabel or one of the stewards.

St John's choir continue to enrich worship with weekly introits and anthems, as well as leading our carol service. This year they also provided entertainment for residents of William Wood House at The Hive.

Playbox continues to be a valuable part of our outreach and we thank the staff for their dedication as well as volunteers from the church who support in a variety of ways. In addition to sharing in Harvest Festival in the church, it was lovely this year to have the children in to learn about weddings. During the summer, the long-awaited improvements to the outside play area were completed and we thank Richard and the property committee for all their work on this.

Our Friday groups continue to provide more outreach to both toddlers and primary school age children. We celebrated baptisms and weddings from these groups this year and have found that a number of families now regularly come to our Messy Church sessions too.

Saturday mornings are an oasis of calm and fellowship for church members and visitors alike. A wide variety of activities have been offered this year and special events have raised funds and awareness for Transform Trade, Breast Cancer Awareness and EACH.

As a church we are looking at how we can be focused and intentional in our giving and to this end, the church council have approved a charitable giving policy and a working group to administrate this. We hope to provide feedback on this year's plans at the ACM. Giving as a church is as important as our individual giving and the policy enables us to give responsibly and to pursue further involvement with the organisations we support.

Our stewards team have continued to ably lead and guide church activities this year and we would all like to thank them for their hard work. We were all shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Sue Rampling in October. Sue had served faithfully as a steward for many years and her loss is deeply felt. It would be lovely to have someone new to join the team, if you are interested, please do speak to the minister or one of the stewards.

As ever, my heartfelt thanks go to all who enable the church to carry out the many different ministries that are part of our service to God and our local community – those whose roles are visible and those working behind the scenes. Like a jigsaw, we are incomplete without every piece. Thank you.

God bless.

Ruth.

Pastoral Report

Membership	59
Pastoral Roll	104

Deceased Members

Rev. Malcom Hill

Mrs Kathleen Hill

Mrs Susan Rampling

Mrs Christine Chaplin

We remember with Love and Thanksgiving our friends who have died in the last year.

Transferred In

Ms Jacquelyn Ngan

Mrs Sheila Forth

We welcome our new members into St. John's fellowship

Maureen Hearn

Prayer Chain

We are seven members of St. Johns who pray for others when requests are made.



I am the first point of contact and I phone the other members who then include the requests in their prayers.

We need permission of the person or close family member before names are put on the list and everything is confidential,

It is often a great help and comfort to people knowing that they are held in prayer.

Maureen Hearn

Treasurer's Report to the Annual Church Meeting **March 2026**

The financial climate continues to be difficult for St Johns as it is for most charities, businesses and individuals. The fact that St John's continues to make such a positive impact in so many ways across the community is due to the generosity of the church family in their giving of time and skills as well as money, and for that we continue to be very grateful. At the same time, we have to recognise again this year we have lost a number of members and so the load, both financial and physical, is shared by fewer individuals.

The accounts for the year 2024/2025 were approved by the accountants Moore Green and by the autumn church council. They show an overall credit of £6,631, due partly to a large bequest, but also to an increase of giving by members of the St John's community.

The church council also decided to make charitable donations equal to 10% of last year's unrestricted income which this year is a sum of £7,000. This will be paid out during March and the details are in a separate report. The budget figures below include this new expenditure.

In November, the estimated budget figures for 2025/2026 gave a projected deficit of around £15,000. This was arrived at on the basis of minimum expected income and maximum expected expenditure. This should be the 'worst case scenario' and we might expect to do better. Indeed, after 6 months of the church financial year, we have a deficit of £2,350 compared to £3,900 at the same stage last year and I currently estimate the deficit at the end of the year will be around £10,700 (Including the charitable donations).

At this time, I estimate our income will be around £7,000 down on last year. Offerings and fund raising have held up, but as interest rates continue to fall, so will our income from investments. We also expect less grant support and fewer bequests this year. Our outgoings I expect to be around £11,000 higher than last year, including the £7,000 charitable donations. A colder winter has increased the energy bill, wages have gone up, the assessment has risen and as we know, the price of all consumables is rising.

Overall, we are currently running at a deficit this year which will have to be covered by our reserves. Average giving has increased since 2024, but, as always, I would ask you all to give prayerful thought to your giving and to ways in which we might maximise our income to ease the pressure on our accounts.

In conclusion I am very grateful to all who have done what they can to reduce costs and to those who have dug that bit deeper to allow the work at St John's to continue.

Simon Willis Treasurer

Charitable Giving Group

Annual Report 2025/6

In November 2025, the Church Council approved a Charitable Giving Policy and agreed to donate 10% of the Church's income to international, national and local charities. For the year 2025/26, this figure was £7,000. A group to administer the distribution of funds to charities was instituted.

This group met in January 2026 and agreed the following:

- The £7,000 should be divided between 6 charities receiving £1,000 each with £1,000 kept in reserve to respond to emergency appeals.
- A mixture of international, national and local charities will be supported
- £1,000 will be donated to each of the following charities:
 - Faith comes by Hearing
 - Future Vision
 - Number 72
 - Transform Trade
 - Whitechapel Mission
 - Zimbabwe Victim Support Fund
- These decisions will be reported to the Annual Church Meeting in March and to the Church Council in June.
- The group will encourage the Annual Church Meeting to organise a collection of equipment and clothes to donate to Abi's Footprints and also to look into the possibility of renewing links with the Community School at East Meru.
- Payments will be made after the Annual Meeting in March with a request that the payment to Faith comes by Hearing is used in Zimbabwe to support projects in which Morrison is involved.
- Details of the work of all the charities will be published in the April Herald

- Newsletters will be requested from each charity and displayed on a noticeboard in the Link at St John's.
- Representatives of the local charities will be approached to come and speak to the congregation about the work of their charity.
- The Church Council in June will be asked to review the Charitable Giving Policy so that the percentage figure to be donated is known before the end of the church's financial year and the process of distributing funds can begin as soon as the final income figure is known on 1st September. Decisions will then be reported to the November Church Council meeting.
- The expectation for next year is that a new list will be compiled for consideration including suggestions from any members of the St John's community. This may contain charities from this year's list whether they were chosen this year or not.
- Any money remaining undonated in the reserve will be added to next year's pot.

The Charitable Giving Group currently has 5 members and would welcome volunteers from the St John's community to join. We would also ask people to give prayerful thought to charities they might suggest for next year and to alert the group to any emergency appeal that the church might respond to in the meantime.

Simon Willis (Chair)



Salt Shakers Housegroup

Salt Salt Shakers house group meets bi- monthly usually on Tuesday evenings. We are a caring group and if anyone would like to join us they would be most welcome. We are all so very sorry that our dear friend Elaine will not be able to meet with us in the future. She has been a very faithful member since the group started over twenty years ago. We always enjoy being together throughout the year and had fun and games at our Christmas celebration in December. Again we collected for the Crisis charity and managed the sum of £130.

Thank you Saltshaker members and may God continue to bless us as we meet together through out this new year .

Jan Foster

Church Annual Report – Flower Committee 2026

Many members have used the opportunity to display fresh flowers in memory of family and friends in church on Sunday mornings. We will be continuing this aid to our worship this year.



Fresh flowers will be arranged monthly. We also have two pedestals of good quality silk flowers to display on the remaining weeks.

A new Flower Rota will soon be available on the table at the back of the church to begin on Mothering Sunday 30th March, so please see if you would like to add your name. As there are fewer members available to arrange and distribute the flowers we aim to do this monthly only, and anyone is welcome to have a go at arranging (with help if you'd like it.)

We also take the flowers out after the service to give to the sick or anyone in need of cheering up. Volunteers for this would also be very welcome.

Please see if you can help in any way, and don't hesitate to speak to me to discuss any of the above.

Julie Rix



St John's Community Team annual report March 2025 - February 2026

Throughout the last year our Community Team has continued to run our weekly sessions for toddlers, children and adults as part of our community engagement. Tea & Tots for babies and toddlers aged 0-5 years and their parents or carers and Thank Goodness It's Friday (T.G.I.F.) for school aged children with parents and carers, are our groups aimed at families and run weekly throughout Sudbury school term time. Coffee and Chat is our social group for adults and runs weekly throughout the year. Between the beginning of March 2025 and the end of January 2026 our social groups have welcomed approximately 1694 attendees, including 739 children, to our sessions, with members ages ranging from a few weeks old to over 90 years. We have also continued to run Messy Church services for families throughout the year, working with St Andrews Church in Great Cornard and the Salvation Army Sudbury.

Tea & Tots, open on a Friday morning from 9.30am-11.30am, is a drop in play group for families. Each week we offer equipment for free play and messy play, which help to encourage social interaction and develop fine motor skills, problem solving, and imaginative creativity. We also have a story time led by one of our volunteers, and a nursery rhyme singing session. Throughout the morning we offer free refreshments for all. The adults accompanying their babies and toddlers also have the opportunity to meet and share their worries and good news, finding valuable support with each other and our team of dedicated volunteers.

T.G.I.F. operates on Friday evenings after school from 3.30pm-5pm. Throughout the year we have continued to offer themed crafts, games and simple cooking activities, which encourage exploration of the world around us and help us to tap into our own imaginations. Themes over the year have included: a series of day trips in our make believe camper van, going on a pretend wildlife watch in which we found some delightful new species as well as our favourite animals, creating a theme park full of imaginative rides, and designing maps with challenges for each other to follow; a second round the world trip discovering (amongst other things) the importance of elephants in Thailand, the story of chocolate in the Côte d'Ivoire, the wildflowers of the dragon mountains in South Africa, and how to make German Lebkuchenherzen (gingerbread hearts) decorated with messages of love; and an adventure into the realms of myths, legends and stories, looking at the ancient myths of Greece, discovering legendary creatures and heroes, and exploring the different ways that we can tell stories. T.G.I.F. is a group in which members feel welcome and accepted, and free to explore their creativity and imaginations in a safe and nurturing environment. One parent said of how one of our young volunteers interacts with their neurodivergent child: "Nobody takes the time to talk with my son in that way, I never see him engage so much with anybody else."



Coffee & Chat is our social group for adults, although all are welcome to join us. We are open from 10.30am-12.30pm offering a safe, welcoming space to meet for a slice of cake and some friendly conversation over a hot drink. We always offer additional activities of jigsaw puzzles, board games, word searches, and crosswords, and have plenty of yarn and needles for knitting projects. We run a hobbies group once a month with a range of different crafts and activities for people to try out and share with each other. Since March hobbies have included indoor kurling, making 3D pictures, creating clay nature prints, an introduction to computer coding using LEGO Spike Education sets, a historical Sudbury talk with slides, wax resist paintings and a special film screening of the 2002 St John's stage production of *When The Lights Go On Again*.



Messy Church is aimed at providing an alternative format for worship that is more accessible to families; with crafts based on specific bible themes, worship and singing relating to the crafts, and a shared meal. Services are held once a month and we alternate locations between St John's and St

Andrew's, with helpers from each church present at every Messy Church. Our numbers for Messy Church attendees are varied, with an average of 6 children attending services at St John's.



Our Community Team enjoys getting involved in church celebrations and all of our groups contributed to the church Harvest decorations in October. During Tea & Tots we thought about our favourite foods, where they come from, and how they grow; and making 'Thank you for Harvest' bunting and autumn nature suncatchers. At T.G.I.F. we explored the story of chocolate from bean to bar, making a series of pictures showing each stage, and talking about the importance of Fairtrade for farmers and crop sustainability. Our Messy Church members explored the way we farm our food. They created LEGO models of farm machinery, thinking about how farming might look in the future and how we can overcome some of the challenges farmers face. During Coffee & Chat we crafted decorative string pumpkins and made a flower display that highlighted the importance of different plant pollinators in our food production.



In December, we also took part in the Sudbury Christmas Tree Festival, held in St Peter's Church [Sudbury Arts Centre]. Decorations were made by members of all of our groups and were inspired by our imaginary journey around the world in T.G.I.F. This journey showed us that everywhere, various communities set aside time throughout the year to come together in celebration; to share in joy, love, hope, renewal and remembrance, and to give thanks for that which we have been gifted. We called our tree *Joy Around the World* to remind us that celebrations unite us in bringing people together, and that we all have the capacity to share in joy and to show love and kindness to one another.

We have a member of the Citizens Advice Bureau who has begun to come regularly to our community group sessions. They are able to talk with our members, offering information and informal advice and helping to direct people to the correct services if further action is needed. This seems to have been well received by our members, who have found it useful to have a regular point of contact with Citizens Advice.

The Community Team has organised two fundraising events for our groups. In April our young members of T.G.I.F. organised and ran a Danceathon to raise money for East Anglia Children's Hospice in memory of their friend Stephen Pinder. Members from all of our groups took part in this event, dancing non-stop for two hours, raising £624. In October we took part in the Wear It Pink campaign run by Breast Cancer Now. We encouraged members to wear pink to our groups, offered pink themed games and activities, and the children in T.G.I.F. made cakes in the shape of breasts to share with loved ones to remind them to check themselves regularly. We raised £150 for Breast Cancer Now.



The Community Team also support the work of Transform Trade and the Fairtrade Foundation. In September, as part of Fairtrade Fortnight, we hosted a special Saturday Morning Tea Party, providing a wide range of Fairtrade beverages and sweet treats made using Fairtrade ingredients. Throughout Fairtrade Fortnight we spent time in our groups providing information about Fairtrade goods and discussing the importance of Fairtrade for farming communities and environmental sustainability worldwide. At the end of February, we are also hosting a fundraising event in support of Transform Trade's Big Brew at 40.

Elizabeth Lee



Churches Together Report

Churches Together in Sudbury and District continue to draw Christians from the Sudbury area together in prayer, worship, fellowship and service.

This year we have continued to hold four annual united services, in Autumn we shared with the Eden's Project as they updated us on their work, in late November we shared in the St Nicholas Hospice Light up a life service – a wonderful opportunity to reflect on loved ones who have died. The New Year began with a service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity as we joined with Christians across the world to pray with and for each other and in May we celebrate the work of Christian Aid. These services are open to all and are a great opportunity to worship with friends from other churches.

We have also hosted four open Forum meetings, chances to share fellowship, to pray together and to deepen our understanding of serving God in our local context. This year we have shared in a forum creatively exploring prayer, been updated on the schools work co-ordinated by Future Vision, discussed how we can respond to the homeless and those in vulnerable housing and heard about new work in the Great Cornard area. Topics for this year include 'Home for Good' a charity working with families with fostered, adopted children and children in special guardianship and work in prisons.

Prayer breakfasts continue weekly and hospitality from churches around Sudbury is greatly appreciated. This is a wonderful opportunity to pray together for the town and the world. Kettle and Fish continues to run a cafe at Suffolk Road and is supported by a good crowd of regulars. More people are always welcome so do pass word around, we meet 2nd and 4th Thursdays 10am-1.30pm.

Churches Together also continues to support Christian work around Sudbury by supporting organisations such as Future Vision, Storehouse, No. 72 and Abi's Footprints. We also support worldwide organisations such as Christian Aid and members are active in raising the profile of Fair Trade in the area.

Please do consider attending some of the Churches Together events, it is a wonderful way to deepen our Christian faith and to make new friends as well as to see what God is doing in the local area!

Ruth

Bible Study Group.

We have continued to meet regularly during this year, usually on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.



Our recent studies have included Ezra, Nehemiah , Acts chs 1 – 9 and selected passages from Luke chs 19 – 24 about the last days of Jesus' earthly life and his Ascension.

We all enjoy studying the chosen Bible readings and also enjoy discussions on the meaning of those readings for the people who lived in 'Bible Times' and for us today.

Recently we have been delighted to welcome some new members to our group. New members are always welcome!

Isabel Hebden.

The Exchange Book Club

We are a small group who enjoy reading and we meet every two months to discuss the current book which has been chosen by the members.



There is a wide variety of books chosen and they are often not obviously religiously themed but are thought provoking.

We welcome new members so if you enjoy reading please come along one Tuesday even if you haven't read the current book.

Nita

Playbox Report 2026

Our continued thanks to Jane Sharp the Chairperson of the Management Committee for her support to the Playbox staff and children and the PMC for their continued support throughout the year.

Many thanks to Richard Stanford for being 'Mr Fix it' for us and always there to help.

We saw 18 children off to primary school in July 25 and we had a brilliant leavers P.E activity for the parents to see some of the activities we get up to.

The extension to the garden area that Playbox paid to have done in the summer holidays has made a huge difference to the space available for all the children who use the hall to play outside.

September saw us with 43 on the register which made for a very busy start to the term for the 5 full time members of staff.

The children performed 'The Lively woolly sheep' Nativity for their families which was a great success and enjoyed by the large number who attended.

After 30 years at Playbox Mrs Mansfield is retiring in February 2026 and a new administrator has been found to join the team.

We continue to put our plans and activities on the website to keep parents/carers up to date with what is happening.

PROPERTY REPORT FOR AGM 2026

The Property and Finance Committee have been meeting regularly to ensure the smooth running and maintenance of Church and Halls. The new extended Play Area for our Ofsted Pre-school (Playbox) has been completed and deemed a grand improvement. The ongoing Checks on Fire Alarm Emergency lighting and Health & safety risk assessments along with Defibrillator checks which has been taken out several times, have all been undertaken and logged. The buildings all seem to be holding up very well, We will need to repaint some external doors this year when it stops raining, and we are getting quotes to replace the floor covering in the link which is a large area so it will be quite expensive. We also look forward to our Quinquennial Inspection this year when a Surveyor comes in and does a very very close inspection.

Richard Stanford, Property Secretary
March 2026

ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHOIR REPORT 2026

The choir are still few in number, but we continue to do our best to provide music for weekly services as well as for special occasions.

This year, we did something slightly different for the Carol Service: I started with the idea of using folk music in the service. This idea was enhanced by Richard Stanford's willingness to accompany us on his guitar. Two of the choir pieces were based on old English folk tunes, and we performed a 'folksy' version of Silent Night (which was originally performed to guitar accompaniment). Singing successive verses of 'While shepherds watched their flocks' to different tunes was another well-established folk tradition. It is said that every village had their own tune to this carol, which at one time

was the only one permitted to be sung in church! We also included John Rutter's 'Nativity Carol' in honour of his 80th birthday.

The choir sang again at the Christmas Tree Festival in St Peter's (having missed last year), and it was lovely to have a group from the congregation come to support us there.

We also performed at the Hive for residents of William Wood House care home. This event was very well received, and it was great to be joined again by Richard, hotfoot from duties as Santa, and by the St Lawrence Handbell Ringers from Great Waldingfield.

Chris Willis



ST JOHNS METHODIST CHURCH

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2025

MOORE GREEN
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
SUDBURY SUFFOLK

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2025

Bury St Edmunds	Circuit	Circuit no.	1403
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1151379

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. Ruth Ridge

Church Stewards:

Miss I Hebden	
Mrs N Newcombe	
Mrs G Phillips	
Mrs S Rampling	
Mrs J Rix	
Mr S Willis	

Treasurer:

Mr S Willis

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	39,243.68	114.75	39,358.43	34,616.44
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	3,912.31	62.09	3,974.40	4,419.08
a4	Lettings				1,000.00
a5	Other receipts	32,583.93	4,722.00	37,305.93	32,660.21
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	75,739.92	4,898.84	80,638.76 (a7)	72,695.73

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	42,474.50		42,474.50	43,852.00
b3	Donations	610.00	100.00	710.00	516.00
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	5,738.12		5,738.12	5,925.71
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	7,224.31		7,224.31	9,726.22
b6					
b7	Other payments	12,438.99	5,422.05	17,861.04	17,978.00
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	68,485.92	5,522.05	74,007.97 (b9)	77,997.93

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	7,254.00	(623.21)	6,630.79
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		86,185.08	3,365.69	89,550.77 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	93,439.08	2,742.48	96,181.56
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(8,188.99)	8,188.99	(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	85,250.09	10,931.47	96,181.56 (c8)

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		547.00
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	2,410.70	1,328.00
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	2,410.70	1,875.00
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)	

**St Johns Methodist Church
Sudbury**

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 2025 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 The Playbox	148,458.00	123,158.00	25,300.00	(3,500.00)	16,097.00	37,897.00
e2 SJCT	1,697.84	1,628.79	69.05		340.38	409.43
e3 Flower Fund					67.02	67.02
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	150,155.84	124,786.79	25,369.05	(3,500.00)	16,504.40 (e11)	38,373.45 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	80,638.76 (a7)	74,007.97 (b9)	6,630.79	(c7)	89,550.77 (c6)	96,181.56 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	230,794.60	198,794.76	31,999.84	(3,500.00)	106,055.17 (x)	134,555.01 (y)
TOTAL RECEIPTS		TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2025

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	4,431.12	7,225.51
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	59,620.14	63,456.54
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	25,499.51	25,499.51
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	89,550.77 (c6)	96,181.56 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	16,504.40 (e11)	38,373.45 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	106,055.17 (x)	134,555.01 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
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 ...St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury..... No...14302.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 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 *SS Willis* Date...18/11/2025.....

Name and address of treasurer John Simon Willis

5 Windsor Green Cockfield..... Post Code IP30 0LY

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 18/11/2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *R. K. Ridge*

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Ruth Ridge Date 18/11/2025

St Johns Methodist Church (registered charity number 1151379)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St Johns Methodist Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2025 which are set out on Methodist Church standard form of accounts document comprising the Income and Expenditure Account, Statement of assets and liabilities and internal organisation report forms.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity'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 charity'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.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.



Vincent Chandler FCA FCCA

Moore Green

Chartered Accountants

22 Friars Street

Sudbury

Suffolk

CO10 2AA

Date 04/11/2025

ST JOHNS METHODIST CHURCH SUDBURY

England & Wales - Charity number 1151379

Accounts



ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH, SUDBURY

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Minister
The Rev Ruth Ridge
4 Kedington Court, Acton, CO10 0XB
Tel: 07447091182

St John's Methodist Church
York Road
SUDBURY
Suffolk
CO10 1ND
Church Office: 01787 373185
Registered Charity No. 1151379

CHURCH STEWARDS

Mrs S Rampling, 16 St Bartholomew's Lane, Sudbury, CO10 1LG 01787 377441
Mrs G Phillips, 21 Old Court, Long Melford, CO10 9HA 01787 583557
Miss I Hebden, 3 Singleton Court, Great Cornard, Sudbury, CO10 0EN 01787 373736
Mrs J Rix, "Buxtons", Old Bury Road, Alpheton, Sudbury, CO10 9BT 01284 828775
Mrs N Newcomb, Nayland Hall Farm, Cock Street, Leavenheath, CO6 4PJ 01206 263263
Mr S Willis, 5 Windsor Green, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0LY 01284 828229

WORSHIP LEADERS

Mrs N Newcomb, Nayland Hall Farm, Cock Street, Leavenheath, CO6 4PJ 01206 263263
Mrs A Smythe, 8, Reddells Close, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2PW. 01787 585914

SENIOR COMMUNION STEWARD

Mrs D Badrick, 1 Park Road, Sudbury CO10 2QB 01787 379672

CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Mrs J Reed, 7 Turkentine Close, Great Cornard, CO10 0YR 01787 310795

TREASURER

Mr S Willis, 5 Windsor Green, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0LY 01284 828229

PROPERTY SECRETARY

Mr R G Stanford, 16 Chilton Court, Sudbury, CO10 2SH 01787 882181

CHOIR MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Mrs C Willis, 5 Windsor Green, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0LY 01284 828229

ACTION FOR CHILDREN SECRETARY

Mrs C Willis, 5 Windsor Green, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0LY 01284 828229

PASTORAL SECRETARY

Mrs M Hearn, 27, Windmill Close, Gt Cornard, CO10 0FL 01787 377524

LINK PERSON

Mr R G Stanford, 16 Chilton Court, Sudbury, CO10 2SH 01787882181

HERALD CONTACT Mrs G Phillips, 21 Old Court, Long Melford CO10 9HA 01787 583557

ST. JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL

Members (Trustees) at October 2023

Rev Jason Vinyard –Superintendent Minister

Rev Ruth Ridge - Chairman



Diane Badrick	Communion Steward/Christian Aid rep
Simon Badrick	Finance/Christian Aid Rep
Jane Brooker	Circuit steward/Safeguarding Officer
Rev Rita Carr	Circuit minister
Maureen Hearn	Pastoral Secretary
Isabel Hebden	Senior Steward/Playbox Committee
Norma Newcomb	Steward
Gill Phillips	Steward/CTiSD/Playbox Committee
Sue Pugh	Playbox Committee
Sue Rampling	Steward
Judith Reed	Church Council Secretary

Philip Richardson	Administrator
Rev Ruth Ridge	Minister, St John's
Julie Rix	Steward
Peter Rix	Property/Finance
Ann Smythe	CTISD Rep
Richard Stanford	Property/Finance
Rev Jason Vinyard	Circuit Superintendent
Christine Willis	Choir Director/Action for Children
Simon Willis	Treasurer/Steward
<i>Elizabeth Lee (not a member or trustee)</i>	Community Worker

Annual Report

Minister: The Reverend Ruth Ridge

St John's Mission Statement;

St John's invites you to share the Good News of God's love in Christ.

We welcome everyone, and set out to give service to the community near and far.

Aims

1. The furtherance of God's work in Sudbury and surrounding area and supporting that work in the wider world.
2. Propagation of the Christian faith.
3. Providing and supporting positive opportunities for the development of activities to benefit the whole community.
4. To work constructively with other churches of other denominations and as appropriate with other organisations.
5. Provide worship opportunities for all ages, and a welcoming atmosphere for all, especially newcomers.



From our Minister

Report for St John's ACM 2025

Dear Friends,

It has been a busy year, with much to celebrate. At Easter we welcomed six new members by transfer, as well as one through confirmation and a baptism and in October we held our first equal marriage wedding. It was lovely to celebrate with our new members and to welcome Catherine and Nicola and their families as they affirmed their love and made their wedding vows. 2025 also began with a baptism as we welcomed baby Inara into the church, what a great way to start the year!

The community groups continue to meet regularly and to welcome many new people to the church building. Some families have also attended Messy Church sessions and some have dropped into services through the year too. I'm currently talking to folk from these groups about weddings and baptisms, as they build relationships, so they feel that they belong and questions about faith begin to surface.

The groups nurture new links in the community, whilst our pastoral team continues to support members and regular attendees, especially those no longer able to attend regularly. Thanks go to Maureen and the large team of pastoral visitors for maintaining such strong links and if anyone is interested in joining the pastoral team, please do speak to Maureen or myself. If you know of anyone who would appreciate a visit or home communion, please let us know this too.

The monthly Herald continues to keep the sector well informed and our appreciation goes to Gill the editor and all who contribute regularly to this. The circuit news also keeps us informed about events in other circuit churches. Contributions for both are gratefully received.

Bible Studies continue to provide opportunities for study and book group offers lively discussion. The Salt Shaker housegroup also meets regularly for prayer, fellowship and discussion. If anyone is interested in joining a housegroup, please speak to me as it would be lovely to run more groups if needed.

Playbox have also had another good year and my thanks go to all those who maintain regular links through the Playbox committee and providing music and singing. It was lovely to have the children in church for Harvest and to join with them for their Nativity Play. Playbox are currently exploring options for developing a larger outdoor play area, something that will benefit church groups too and thanks go to the property team for all their work on this as well as the never-ending list of jobs week by week that keep the church building a safe and comfortable place for all.

As a church we continue to support the work of Action for Children and Christian Aid and to promote the work of Fair Trade. We also continue to campaign for environmental issues and to operate as an eco-church.

It was lovely to welcome Morrison Mahachi to the congregation for three months during the summer and to learn from him about the Harare East circuit. Morrison is planning to return at Eastertime and we look forward to continuing to build links. It is really important to remember that we are part of a world wide church and to pray and learn together with Christians across the world.

Perhaps this is particularly important at a time when political uncertainty and increasing polarisation of different political views are causing fear and uncertainty. We are reminded by the Gospel that we are called to love our neighbour, wherever they may be and whatever they might be like and in faith we commit ourselves to do this in all that we do as a church, whatever the coming year might bring.

My thanks go to all who, in a variety of roles, enable the work of the church to continue, not least to the stewards and the Church Council for all of the work that they oversee.

God bless.

Ruth.

Pastoral Report

Membership 62

Pastoral Roll 107

Baptised

Miss Scarlet Adams
Miss Inara Lochlann

Received into membership

Mrs Sylvia Bambridge
Mr John Brett
Mrs Christine Chaplin
Mrs Jenny Everett
Mr & Mrs Margaret & Barry Hibble
Mrs Daphne Smith

Deceased Members

*We remember with Love and Thanksgiving our friends
who have died in the last year.*

Mr John Phillips
Mrs Margaret Nunn
Mr Tony Turner
Mrs Mavis Baalham
Mrs Jean Webb
Mrs Brenda Bristow Jones

Prayer Chain



We are seven members of St. Johns who pray for others when requests are made.

I am the first point of contact and I phone the other members who then include the requests in their prayers.

We need permission of the person or close family member before names are put on the list and everything is confidential,

It is often a great help and comfort to people knowing that they are held in prayer.

Maureen Hearn

Treasurer's Report to the Annual Church Meeting March 2025

The financial climate continues to be difficult for St Johns as it is for most charities, businesses and individuals. The fact that St John's continues to make such a positive impact in so many ways across the community is due to the generosity of the church family in their giving of time and skills as well as money, and for that we continue to be very grateful. At the same time, we have to recognise

again this year we have lost a number of members and so the financial load is shared by fewer individuals.

The accounts for the year 2023/2024 were approved by the accountants Moore Green and by the autumn church council. They show an overall deficit of £5,302 which is somewhat less than our prediction.

In November, the estimated figures for 2024/2025 gave a projected deficit of around £15,000. This was arrived at on the basis of minimum expected income and maximum expected expenditure. This should be the 'worst case scenario' and we might expect the deficit to be less. However, after 6 months of the church financial year, we have run at a deficit of £3,900 and I currently estimate the deficit at the end of the year will be around £12,000.

Currently, I estimate our income will be around £8,000 down on last year. Offerings and fund raising continue to fall year on year and as interest rates fall, so will our income from investments. Our outgoings I expect to be around £2,000 lower than last year, largely because we moved onto a cheaper tariff for gas and electricity last October. Also moving the Sunday service to the Wesley room saved £250 in January and potentially more in February.

Overall, we are running at a deficit as we have for a number of years and this is unsustainable. As I outlined in my Herald item in January, the giving from our church community does not cover our outgoings. The shortfall has been covered from our reserves, but they are finite and will not last for ever. Indeed, we should be thinking of using the money we hold to fund further work in the community rather than paying off our deficits.

Average giving per member of the congregation at present is around £13.50 per week or £700 per year. To break even last year that figure would have to have been around £17.00 per week or £880 per year.

In conclusion I am very grateful to all who have done what they can to reduce costs and to those who have dug that bit deeper so that the deficit is not greater, but, as always, I would ask you all to give prayerful thought to your giving and to ways in which we might maximise our income to ease the pressure on our accounts.

Simon Willis Treasurer

Salt Shakers Housegroup



Salt shakers continues to meet bi- monthly. We had a lovely Christmas evening at the home of Diane and Simon in December and happy to say were joined by new members.

Each year we collect for the charity Crisis. This year our donation amounted to £400 which was a grand sum for a small group.

Salt shakers group was first formed about twenty years ago. Hopefully we can continue to meet together, supporting, caring, sharing and praying for each other on many more occasions in the future.

Jan Foster



Church Annual Report – Flower Committee

Having fresh flowers in Church gives us opportunity to display fresh flowers in memory of family and friends. Anyone can have a go at arranging (with help if you'd like it), or taking the flowers out after the service to give to the sick or anyone in need of cheering up.

It is hoped that fresh flowers can be arranged approximately once a month. For the other weeks we have two pedestals of good quality silk flowers to display .

A new Flower Rota will soon be available on the table at the back of the church to begin on Mothering Sunday 30th March, so please add your name. As there are fewer members available to arrange and distribute the flowers we aim to do this monthly only.

Please see if you can help in any way with this aid to our worship, and don't hesitate to speak to me to discuss any of the above.

Julie Rix



Community Team March 2024-February 2025

The St John's community team have continued to run our three social groups for community engagement throughout the year. Tea & Tots, for children under 5 with parents and guardians, meets on Friday mornings, Thank Goodness It's Friday (T.G.I.F), for children 6 and over with parents and guardians, meets after school on Fridays, and Coffee and Chat, open for all, meets on Saturday mornings. Between March 2024 and February 2025 we have welcomed approximately 1645 children and adults to our Friday and Saturday groups.

At Coffee and Chat we offer a space for members of the community to gather for a morning of sociable companionship. We have an average of 10 adults attending each week. Every week, there are always boardgames, jigsaw puzzles and knitting supplies available alongside friendly chat and plenty of tea, coffee and cake. Once a month we host a hobbies week, run by our own members, which introduces us to different arts and crafts and encourages our creativity. Hobbies this year have included painting, printing, flower arranging, willow weaving, crochet, and clay modelling. Our members enjoy coming together to share news and learn new skills.



**Coffee and Chat willow
weaving February 2025**



Coffee and Chat March 2024

Tea & Tots is our most popular group with 15 families attending regularly each week we are open. Families with babies and toddlers under 5 years join us for a morning of affordable free play, messy crafts, singing and story time. Children are encouraged to explore our toys and games, and meet other babies and toddlers in a safe, nurturing environment. Additionally, adults accompanying babies and toddlers are able to meet and share their achievements and worries with us and each other. Many of our families have been bringing their children to our toddler group for years, and feel strongly connected to our community group.



Tea & Tots March 2024

T.G.I.F meets weekly during Sudbury school's term times and offers a relaxed afternoon of themed crafts, games, and simple cooking activities for children aged 6+ with a parent or guardian. Our membership has an average of 6 children attending each week we are open. Over the last year we have explored space, travelled through time, delved into the different traditions and cultures of our home and shared our individual interests and hobbies. Our members have enjoyed creating items to display on our notice board as well as being involved with church events, such as making decorations for our Harvest Festival and the Sudbury Christmas Tree Festival. This year we've been delighted to welcome some new families, who have become regular members.



**Sunflower grown
and planted out in
the church garden
by members of
T.G.I.F**

We have a number of neuro-divergent children attending both our Friday groups and they and their parents say they feel comfortable at the group, one child said "I like coming here, I feel like I can just be myself without worrying about being judged or picked on". We have begun to develop the support we offer for parents and children in this area through training for our volunteers and hope to continue this further.

In addition to our Friday and Saturday groups, we have continued to hold monthly worship for families in the form of Messy Church. This is run ecumenically with St Andrew's Church in Great Cornard, and The Salvation Army have now joined this group. During August, our Messy Church took place in Belle Vue Park and we have also introduced a 'Lego ' messy church entitled 'Messy Bricks 'into our rota. Messy

Church continues to provide active engagement with the bible through crafts, games and brick building, alongside singing, prayer and story telling. We continue our fellowship with with a meal at the end of each session.

The community team continues to have a team of wonderful, dedicated volunteers who allow us to open our doors to members of the community and operate in the way we do. We are pleased to be able to provide volunteering opportunities for members of our community of all ages.

Elizabeth Lee – Community Worker



Churches Together Report for ACM

The work of Churches Together continues, with quarterly forum meetings this year covering topics such as Eco-church, local outreach projects and praying together. Quarterly services have also taken place, celebrating the work of Eden's and Christian Aid and providing space to remember in the 'Light up a Life' service. In addition to these, we were delighted to hold a sunrise service on the water meadows on Easter Day and a St Peter's Day service in St Peter's on the Market Square, a wonderful celebration service attended by over 180 people.

Prayer breakfasts continue weekly and hospitality from churches around Sudbury is greatly appreciated. This is a wonderful

opportunity to pray together for the town and the world. Kettle and Fish continues to run a cafe most weeks at Suffolk Road and is supported by a good crowd of regulars. More people are always welcome so do pass word around, we meet most Thursdays 10am-1.30pm.

Churches Together also continues to support Christian work around Sudbury by supporting organisations such as Future Vision, Storehouse No. 72 and Abi's Footprints. This year we have also offered support to a new initiative co-ordinated by New Life Church placing a community worker in Great Cornard. It is wonderful to be able to share with Christians of different backgrounds in worship and in serving the community.

We are also seeking to update our online presence so keep a look out for a new Facebook page. For those who enjoy social media, we are also now live on Bluesky (like Twitter but much more user friendly). Hopefully this will enable us to engage with a new audience.

Ruth

Bible Study Group.

We have continued to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 2:00p.m.



This year we concluded our study of Peter before moving on to study John's Gospel, the Letter of James and the Letter to the Galatians – all New Testament this year! Hopefully we will study some of the Old Testament after Easter.

At each meeting, we read and study the actual Bible passage and have discussions which are often thought provoking, often lively, but relevant to the Bible and to our lives. We try to think about why events occurred rather than when or how, thus emphasizing what the Bible means for us and its relevance for today.

Isabel Hebden.

The Exchange Book Club

We continue to meet every two months and read a wide variety of books chosen by the members.

They cover a wide range of subjects and are always thought provoking.

We welcome new members even if they have not read the book. So if you enjoy reading and would like to explore some new authors why not come along on the second Tuesday of the month and find out if you enjoy it.

Nita Stanford.



Playbox Report 2025

Our continued thanks to Jane Sharp the Chairperson of the Management Committee for her support to the Playbox staff and children and the PMC for their continued support throughout the year.

Many thanks to Richard Stanford for being 'Mr Fix it' for us and always there to help.

September 2024 saw us with 45 children and a large number of 2 Year olds list and places are limited but Spring 2025 numbers are 44. We welcomed a new full time member of staff to the team which as necessary for staff ratios for the increasing number of two year olds requiring places.

We had a wonderful nativity this year with parents/carers and families able to come and watch the children perform and sing in 'The Busy Builders first Christmas'.

The staff and committee are all up to date with Safeguarding training in January 2025.

We have had a visit from Little City role play company with a Christmas theme which was amazing, and a visit booked for March 2025.

The website continues to be a valuable connection with the families to keep them informed of coming activities with photos and videos of their time at Playbox.

ANNUAL PROPERTY REPORT 2025

The Property & Finance Committee meet as and when necessary. We have installed wi-fi throughout the buildings, for which we owe Mr John Wiseman and Philip Richardson a great deal of thanks. I merely drilled holes and pulled wires.

All the previous year's hard work to renew the underfloor heating and to upgrade taps and cisterns has proved most satisfactory.

Mr Lunn, who for many years had volunteered to cut our grass, has now had to stand down due to health considerations. We have sent a card of thanks and a gift. It would be wonderful to be gifted another volunteer to do this work ... ?

The normal weekly checks on the fire alarm and emergency lights have been undertaken and since the electric cables outside the Church were sorted out we have had a dependable supply.

The main preoccupation at the moment is extending the outside play area for our Playgroup. What had seemed a simple request has turned into a major mission as it requires Consents from Methodist Circuit and Planning Permission from Babergh, all of which are in hand. It will take some time and patience before we actually start doing anything.

I hope that by this time next year someone else will relieve me of the office of Property Secretary. Paper shuffling is not my forte and I would

be happier doing the odd jobs. Do we have any takers? Please step forward.

Richard Stanford, Property Secretary
March 2025

ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHOIR REPORT 2024

During 2024, the choir have continued to support worship, both with choir-only pieces and in congregational singing. This always seems to be well received. As a group, we have suffered a number of bouts of (mostly minor) ill health, which have prevented us doing everything we would wish to due to our small numbers. However, it is good to know that our efforts are appreciated.

We have been able to sing special, more demanding pieces on occasions such as Easter and Harvest, and performed 4 pieces at the Carol Service, which was a joyful and celebratory occasion.

Chris Willis

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

Bury St Edmunds	Circuit	Circuit no.	1403
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1151379

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. Ruth Ridge

Church Stewards:

Miss I Hebden	
Mrs N Newcombe	
Mrs G Phillips	
Mrs S Rampling	
Mrs J Rix	
Mr S Willis	

Treasurer:

Mr S Willis

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	34,546	70	34,616	37,167
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	4,351	68	4,419	2,952
a4	Lettings	1,000		1,000	700
a5	Other receipts	28,495	4,165	32,660	45,679
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	68,392	4,303	72,696 (a7)	86,498

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	43,852		43,852	44,809
b3	Donations	516		516	225
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	5,926		5,926	21,956
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	9,726		9,726	7,497
b6					
b7	Other payments	11,451	6,527	17,978	20,664
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	71,471	6,527	77,998 (b9)	95,151

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(3,078)	(2,224)	(5,302)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	89,263	5,590	94,853 (c6)	103,506
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	86,185	3,366	89,551
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	86,185	3,366	89,551 (c8)
					94,853 (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		547		NIL
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		1,328		1,536
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		1,875		989
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)			547

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	The Playbox	118,611	111,464	7,147	(4,000)	12,950	16,097
e2	St Johns Community Team	1,341	1,195	146		201	346
e3	Flower Committee		8	(8)		75	67
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	119,952	112,667	7,285	(4,000)	13,226 (e11)	16,510 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	72,696 (a7)	77,998 (b9)	(5,302)	(c7)	94,853 (c6)	89,551 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	192,648	190,665	1,982	(4,000)	108,079 (x)	106,061 (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	4,111	4,431
f3	Bank Deposit Account		
f4	Central Finance Board	65,242	59,620
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	25,500	25,500
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	94,853 (c6)	89,551 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	13,226 (e11)	16,510 (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	108,079 (x)	106,061 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2023	At 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 ...St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury..... No...14302.....

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 Date.....

Name and address of treasurer John Simon Willis

5 Windsor Green Cockfield..... Post Code IP30 0LY

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

...St Johns...Methodist....Church

Charity Number ...1151379..

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St Johns Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 1 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.

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

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address

..... Post Code

Date

* delete or circle as appropriate

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 V. S.

Name of independent examiner VINCENT CHAMBERLAIN

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA FCCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) MOORE GREEN

Address 22 FARRIS STREET GUDBURN SUFFOLK

Post Code CO10 2AA

Date 16/12/2024

* delete or circle as appropriate

Accounts



ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH, SUDBURY

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Minister
The Rev Ruth Ridge
4 Kedington Court, Acton, CO10 0XB
Tel: 07447091182

St John's Methodist Church
York Road
SUDBURY
Suffolk
CO10 1ND
Church Office: 01787 373185
Registered Charity No. 1151379

CHURCH STEWARDS

Mrs S Rampling, 16 St Bartholomew's Lane, Sudbury, CO10 1LG 01787 377441
Mrs G Phillips, 21 Old Court, Long Melford, CO10 9HA 01787 583557
Miss I Hebden, 3 Singleton Court, Great Cornard, Sudbury, CO10 0EN 01787 373736
Mrs J Rix, "Buxtons", Old Bury Road, Alpheton, Sudbury, CO10 9BT 01284 828775
Mrs N Newcomb, Nayland Hall Farm, Cock Street, Leavenheath, CO6 4PJ 01206 263263
Mr S Willis, 5 Windsor Green, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0LY 01284 828229

WORSHIP LEADERS

Mrs N Newcomb, Nayland Hall Farm, Cock Street, Leavenheath, CO6 4PJ 01206 263263
Mrs A Smythe, 8, Reddells Close, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2PW. 01787 585914

SENIOR COMMUNION STEWARD

Mrs D Badrick, 1 Park Road, Sudbury CO10 2QB 01787 379672

CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Mrs J Reed, 7 Turkentine Close, Great Cornard, CO10 0YR 01787 310795

TREASURER

Mr S Willis, 5 Windsor Green, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0LY 01284 828229

PROPERTY SECRETARY

Mr R G Stanford, 16 Chilton Court, Sudbury, CO10 2SH 01787 882181

CHOIR MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Mrs C Willis, 5 Windsor Green, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0LY 01284 828229

ACTION FOR CHILDREN SECRETARY

Mrs C Willis, 5 Windsor Green, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0LY 01284 828229

PASTORAL SECRETARY

Mrs M Hearn, 27, Windmill Close, Gt Cornard, CO10 0FL 01787 377524

LINK PERSON

Mr R G Stanford, 16 Chilton Court, Sudbury, CO10 2SH 01787882181

HERALD CONTACT Mrs G Phillips, 21 Old Court, Long Melford CO10 9HA 01787 583557

ST. JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL

Members (Trustees) at October 2023

Rev Jason Vinyard –Superintendent Minister

Rev Ruth Ridge - Chairman



Diane Badrick	Communion Steward/Christian Aid rep
Simon Badrick	Finance
Jane Brooker	Circuit steward/Safeguarding Officer
Francis Carr	Circuit Steward
Rev Rita Carr	Circuit minister
Maureen Hearn	Pastoral Secretary
Isabel Hebden	Senior Steward
Mark Lewis	Church rep 2021
Norma Newcomb	Steward
Gill Phillips	Steward/CTiSD/Playbox Committee
Sue Pugh	Playbox Committee

Sue Rampling	Steward
Judith Reed	Church Council Secretary
Philip Richardson	Administrator
Rev Ruth Ridge	Minister, St John's
Julie Rix	Steward
Peter Rix	Property/Finance
Ann Smythe	CTISD
Richard Stanford	Property/Finance
Rev Jason Vinyard	Circuit Superintendent
Christine Willis	Choir Director
Simon Willis	Treasurer/Steward
<i>Elizabeth Lee (not a member or trustee)</i>	Community Worker

Annual Report

Minister: The Reverend Ruth Ridge

St John's Mission Statement;

St John's invites you to share the Good News of God's love in Christ.

We welcome everyone, and set out to give service to the community near and far.

Aims

1. The furtherance of God's work in Sudbury and surrounding area and supporting that work in the wider world.
2. Propagation of the Christian faith.
3. Providing and supporting positive opportunities for the development of activities to benefit the whole community.
4. To work constructively with other churches of other denominations and as appropriate with other organisations.
5. Provide worship opportunities for all ages, and a welcoming atmosphere for all, especially newcomers.

From our Minister

Report for St John's ACM 2024

Dear Friends,

It has been a year of many changes, some sad, as we marked the loss of 6 much loved members and some exciting as we rejoiced in the fitting of a new heating system and floor in the hall. I want once again to extend my thanks to the stewards, treasurer and all church officers who maintain the smooth running of the church. A particular thank you this year goes to Philip, Richard, Peter and the Property Committee for the hard work both in planning and fitting the new underfloor heating. Much of this work was done in house by Richard, Philip and Peter with Simon Willis also lending a hand and this kept costs much below what they could have been. Thank you for the time and hard work you gave in very dusty conditions. The results are definitely greatly appreciated by all who use the hall.



Of course, the church is the people who meet rather than the building and our pastoral team continues to maintain contact with our wide church family. Thank you to Maureen and all of the pastoral visitors for the visits, calls and other contact. This year has seen the loss of a number of our membership and this is hard for all of us. It was good to take some time to be quiet and remember and give thanks at a 'light a candle' service in November and we will take another opportunity to do so in April.

The church magazine 'The Herald' continues to provide valuable information, an interesting read and a smile to readers from this church, Bradfield and Glemsford and our appreciation goes to Gill and all who contribute regularly to this. In addition to the Herald, the Bury Circuit is now producing a monthly newsletter to keep churches across the circuit in touch. Contributions for this are also gratefully received.

Bible Studies continue to provide opportunities for study and book group offers lively discussion. The Salt Shaker housegroup also meets regularly for prayer, fellowship and discussion. If anyone is interested in joining a housegroup, please speak to me as it would be lovely to run more groups if needed.

Our Community worker, supported by the management team, continues to offer Friday and Saturday groups – Tea and Tots, TGIF after school club and Coffee and Chat. Coffee and chat offers a varied programme including craft and monthly films and the Friday groups are growing and lively – take a look at the notice board by the hall for our latest theme! New volunteers are always welcome, so if you would like to know more, please speak to Elizabeth, Gill or myself.

Playbox have also had another good year and my thanks go to all those who maintain regular links through the Playbox committee and providing music and singing. It was lovely to have the children in church for Harvest and to be able to share the Central American tradition of Posada by sending knitted nativity figures to join the group.

Following last year's meeting, we agreed to continue holding a monthly all age service, held café style. These services have been well received and it was lovely to be joined by the Beavers for Remembrance Sunday. Feedback about these services would be gratefully received by the stewards, as we look to future planning.

As a church we continue to support the work of Action for Children and Christian Aid and to promote the work of Fair Trade. We also continue to campaign for environmental issues and to operate as an eco-church.

It has been a busy year and so many people have given selflessly of their time, energy and prayers to make these things happen. We are truly one body, rejoicing in many members with so many different skills. We look forward in faith to what the coming year may bring.

God bless.

Ruth.

Pastoral Report

Membership	57
Pastoral Roll	120

We remember with love and thanksgiving those friends who have died or moved house since our last A G M.

Rev. Keith Horton

Mrs. Jan Turner

Mr. Andrew Pilgrim

Mr. Tony Clarke

Mrs. Olive Underwood

Mr. Ray Tansley

Mrs. Iris Clare

Mrs Alma Vinter has transferred her membership to Holme upon Spalding Moor.

The pastoral list is being updated and we have several people who are going to become members shortly.

Maureen Hearn

Prayer Chain



We are seven members of St. Johns who pray for others when requests are made.

I am the first point of contact and I phone the other members who then include the requests in their prayers.

We need permission of the person or close family member before names are put on the list and everything is confidential,

It is often a great help and comfort to people knowing that they are held in prayer.

Maureen Hearn

Treasurer's Report to the Annual Church Meeting **March 2024**

The financial climate continues to be difficult for St Johns as it is for most charities, businesses and individuals. The rate of inflation, though easing, has imposed a real cost of living crisis on us all. The fact that St John's continues to function in so many ways is due to the generosity of the church community

in their giving of time and skills as well as financially, and for that we continue to be very grateful. At the same time, we have to recognise again this year we have lost a number of members and so the financial load is shared by fewer individuals.

The accounts for the year 2022/2023 were approved by the accountants Moore Green and by the autumn church council. They show an overall deficit of £8,653 which is less than our prediction and also it does not include the grant of £2,000 from the circuit towards the hall floor which did not arrive until after 31st August. So this deficit is not as bad as it might have been, but is still a deficit. We have the reserves to cover it, but they will not last forever.

The estimated figures for 2023/2024 give a projected deficit of around £20,000 and were arrived at on the basis of minimum expected income and maximum expected expenditure. This should be the 'worst case scenario' and we might expect the deficit to be less. However, after 6 months of the church financial year, we have run at a deficit of £7,200 and I currently estimate the deficit at the end of the year to be around £19,000.

I estimate our income will be around £23,000 down on last year. Offerings and fund raising are down, and we have already received all the grants that we might expect. The tax refund from gift aided donations is expected to be much the same as last year, and the letting income which is almost entirely from the Playbox will be up £1200 for the year. Last year The Playbox contributed £8,000 on top of their accommodation, this year they have committed to £4,000. Although interest rates have been high and we have earned significant interest on our investments, rates are now falling and so it is unclear how much more we will earn.

I estimate our outgoings will be around £13,000 lower than last year largely because we do not have the expenditure

associated with the new hall floor and heating. Our assessment for next year has been reduced by 5%. However, we have yet to pay any utility bills at the new increased tariff we moved to at the beginning of January, as we pay for gas and electricity 2 months in arrears. We shall see shortly how much more our monthly bills are. Also, Anglian water is increasing its prices by 9 % on 1st April and that will be passed on to us.

Overall, we are running at a deficit as we have for a number of years. We do have considerable reserves at the moment and it is right we draw on those to maintain the work of the church, but I would ask you all to give prayerful thought to ways in which we might maximise our income to ease the pressure on our accounts.

In conclusion I would like to thank you again for your generous giving and support in the last year.

Simon Willis Treasurer

Salt Shakers Housegroup



Salt Shaker Housegroup continues to meet every two months on the first Tuesday evening. Our next meeting will be at the home of Carol Whiteman in March.

We always enjoy being together, singing, praying and discussing whatever topic has been chosen by the host. Its a lovely group to be involved in and we are thankful for the fellowship we all share.

Jan Foster



Church Annual Report – Flower Committee

Being able to have fresh flowers in Church gives the opportunity for members and friends to donate towards fresh flowers, have a go at arranging if you'd like, or taking the flowers out after display to give to the sick or anyone in need of cheering up.

It is hoped that fresh flowers can be arranged approximately once a month. For the other weeks we have two pedestals of good quality silk flowers to display .

A new Flower Rota is available on the table at the back of the church, so please add your name. As there are fewer members available to arrange and distribute the flowers we can't manage to do this more than once a month.

Please see if you can help in any way with this aid to our worship, and don't hesitate to speak to me to discuss any of the above.

Julie Rix



Community Team March 2023-February 2024

Throughout the year, the community team has continued to run our groups for community engagement: Tea & Tots for under 5's, Thank Goodness it's Friday for ages 6+ and Coffee and Chat for all. All of our groups have regular members who attend each week, and we welcomed approximately 1050 attendees throughout the year (this number does not include the adults accompanying children), with weekly attendance of approximately 15 children at Tea & Tots, 10 children at TGIF and 9 adults at Coffee and Chat.

Tea & Tots runs on Friday mornings from 9.30am -11.30am. We have many regular members, who have been attending our toddler group with their children for several years, and have a wide range of ages in children from one week to four years. In addition to our regular attendees, we have welcomed many new families throughout the year. Parents and guardians enjoy our group for the friendly and welcoming attitude of our volunteers, as well as the other attendees, and find a great deal of safety and support with us.

Thank Goodness it's Friday (TGIF) is our after school club on Fridays from 3.30pm-5pm. In September we undertook a journey around the world, visiting 13 different countries and finding out about the people, plants and animals that live there. Families responded very well to this theme and were engaged and excited about our activities throughout the term. From this, we decided to continue with a structure of games, crafts and cooking based around a theme that changes each term or half term.

During the summer holidays, we arranged two outdoor meet-ups in Belle Vue Park. These were open to all of our families and offered a chance to meet during the summer break, to maintain contact and to share news.

Coffee and Chat runs weekly on Saturday mornings from 10.30am -12.30pm. Alongside friendly conversation, coffee, tea and cake, we have continued to run optional activities of jigsaw puzzles and board games, different hobbies on the second Saturday of the month, and a film screening on the fourth Saturday of the month. We spent time during October and November knitting sheep to be given to the children in our Friday groups and Playbox for our Posada activity during advent. In February we began a new knitting project to make blankets for use during church services in the winter. Coffee and Chat continues to provide a space to gather and socialise with one another.

In December, we took part in the Sudbury Christmas Tree Festival. We chose a theme inspired by our round the world trip in TGIF “Global Guardians”. In our groups, we spent time thinking about the ways we look after the people, places and creatures around us and things we can do to improve the way we care for each other.

Throughout the year we have continued to run Messy Church with St Andrew’s Church in Great Cornard. We run services once a month, usually on the third Sunday of the month, alternating which church hosts the service. During August we had an outdoor Messy Church at Foxearth Meadows.

Elizabeth Lee

Churches Together Report for ACM

The work of Churches Together continues, with quarterly forum meetings this year covering topics such as FairTrade, God and the Climate, the Christian broadcaster SAT7 and an informal discussion 'Better Together?' looking at the things that we can achieve working across different churches. Quarterly services have also taken place, celebrating the work of Eden's and Christian Aid and providing space to remember in the 'Light up a Life' service. During this year's Week of prayer for Christian Unity service, there was also an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the Churches Together Covenant.

We hope to hold an additional joint service at sunrise on Easter Day this year, venue and time to be confirmed.

Prayer breakfasts continue weekly and hospitality from churches around Sudbury is greatly appreciated. This is a wonderful opportunity to pray together for the town and the world. Kettle and Fish continues to run a cafe most weeks at Suffolk Road and is supported by a good crowd of regulars, however custom is much reduced from when we were in St Peter's and we need more volunteers to help with setting up and serving. Please pray that the future for Kettle and Fish will become clear.

Churches Together also continues to support Christian work around Sudbury by supporting organisations such as Future Vision, Storehouse No. 72 and Abi's Footprints. It is wonderful to be able to share with Christians of different backgrounds in worship and in serving the community.

Ruth

Bible Study Group.

We continue to meet regularly on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 2:15p.m. in the Wesley Room.



This year we have studied Hebrews, Obadiah, Isaiah chapters 40 - 55 (which are known as 'Second Isaiah and which include the four Servant Songs) and Haggai. We are now studying Peter, the rock on which Jesus built the Church.

At each meeting we have good, often lively discussions about the actual Bible passages, discussions related to them and what they all mean for us as individuals and for the Church and the wider community.

New members are always welcome!

Isabel Hebden

The Exchange Book Club

The Exchange book club continues to meet every two months and the books which are chosen by the members are varied. They are not 'religious' in theme but always give us food for thought on moral and ethical matters.



I have been introduced to new authors and have shared some of my favourites with the group.

It is a small friendly group and everyone is welcome even if they have not read the book. So if you enjoy reading please do feel free to join us.

Nita Stanford.

Our continued thanks to Jane Sharp the Chairwoman of the Management Committee for her support to the Playbox staff and children and the PMC for their continued support throughout the year.

Many thanks to Richard Stanford for being 'Mr Fix it' for us and always there to help.

September 2023 saw us with 33 children as a large number of 2 Year olds were on the waiting list and places are limited but Spring 2024 numbers are up to 41.

We had a wonderful nativity this year with parents/carers and families able to come and watch the children perform and sing in 'The first Christmas'.

The staff are all up to date with their training with Makaton signing course booked for April.

We are planning a Mother's Day celebration with the opportunity for the mums to come in and share time and activities with their child. We are providing Tea and cakes and a potted plant and artwork from the children.

We have a visit from Little City role play company planned for the spring, they set up rooms with toys and activities from people who help us e.g. vets, police station, shop, fire station.

The website continues to be a valuable connection with the families to keep them informed of coming activities with photos and videos of their time at Playbox.

Property Report March 2024

The Property Committee have met as and when necessary to address problems and situations as they arise. We are basking in the glory of a well functioning heated floor which is very satisfying after the hard work and expense. Along with upgrade to the toilet facilities which also seems very satisfactory. The regular maintenance and essential checks of alarm and emergency lighting have been carried out. At the moment we are still in a state of flux as the ongoing electric supply in town is being worked on. We have had to address the very tricky safety aspect of keeping fire escape routes clear and safety of children exiting the building via emergency doors. This has been addressed by fixing an extra gate on the car park side with a catch that is easily reached by an adult. It had seemed a good idea to use the redundant hedging as an eco heap but that has been removed to get at the brambles that were becoming dangerous(Nature fighting back). At the moment our long time grass cutter Mr Lunn has had to step back as he attends hospital for an operation, so I will do my best to keep it smart.

Richard

ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHOIR REPORT 2023

The choir has continued to contribute to Sunday worship during 2023, performing an Introit and/or Anthem most weeks. Our numbers are still low, and we would welcome anyone who'd like to come and sing with us. If you're tempted to give it a go, why not try it out – you don't have to commit yourself, and you might find you enjoy it! Practice is every Friday night between 7.00 and 8.15.

This seems the best place to thank Russell for stepping into the breach at Christmas when I had Covid, Isabel was away and Paul was also unwell. I'm sure everyone at St John's would like to thank

him for playing, and for his kind offer to step in if we are again without an organist at short notice. Thank you Russell.

At Christmas, we performed several pieces as part of the Carol Service as usual. We were again fortunate to be able to welcome Chris Francis from Great Waldingfield to boost our male voices. It's lovely to have Chris join us both for the Carol Service and occasionally at other services, and we are very grateful to him.

It was lovely to be invited to perform at the Sudbury Christmas Tree Festival again, as it returned to St Peter's. The choir were very well received, and it was lovely to have Diane Badrick join us. We look forward to singing there again next year.

Chris Willis

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

Bury St Edmunds	Circuit	Circuit no.	1403
-----------------	---------	-------------	------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1151379

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. Ruth Ridge

Church Stewards:

Miss I Hebden	
Mrs N Newcombe	
Mrs G Phillips	
Mrs S Rampling	
Mrs J Rix	
Mr S Willis	

Treasurer:

Mr S Willis

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	37,167		37,167	37,854
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	2,908	44	2,952	377
a4	Lettings	700		700	130
a5	Other receipts	43,679	2,000	45,679	29,773
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	84,454	2,044	86,498 (a7)	68,134

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	44,809		44,809	43,158
b3	Donations		225	225	125
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	21,956		21,956	7,850
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	7,497		7,497	6,403
b6					
b7	Other payments	20,664		20,664	17,192
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	94,926	225	95,151 (b9)	74,728

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(10,472)	1,819	(8,653)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		99,735	3,771	103,506 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	89,263	5,590	94,853
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(8) (c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	89,263	5,590	94,853 (c8)
					103,506 (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	NIL	4
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	1,536	874
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	989	878
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	547	NIL
	(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 2023 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 The Playbox	110,484	101,275	9,209	(8,000)	11,741	12,950
e2 Hobbies		94	(94)		94	NIL
e3 Flower Committee					75	75
e4 St Johns Community Team	1,171	1,475	(304)		505	201
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	111,655	102,844	8,811	(8,000)	12,415 (e11)	13,226 (e)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	86,498 (a7)	95,151 (b9)	(8,653)	(c7)	103,506 (c6)	94,853 (c)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	198,153	197,995	158	(8,000)	115,921 (x)	108,079 (t)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2023**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	27,114	4,111
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	45,893	65,242
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	30,499	25,500
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	103,506 (c6)	94,853 (c)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	12,415 (e11)	13,226 (e)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	115,921 (x)	108,079 (t)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
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)

The Playbox at St Johns Methodist Church

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st August 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Incoming Resources		
Local Authority Funding	85,900	72,871
Fees	14,758	19,144
	<u>100,658</u>	<u>92,015</u>
Lunch Club	9,308	7,915
Fundraising and Donations	225	85
Miscellaneous Income	-	-
Bank Interest	293	30
	<u>110,484</u>	<u>100,045</u>
Resources Expended		
Staff Remuneration and Pensions	73,383	67,823
Educational Materials and Consumables	6,813	7,488
Training and mileage Costs		694
Accommodation and Services	20,696	17,217
Other	383	776
Equipment		2,304
	<u>101,275</u>	<u>96,302</u>
Net Incoming Resources for year	<u>9,209</u>	<u>3,743</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2022

Fixed Assets	-	-
Current Assets		
Balance at Bank	3,743	20,002
Balance with Methodist Church CFB	9,532	7,241
Cash	-	13,275
		<u>27,243</u>
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	325	15,502
	<u>12,950</u>	<u>11,741</u>
General Funds		
Balance Brought Forward	11,741	12,998
Less Transfers to St Johns	8,000	5,000
	<u>3,741</u>	<u>7,998</u>
Net Incoming Resources for year	<u>9,209</u>	<u>3,743</u>
	<u>12,950</u>	<u>11,741</u>

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS' REPORT FORM

This form should be used in conjunction with the STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS (Church, Circuit & District)

A separate Report Form should be prepared for each Internal Organisation

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Note

SECTION H

RECEIPTS

h1	Gifts & donations		
h2	Other receipts		110,484.00
h3	TOTAL RECEIPTS (to Receipts col page 3 in the main accounts)		110484

SECTION I

PAYMENTS

i1	Donations		
i2	Other payments		109,275.00
i3	TOTAL PAYMENTS (to Payments col page 3 in the main accounts)		109275

SECTION J

j1	NET RECEIPTS (PAYMENTS)	(h3 - i3)	1209
j2	OPENING BALANCE (to Opening balance column page 3 in the main accounts)		11741
j3	Adjustments (show any negative adjustments in brackets)		
j4	CLOSING BALANCE (to Closing balance col. page 3 in the main accounts)	(j1+j2+/-j3)	12950

SECTION K

HOW THE FUNDS ARE HELD

k1	Cash in hand		
k2	Cash at Bank/CFB etc		12,950.00
k3	Other accounts		
k4	TOTAL FUNDS HELD (should agree with line j4 above)	(k1+k2+k3)	12950

SECTION M

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO OTHER EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

(These amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)

m1	Balance brought forward from last year		
m2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		
m3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		
m4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(m1+m2-m3)	

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS' REPORT FORM

This form should be used in conjunction with the STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS (Church, Circuit & District)

A separate Report Form should be prepared for each Internal Organisation

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Note

31/8/23

SECTION H

RECEIPTS

h1	Gifts & donations		
h2	Other receipts		
h3	TOTAL RECEIPTS (to Receipts col page 3 in the main accounts)		—

SECTION I

PAYMENTS

i1	Donations		
i2	Other payments		
i3	TOTAL PAYMENTS (to Payments col page 3 in the main accounts)		—

SECTION J

j1	NET RECEIPTS (PAYMENTS)	(h3 - i3)	
j2	OPENING BALANCE (to Opening balance column page 3 in the main accounts)		75-02
j3	Adjustments (show any negative adjustments in brackets)		
j4	CLOSING BALANCE (to Closing balance col. page 3 in the main accounts)	(j1+j2+/-j3)	75-02

SECTION K

HOW THE FUNDS ARE HELD

k1	Cash in hand		75-02
k2	Cash at Bank/CFB etc		
k3	Other accounts		
k4	TOTAL FUNDS HELD (should agree with line j4 above)	(k1+k2+k3)	75-02

SECTION M

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO OTHER EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

(These amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)

m1	Balance brought forward from last year		
m2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		
m3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		
m4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(m1+m2-m3)	

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS' REPORT FORM

This form should be used in conjunction with the STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS (Church, Circuit & District)

A separate Report Form should be prepared for each Internal Organisation

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Note

SECTION H

RECEIPTS

h1	Gifts & donations		
h2	Other receipts		
h3	TOTAL RECEIPTS (to Receipts col page 3 in the main accounts)		Nil

SECTION I

PAYMENTS

i1	Donations		
i2	Other payments		94 36
i3	TOTAL PAYMENTS (to Payments col page 3 in the main accounts)		94 36

SECTION J

j1	NET RECEIPTS (PAYMENTS)	(h3 - i3)	(94 36)
j2	OPENING BALANCE (to Opening balance column page 3 in the main accounts)		94 36
j3	Adjustments (show any negative adjustments in brackets)		
j4	CLOSING BALANCE (to Closing balance col. page 3 in the main accounts)	(j1+j2+/-j3)	Nil

SECTION K

HOW THE FUNDS ARE HELD

k1	Cash in hand		
k2	Cash at Bank/CFB etc		
k3	Other accounts		
k4	TOTAL FUNDS HELD (should agree with line j4 above)	(k1+k2+k3)	Nil

SECTION M

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO OTHER EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

(These amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)

m1	Balance brought forward from last year		
m2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		
m3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		
m4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(m1+m2-m3)	

THE METHODIST CHURCH

INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORT FORM

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Each year every organisation connected with a local Church, Circuit or District is required by Standing Orders to present its accounts to the Church Council/Circuit Meeting/Synod.

The Managing Trustees are annually required to complete the Annual Accounts setting out the financial affairs of the Church/Circuit/District including all its connected internal organisations.

This form (which can be used for a Church/Circuit, District organisation) requires details of the accounts of your organisation so that all responsibilities can be fulfilled. We ask for your co-operation which will ensure proper public accountability and the protection of those who willingly act as treasurers.

Circuit/District	CIRCUIT: <u>BSE</u>	DISTRICT: <u>EA</u>
Group/Organisation	<u>HOBBIES</u>	

Signatures section

I confirm that I have prepared the information overleaf from the accounts and records of the above named Group or Organisation

R. K Ridge P.P JAN TURNER
Treasurer of Group or Organisation

16/11/23
Date

I confirm that I have examined the accounts and records of the

HOBBIES

and that the information overleaf is in accordance therewith.

J S Wills
Independent Examiner/Registered Auditor

24/9/23
Date

I confirm that the information overleaf has been prepared from independently examined/audited* accounts which were/will be* presented to

at a meeting which I chaired/intend to chair on

Date

Signature of Chair of Meeting

Date

This form can be used by Church, Circuit and District Internal Organisations who report to their respective Methodist bodies.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS' REPORT FORM

This form should be used in conjunction with the STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS (Church, Circuit & District)

A separate Report Form should be prepared for each Internal Organisation

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Note

SECTION H

RECEIPTS

h1	Gifts & donations		1170.82
h2	Other receipts		
h3	TOTAL RECEIPTS (to Receipts col page 3 in the main accounts)		1170.82

SECTION I

PAYMENTS

i1	Donations		
i2	Other payments		1475.06
i3	TOTAL PAYMENTS (to Payments col page 3 in the main accounts)		1475.06

SECTION J

j1	NET RECEIPTS (PAYMENTS)	(h3 - i3)	(304.24)
j2	OPENING BALANCE (to Opening balance column page 3 in the main accounts)		505.04
j3	Adjustments (show any negative adjustments in brackets)		
j4	CLOSING BALANCE (to Closing balance col. page 3 in the main accounts)	(j1+j2+/-j3)	200.80

SECTION K

HOW THE FUNDS ARE HELD

k1	Cash in hand		
k2	Cash at Bank/CFB etc		200.80
k3	Other accounts		
k4	TOTAL FUNDS HELD (should agree with line j4 above)	(k1+k2+k3)	200.80

SECTION M

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO OTHER EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

(These amounts should not be included in total receipts/payments above)

m1	Balance brought forward from last year		
m2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		
m3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		
m4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(m1+m2-m3)	

THE METHODIST CHURCH

INTERNAL ORGANISATION REPORT FORM

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Each year every organisation connected with a local Church, Circuit or District is required by Standing Orders to present its accounts to the Church Council/Circuit Meeting/Synod.

The Managing Trustees are annually required to complete the Annual Accounts setting out the financial affairs of the Church/Circuit/District including all its connected internal organisations.

This form (which can be used for a Church/Circuit, District organisation) requires details of the accounts of your organisation so that all responsibilities can be fulfilled. We ask for your co-operation which will ensure proper public accountability and the protection of those who willingly act as treasurers.

Circuit/District

CIRCUIT: BSE

DISTRICT: EA

Group/Organisation

ST JOHNS COMMUNITY TEAM

Signatures section

I confirm that I have prepared the information overleaf from the accounts and records of the above named Group or Organisation

J Green

Treasurer of Group or Organisation

24/09/2023

Date

I confirm that I have examined the accounts and records of the

SSCT

and that the information overleaf is in accordance therewith.

SSW

Independent Examiner/Registered Auditor

24/9/23

Date

I confirm that the information overleaf has been prepared from independently examined/audited* accounts which were/will be* presented to

at a meeting which I chaired/intend to chair on

Date

Signature of Chair of Meeting

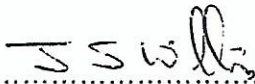
Date

This form can be used by Church, Circuit and District Internal Organisations who report to their respective Methodist bodies.

Name of Church ...St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury..... No...14302.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 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  Date...27/9/23.....

Name and address of treasurer John Simon Willis

5 Windsor Green Cockfield..... Post Code IP30 0LY

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 16/11/23

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Ruth Ridge..... Date ..16/11/23.....

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

...St Johns...Methodist....Church

Charity Number ...1151379..

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St Johns Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 1 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.

Name of Church ...St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury..... No...14302.....

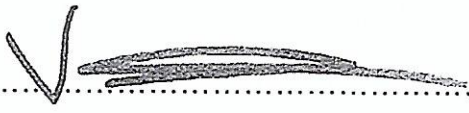
Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination 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 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 Vincent Chandler

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA FCCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) Moore Green

Address 22 Friars Street, Sudbury, Suffolk

..... Post Code CO10 2AA

Date 26.10.2023

* delete or circle as appropriate

Accounts



ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH, SUDBURY

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Minister
The Rev Ruth Ridge
4 Kedington Court, Acton, CO10 0XB
Tel: 07447091182

St John's Methodist Church
York Road
SUDBURY
Suffolk
CO10 1ND
Church Office: 01787 373185
Registered Charity No. 1151379

CHURCH STEWARDS

Mrs S Rampling, 16 St Bartholomew's Lane, Sudbury, CO10 1LG 01787 377441
Mrs G Phillips, 21 Old Court, Long Melford, CO10 9HA 01787 583557
Miss I Hebden, 3 Singleton Court, Great Cornard, Sudbury, CO10 0EN 01787 373736
Mrs J Rix, "Buxtons", Old Bury Road, Alpheton, Sudbury, CO10 9BT 01284 828775
Mrs N Newcomb, Nayland Hall Farm, Cock Street, Leavenheath, CO6 4PJ 01206 263263
Mr S Willis, 5 Windsor Green, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 0LY 01284 828229

WORSHIP LEADERS

Mrs N Newcomb, Nayland Hall Farm, Cock Street, Leavenheath, CO6 4PJ 01206 263263
Mrs M Hearn, 27, Windmill Close, Gt Cornard, CO10 0FL 01787 377524
Mrs A Smythe, 14 De Bures Walk, Acton, CO10 0WY 01787 313701

SENIOR COMMUNION STEWARD

Mrs D Badrick, 1 Park Road, Sudbury CO10 2QB 01787 379672

CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Mrs J Reed, 7 Turkentine Close, Great Cornard, CO10 0YR 01787 310795

TREASURER

Mr P Martland, "Inglebrook", Borley, CO10 7AE, 01787 311805

PROPERTY SECRETARY

Mr R G Stanford, 16 Chilton Court, Sudbury, CO10 2SH 01787 882181

CHOIR MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Mrs A Platten, 29, Canterbury Road, Sudbury, CO10 1LL, 01787 374069

ACTION FOR CHILDREN SECRETARY

Mr D Price, 34, Catesby Meadow, Sudbury, CO10 2BD

PASTORAL SECRETARY

Mrs M Hearn, 27, Windmill Close, Gt Cornard, CO10 0FL 01787 377524

LINK PERSON

Mr R G Stanford, 16 Chilton Court, Sudbury, CO10 2SH 01787882181

HERALD CONTACT Mrs G Phillips, 21 Old Court, Long Melford CO10 9HA
01787 583557



ST. JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL

Members (Trustees) at October 2021

Rev Jason Vinyard –Superintendent Minister

Rev Ruth Ridge - Chairman

Diane Badrick	Communion Steward	Ann Platten	Choir Rep
Simon Badrick	Finance	Sue Pugh	Playbox Committee
Rev Rita Carr	Circuit minister	Sue Rampling	Senior Steward
Andrew Clare	Lettings Secretary	Judith Reed	Church Council Secretary
Maureen Hearn	Pastoral Secretary	Philip Richardson	Administrator
Isabel Hebden	Steward	Julie Rix	Steward
Bill Humm	Circuit Steward	Peter Rix	Property/Finance
Mark Lewis	Church rep 2021	Ann Smythe	Safeguarding/CTIS
Paul Martland	Treasurer	Richard Stanford	Property/Finance
Norma Newcomb	Steward	Christine Willis	Traidcraft Rep
Gill Phillips	Steward/CTIS	Simon Willis	Steward

Annual Report

Minister: The Reverend Ruth Ridge

St John's Mission Statement;

St John's invites you to share the Good News of God's love in Christ.

We welcome everyone, and set out to give service to the community near and far.

Aims

1. The furtherance of God's work in Sudbury and surrounding area and supporting that work in the wider world.
2. Propagation of the Christian faith.
3. Providing and supporting positive opportunities for the development of activities to benefit the whole community.
4. To work constructively with other churches of other denominations and as appropriate with other organisations.
5. Provide worship opportunities for all ages, and a welcoming atmosphere for all, especially newcomers.

From our Minister

Report for St John's ACM 2022

Dear Friends,

Yet again this year has been a strange one as we have moved in and out of COVID regulations. Firstly, it doesn't seem long since our last ACM, as we ended up meeting in July last year due to further lockdown restrictions preventing our usual March meeting. For this reason and due to a heavy agenda, I am suggesting that we consider church appointments later in the year rather than at the ACM.



From Easter last year we began our return to face to face services, beginning with great caution in order to make sure everything was safe. My heartfelt thanks go to the stewards, Philip and Richard who spent a great deal of time and energy arranging the church in a manner which was both safe and practical and producing countless risk assessments, new signage and other guidance. From July we were able to worship weekly and to sing once again, albeit with masks on. For those who were unable to come in person, weekly worship sheets continued to be produced by the circuit until September and continue 'in house' – a valuable resource for those who find themselves either temporarily or permanently housebound. Weekly circuit zoom services also continue, as does a monthly online reflection, as we continue to find new ways of reaching out beyond the church walls.

Pastoral contact has been vital throughout these changing times and the pastoral team, ably lead by our pastoral secretary, have continued to regularly call, send cards and visit as appropriate. Last Easter we were able to send 'goody bags' containing Easter worship resources, flowers and chocolate to those at home as a special greeting for the season.

Community team activities continued out of doors for the first part of the year, including an Easter trail and a picnic in the park. From September we were able to open our doors again to 'tea and tots', 'TGIF' and 'Coffee and chat'. All of these regular sessions are well received and we were

blessed with over 40 families signing up for tots in the first few weeks. Emma and the Community Team provide a welcoming space for play, rest and conversation and offer much needed support where it is needed.

Messy Church also began again in August and saw us teaming up with St Andrew's Great Cornard. This means we are able to run sessions monthly at alternate churches and provides a wider pool of volunteers and greater continuity for families. It has been a real blessing to work together and we hope to link with more churches in the area as we look at providing a holiday club this summer.

September also saw a return to in person meetings for the book group and bible study, welcomed opportunities to learn, share and discuss with others. As it seems that restrictions are now lifted for the long term, we are exploring what other opportunities there might be to come together. One off social events are very popular and Richard's musical skills are greatly appreciated at these. We managed to gather for Harvest and for Advent, in spite of restrictions!

In September we welcomed a new circuit superintendent, Revd Jason Vinyard. He is encouraging new ideas and activity, particularly in the circuit response to climate change and the environment. As a church registered on the eco-church scheme, this is something that is already a key area for St John's and we are encouraged to think about what more we can do, both as individuals and as a church to raise environmental awareness.

It has been a year of changes, but through this, God's call to us to love others as he loves us has been a constant foundation. Change is exhausting and, even as we learn to live with COVID, new challenges face us as we face up to the climate crisis and the growing conflict in Ukraine. Sometimes it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the troubles in the world. Jesus reminds us though, that we do not bear these challenges alone and that we cannot do everything in our own strength. Jesus says "Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest." As we move forward in the new year, let's remember to take time to find that rest that Jesus offers, for in it we will find the strength to continue our witness to His love.

God bless.

Ruth.

Membership Report

Membership. 69

Pastoral Roll. 124

Prayer Chain

We are twelve members of St. John's who pray for others when requests received. I telephone the other members who then pray for them.



Those who have asked for prayer often say it is a comfort to know others are praying for them.

All requests are confidential.

Maureen Hearn



Salt Shaker House Group has been unable to meet during the past year due to COVID-19.

Jan Foster

FINANCIAL MATTERS AND CONCERNS

Once again for all of us 2020/21 has been a difficult year in many ways. We continue to be affected by the pandemic including the Church although matters are beginning to resume some sense of normality. Nevertheless St Johns is still here and functioning thanks to your continued support on many fronts but especially that of finance. We continue to give thanks for that.

You have all as trustees received a copy of the certified accounts for the year to 31st August 2021 in the standard format, together with my breakdown of the General Fund in the form of Receipts and Payments. The former has been examined and approved by Moore Green in accordance with Charity Commission directions and I hold the approved copy – if this meeting approves the figures, the chairman will sign them as such.

I would comment as follows:-

General Fund Receipts and Payments account

Against a budgeted shortfall of £14000 we in fact ended the year in surplus at £5381. This pleasing outturn is due to several factors.

Your giving by way of collections and gift day has increased by £4000 plus we have received generous bequests in the year of £3500 from two of our late members Beverly Richardson and Harry Smith for which we are truly grateful. In respect of our Community Team we received a grant of £4000 from Suffolk Community Foundation to support our Community Worker. In accordance with the terms of this grant these funds are shown as 'restricted funds' and not available to the General Fund until drawn down.

The tax refund from Gift Aided giving showed a decrease of £2000 however our Fund Raising efforts were excellent, given that there was no Autumn Fair; sales of Noleet and Andrew's Jams and Chutneys plus the Bike Ride all contributed. We held the Garden Party again which everyone enjoyed – the contribution from Barclays of £750 came too late to be included in these accounts and is carried over into the current year.

Accommodation charges from The Playbox certainly reduced the strain on our overall finances.

So all in all we have a great deal to be thankful for.

Our outgoings were not dissimilar to the previous year and continued to show the savings in heat and lighting costs as a result of limited usage of our premises. Fortunately our contracts for Gas and Electricity, taken out in January 2021, do not expire until December 2023 so we are as yet not exposed to the increase in fuel costs seen recently.

During the year we donated £250 to Edens from the Benevolent Fund despite there being no income to this fund. In addition we donated equal amounts of £62.50 to Sudbury Community Depot and Abi's Footprints plus £395 to All We Can in respect of Richard & Jane's canoe trip along the Stour.

Our Community Worker's costs of £8052 were funded by Circuit and District grants totalling £4000. Currently there is £5486 in our cash balances for the benefit of our Community Worker. I do not envisage resorting to the Wheeler Bequest monies in the next 12 months, however I do need Church Council's approval to utilise the restricted fund monies of £4000 from Suffolk Foundation.

Looking ahead you will see from my budget that I am forecasting a deficit of almost £15000 in the current year mainly due to an increased assessment and possible increases in repairs and maintenance. We do have the reserves to cover this but they will not last forever. I will be keeping a close eye on how we perform.

Last but not least I and St Johns are grateful to you all for your generous giving in the past year.

I seek your approval to the accounts which are to be signed by the chair of the meeting. I will thank Moore Green in due course and seek your approval to their fee of £414. They have agreed to be appointed for a further year.

Paul Martland FCIB Treasurer

The Property Committee have kept in close contact via email over the past 12 months but managed to have a brief meeting on 22nd Feb. 2022

Although slightly disjointed all essential maintenance and repairs have been dealt with.

The recent Quinquennial Survey was considered at our meeting and we shall be working through the recommendations. Although it always appears as a long list of remedial work, it is in fact all quite manageable. We have had our 5 year electrical installation inspection and thankfully still falls within safe levels. Fortunately we have not suffered any structural damage during the storms, apart from the leaded light window behind the choir which will need some major restoration and is being investigated.

We are still managing to keep up the regular essential testing of fire alarm and emergency lighting. A leak has occurred in the underfloor heating in the hall and plans are in place to affect a repair in the Easter break. We would ask respectfully that during such breaks that the Property team are afforded 1st choice of access to the buildings to allow such repairs, as we have little opportunity to do repairs during term time.

During the Covid pandemic we have followed the guidelines from the Property Division both as regards access to the buildings and safeguards to be applied.

Richard and Philip

Church Annual Report – Flower Committee



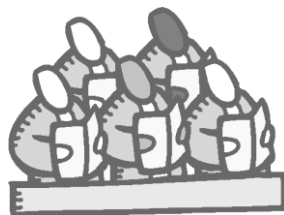
Over the last year we have rarely had fresh flowers in church. Hopefully this year we can do better. Although we have some good quality silk flowers in a pedestal, it is hoped that fresh flowers can be arranged approximately once a month, roughly on the third Sunday. This gives the opportunity for members and friends to donate towards fresh flowers, have a go at arranging if you'd like, or taking the flowers out after display to the sick or anyone in need of cheering up.

A new Flower Rota is available on the table at the back of the church, so please add your name. Dates can be altered if necessary. Please see if you can help in any way with this aid to our worship, and don't hesitate to speak to me to discuss any of the above.

Julie Rix

ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHOIR REPORT 2022

We have for a few months been able to offer an Introit at Sunday Services, and it was a plan also to sing an Anthem and I am hoping this will take place soon. We are down in numbers choir wise /voice wise and to choose Anthems is quite



difficult when there is not a balanced choir, so we have been sorting suitable Anthems which I hope we can perform soon.

The choir have all been very supportive during the last months, especially when I have been unable to be in church, and I appreciate the help given me very much.

Ann Platten Choir Director.



Churches Together in Sudbury and District Report 2021-22

This has been another strange year and many of our usual activities have been unable to take place due to ongoing COVID restrictions. From April, restrictions have slowly been lifted and this has meant that some events have resumed in the latter part of the year. We had no Christian Aid service, however envelopes were delivered and returned to central collection points, meaning that Sudbury was able to make a good donation. St John's Methodist Church hosted a joint service led by Eden's in October and St Gregory's in Sudbury hosted the 'light up a life' service on Advent Sunday.

In spite of the lockdown, however, we still found ways to pray and to share fellowship with one another in the first part of the year. Church News continued to circulate throughout, keeping us up to date and Zoom prayer 'breakfast' continues to meet weekly on a Saturday morning – it is hoped that in person prayer breakfasts will resume soon.

Churches Together also organised an angel trail around Sudbury during Advent. Different churches, schools and groups around the town made angels, which were then displayed in local shops. We received over 40 angels and a map was produced which enabled people to follow the trail. This was well received and the participating shops remarked that a lot of people asked about the angels.

Kettle and Fish resumed service at St Peter's in May with strict COVID guidelines. Volunteers coped well with the changed way of doing things and it was lovely to welcome people back again. When St Peter's closed for building work in September, Suffolk Road Church kindly offered Kettle and Fish a venue. It is a little out of town, but the welcome is as warm as ever and the food still excellent so please come and visit.

As we look to the future, Churches Together is looking to support churches in their response to the climate crisis and environmental issues. To this end a group is being set up to share good ideas and offer mutual support and we hope to have a regular Churches Together presence at Sudbury's 'Green Sunday' events. Please do pray for this initiative and get involved if you can.

Ruth

Bible Study Group.

It has been so good to be able to meet face to face again since September and we have enjoyed having 'live discussions' again once more. Some discussions are serious and others are more lively but we enjoy sharing our thoughts and ideas and learning from them. Recently we have studied the Life and Times of King David and are now studying Luke's Gospel.



My thanks go to those who enabled the group to 'keep going' throughout the pandemic with email/post sessions. I appreciated your support.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the month at 2:15p.m. in the Wesley Room. New members are always welcome.

Isabel Hebden.

Healing Group

The Healing Group has not been able to meet since March 2020 and is unlikely to start up again.



Maureen Hearn

The Exchange Book Club

The Exchange book club has just begun to meet again in person as restrictions are lifted and it is good to be able to discuss things face to face. We continue to read a wide variety of books so if you enjoy reading you would be most welcome to join us. We are a very small and informal group and welcome any suggestions from members for books to be read.



.Nita Stanford



St John's Community Team 2020-22

COVID has continued to have a major bearing on our plans in 2020-21. The church opened briefly for monthly services Sept-Dec 2020, but due to guidelines we were unable to start the community groups. Contact and support for service users continued online and we managed to organise outdoor family events in the October half term and during the Christmas holidays. These catered for existing families and enabled us to make contact with new families too. In early 2021 there was a countrywide lockdown and so we continued with online contact and activities, including a week of online craft activities for the February half term and regular online services. We handed out 50 activity packs at our Autumn 2020 event in the local park and 35 for our 2020 Christmas trail, with another 15 being delivered to families with whom we have regular contact. Activities from our February 2021 online event had up to 20 views and we made contact with 20 families through our Easter trail and quiz. 30 families attended the summer picnic and around 20 children attended the August Messy Church.

Messy Churches in October and November saw up to 45 children, plus carers in attendance and for our Christmas 2021 Messy Church (again online due to soaring COVID numbers in the area) we handed out over 50 craft bags and had 132 views of the service.

Our community worker also used the opportunity to complete some additional training, including a Fresh Expressions in Ministry and Mission course. She also further developed links with the local family centre.

As we moved into Summer 2021, restrictions began to lift and we began planning to start our groups from September 2021. In advance of this, we ran a summer picnic with activities for 30 families and a Messy Church session. As a result of the Fresh Expressions course, we have made links with another local church and started running Messy Church jointly, enabling us to offer sessions monthly and this summer session acted as the launch for this partnership. We would like to extend links to possibly running a Sudbury wide holiday club with links to more churches.

Whilst this work was not in accordance with our original plans, it did enable us to keep contact with families online and to maintain a presence in the community, albeit online. When we re-launched our groups in September we focused our attention on the Friday morning 'Tea and Tots' session, the after school club 'TGiF' and our Saturday morning drop-in as these were felt to be the three that best fitted our mission plan.

Since we have started regular groups again, the morning tots session has been very popular and we have been working to build rapport between a new group of parents and carers. We have been working to integrate the Saturday drop-in with regular church events to promote links between 'church' and 'community' activities and this has seen some new attendees.



Online worship and contact has been consistent throughout lockdown with up to 30 views on some services.

We have been pleased to find that many of our families have returned to the toddler group with second children (the first having started school during lockdown). We are also pleased that some of these are showing interest in and attending Messy Church. Some older children have also returned to the after school club.



Verbal feedback on our outdoor activities through the year have been uniformly positive – “It is good to see the church out and

about”, “Lovely to have an opportunity to do something as a family”
“Good to meet in a safe way” etc

The greatest success story is the enthusiasm with which the re-opening of Tea & Tots was met. 88 children were registered in the first 4 weeks. By the end of October 109 had registered and by the end of November 124. **Every week** saw new families coming. Not everyone returns every week – and we could not manage it safely if they did, but there is a steady and regular attendance by people who have expressed relief that these facilities are open again.

Additionally we have had a moving report from someone who attends Coffee and Chat on the value of this meeting. We hope to expand this in the future.



Gill



Traidcraft Annual Report for the Year to 31/12/21

Sadly, this year's report is very negative – even more so than last year's.

During 2021, Traidcraft sales through the church stall and Kettle & Fish have not picked up, even after the end of the main part of the pandemic. We have only run a stall at St John's on days when we have tea & coffee after the service, and this has been only about once a month. There have only been a handful of sales.

Unfortunately, the relocation of Kettle & Fish due to the works at St Peter's means that there is not the space to have a stall there, and there was no opportunity to have a stall before the church closed. We had limited success selling goods through Number 72, to whom I am enormously grateful for their assistance. However, the demands of keeping track of stock and sales were too much on top of their other activities, and they felt unable to continue with this after Christmas 2021.

At present, I am sorry to say that I have serious doubts about the continuation of the Traidcraft project at St John's. It is currently very difficult to place orders, as we have no idea what we might be able to sell (and, as mentioned above, we are selling hardly anything). This means that items are getting beyond their Best Before dates. Another problem is that Traidcraft have increased their minimum order values for free delivery to £50, which means ordering a significant amount of stock at once or else paying a £5 delivery charge.

I would suggest that the future of the Traidcraft stall needs to be discussed at Church Council and a decision taken in the next few months about whether to carry on or not.

Many thanks to those who have made purchases during the year – every little helps, and makes a difference to the producers. Please do all you can to opt for Fair Trade products when you do your supermarket shopping – all the main stores offer some items, and the Fair Trade logo is always displayed on them.

Chris Willis



Playbox was extremely pleased to open in September 2021 and the numbers have been very high and places have been in high demand. We have been very glad of our new member of staff Mrs Millea who joined the team in September.

The website continues to be a valuable connection with our families to keep them informed of all that is happening at the setting.

We continue to keep staff and children as safe as we can continuing our cleaning and sanitising routines.

We are looking forward to our Mother's Day celebrations with Tea and cake and our fun days in the summer term. We hope we can plan the return of the Nativity in December 2022.

Our thanks to Jane Sharp , Chairwoman for her continued support of the Playbox staff and children.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2022

Bury St Edmunds	Circuit	Circuit no.	14
------------------------	----------------	--------------------	-----------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

115

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 exempt from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Rev. Ruth Ridge

Church Stewards:

Miss I Hebden

Mrs N Newcomb

Mrs G Phillips

Mrs S Rampling

Mrs J Rix

Mr S Willis

Treasurer:

Mr W P Martland

CHURCH
YMENTS
COUNTS

Church

103

1379

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SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
		£	£	£		£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		37,854		37,854	43,456
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		372	5	377	210
a4	Lettings		130		130	530
a5	Other receipts		22,773	7,000	29,773	24,471
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		61,129	7,005	68,134 (a7)	68,667

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		43,158		43,158	40,659
b3	Donations			125	125	250
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		7,850		7,850	1,007
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		6,403		6,403	4,662
b6					0	
b7	Other payments		17,192		17,192	14,708
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		74,603	125	74,728 (b9)	61,286

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(13,474)	6,880	(6,594)	7,381
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		113,217	(3,109)	110,108 (c6)	102,750
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	99,743	3,771	103,514	110,131
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(8)		(8) (c7)	(23)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	99,735	3,771	103,506 (c8)	110,108 (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			4		NIL
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			874		539
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			878		535
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)			NIL		4

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	The Playbox	100,045	96,302	3,743	(5,000)	12,998	11,741
e2	Choir	Nil	182	(182)		182	Nil
e3	Hobbies	NIL	NIL	NIL		94	94
e4	Flower Committee	0	34	(34)		109	75
e5	St Johns Community Team	1,911	1,406	505		Nil	505
e6				0			0
e7				0			0
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	101,956	97,924	4,032	(5,000)	13,383 (e11)	12,415 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	68,134 (a7)	74,728 (b9)	(6,594)	(8) (c7)	110,108 (c6)	103,506 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	170,090	172,652	(2,562)	(5,008)	123,491 (x)	115,921 (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

		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand		
f2	Bank Current Account	28,271	27,114
f3	Bank Deposit Account		
f4	Central Finance Board	51,333	45,893
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	30,504	30,499
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	110,108 (c6)	103,506 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	13,383 (e11)	12,415 (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	123,491 (x)	115,921 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2021	At 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	

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 **St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury**

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 Date.....

Name and address of treasurer

W P Martland Inglebrook Borley Sudbury

..... Post Code..... CO10 7AE

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 15th November 2022.....

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev. Ruth Ridge

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the
St Johns Methodist.....Church

Charity Number 1151379

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St Johns Methodist..... Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages 1... 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 St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury

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.

[the [the

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

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address

..... Post Code

Date

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-22

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.

Signature of treasurer  Date 2/10/22

Name and address of treasurer

Martland Inglebrook Borley Sudbury

..... Post Code..... CO10 7AE

Declaration to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 15th November 2022.....

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev. Ruth Ridge

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

St Johns Methodist.....Church

Charity Number .. 1151379

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St Johns Methodist..... Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages 1...
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My report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act
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.

Complete or circle as appropriate

pendent Examiner's Statement

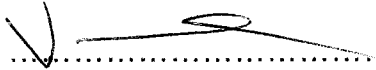
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ature of independent examiner 

ne of independent examiner VINCENT CHAWLER

ST JOHNS METHODIST CHURCH SUDBURY

England & Wales - Charity number 1151379

Accounts



ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH, SUDBURY

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Minister
The Rev Ruth Ridge
4 Kedington Court, Acton, CO10 0XB
Tel: 07447091182

St John's Methodist Church
York Road
SUDBURY
Suffolk
CO10 1ND
Church Office: 01787 373185
Registered Charity No. 1151379

CHURCH STEWARDS

Mrs S Rampling, 16 St Bartholomew's Lane, Sudbury, CO10 1LG 01787 377441

Mrs G Phillips, 21 Old Court, Long Melford, CO10 9HA 01787 583557

Miss I Hebden, 3 Singleton Court, Great Cornard, Sudbury 01787 373736

Mrs J Rix, "Buxtons", Old Bury Road, Alpheton, Sudbury 01284 828775

Mrs N Newcomb, Nayland Hall Farm, Cock Street, Leavenheath, CO6 4PJ 01206 263263

WORSHIP LEADERS

Mrs N Newcomb, Nayland Hall Farm, Cock Street, Leavenheath, CO6 4PJ 01206 263263

Mrs M Hearn, 27, Windmill Close, Gt Cornard, CO10 0FL 01787 377524

Mrs A Smythe, 14 De Bures Walk, Acton, CO10 0WY 01787 313701

SENIOR COMMUNION STEWARD

Mrs D Badrick, 1 Park Road, Sudbury CO10 2QB 01787 379672

CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Mrs J Reed, 7 Turkentine Close, Great Cornard, CO10 0YR 01787 310795

TREASURER

Mr P Martland, "Inglebrook", Borley, CO10 7AE, 01787 311805

PROPERTY SECRETARY

Mr R G Stanford, 16 Chilton Court, Sudbury, CO10 2SH 01787 882181

CHOIR MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Mrs A Platten, 29, Canterbury Road, Sudbury, CO10 1LL, 01787 374069

ACTION FOR CHILDREN SECRETARY

Mr D Price, 34, Catesby Meadow, Sudbury, CO10 2BD

PASTORAL SECRETARY

Mrs M Hearn, 27, Windmill Close, Gt Cornard, CO10 0FL 01787 377524

LINK PERSON

Mr R G Stanford, 16 Chilton Court, Sudbury, CO10 2SH 01787882181

HERALD CONTACT Mrs G Phillips, 21 Old Court, Long Melford CO10 9HA
01787 583557



ST. JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL

Members (Trustees) at October 2020

Rev Deborah Borda –Superintendent Minister

Rev Ruth Ridge - Chairman

Diane Badrick	Communion Steward	Ann Platten	Choir Rep
Simon Badrick	Finance	Sue Pugh	Playbox Committee
Rev Rita Carr	Circuit minister	Sue Rampling	Senior Steward
Andrew Clare	Lettings Secretary	Judith Reed	Church Council Secretary
Maureen Hearn	Pastoral Secretary	Philip Richardson	Administrator
Isabel Hebden	Steward	Julie Rix	Steward
Bill Humm	Circuit Steward	Peter Rix	Property/Finance
Paul Martland	Treasurer	Ann Smythe	Safeguarding/CTIS
Norma Newcomb	Steward	Richard Stanford	Property/Finance
Gill Phillips	Steward/CTIS	Christine Willis	Traidcraft Rep

Annual Report

Minister: The Reverend Ruth Ridge

St John's Mission Statement;

St John's invites you to share the Good News of God's love in Christ.

We welcome everyone, and set out to give service to the community near and far.

Aims

1. The furtherance of God's work in Sudbury and surrounding area and supporting that work in the wider world.
2. Propagation of the Christian faith.
3. Providing and supporting positive opportunities for the development of activities to benefit the whole community.
4. To work constructively with other churches of other denominations and as appropriate with other organisations.
5. Provide worship opportunities for all ages, and a welcoming atmosphere for all, especially newcomers.

From our Minister

Report for St John's ACM 2021

Dear Friends,

Writing the letter for last year's annual report was one of the last things that I did before the first COVID lockdown. From 23rd March 2020 onward, life has been very different and this has been a year unlike any other we have known. Things have been incredibly difficult, but I also want to pay tribute to the family at St John's who have risen to the challenges of lockdown, continued to reach out to care for one another and adapted to new ways of worshipping, studying and being together. I wrote in one of my early letters of how lockdown felt like a time in the wilderness, but, like the Israelites under Moses, we have been glad of the constant presence of God guiding us through.



From the start of lockdown, worship moved to a weekly sheet, posted or delivered online. Although we weren't able to gather, we could still be together as we shared in the same act of worship, not just with friends at St John's, but with folk across the circuit. A weekly newsletter also kept everyone informed of circuit news and our own Herald magazine was a monthly treat with pictures and stories to help us reflect, laugh and pray. As we moved through lockdown, other forms of worship also became available, through social media and 'Zoom'. As a church we tried new things and were able to reach people who may never have visited St John's. Monthly services took place when government guidelines allowed and although services without singing or the opportunity for fellowship afterwards were strange, they did enable us to be together again to some extent.

Our pastoral team have worked hard throughout the year, making regular contact by 'phone, letter and email. When meeting has been possible, doorstep visits and tea in gardens proved an excellent opportunity to socialise. Other meetings took place online; bible study continued via post and email and regular Zoom chat sessions were held. All Church Councils happened via Zoom, as did our Lent course – we all found ourselves learning new skills!

Playbox took a front line role as things began to open again. Staff were already busy supporting children and families at home through regular calls, videos and provision of learning material, but as soon as they were able safely to do so they welcomed the children back. Things had to be done differently, but throughout the staff have worked hard to make the building a welcoming, friendly, safe place for children to learn.

The Community Team role also changed radically as all weekly activities came to a sudden halt. Again, contact was enabled online through social media and Emma immediately began representing the church on the local community network – linking volunteers to those who needed practical help, or simply a chat. As awareness of the needs of families struggling economically became apparent, Emma co-ordinated a fresh food collection from local supermarkets and, working alongside local supermarkets and with the community wardens began distribution to up to 50 families. We may not have been ‘open for business’ in the church building, but we were still able to share the love of Jesus with our neighbours, especially in these difficult times

Now, 13 months on from the start of that first lockdown, slowly, things are beginning to re-open and there are signs of hope that we may be able to meet properly once again soon. It is, however, a time for patience, for reflection and for kindness, both to ourselves and to others, as we rediscover activities that have been long missed. Things will not be the same as they were, time has moved on and we have all changed. However this is an opportunity to make a new start. One thing is certain, God continues to be alongside us, eternal and yet ever new and it is He who will help us in the transition to the new normal.

God bless.

Ruth Ridge.

Membership Report

Received into membership: Mr Mark Lewis

Deceased members: Mrs Rita Burnham
Mr Harry Smith
Mrs Beverly Richardson
Mr Ken Button

Transferred Mrs Ann Boardman

Membership. 70.

Pastoral Roll. 125

Prayer Chain

We are twelve members of St. John's who pray for others when requests received. I telephone the other members who then pray for them.



Those who have asked for prayer often say it is a comfort to know others are praying for them.

All requests are confidential.

Maureen Hearn

Treasurer's Report to Church Council

FINANCIAL MATTERS AND CONCERNS

For all of us 2020 has been a difficult year in many ways. We have all been affected by the pandemic including the Church. Nevertheless St Johns is still here and functioning thanks to your continued support on many fronts but especially that of finance. We give thanks for that.

You have all as trustees received a copy of the certified accounts for the year to 31st August 2020 in the standard format, together with my breakdown of the General Fund in the form of Receipts and Payments. The former has been examined and approved by Moore Green in accordance with Charity Commission directions.

I would comment as follows :- against a budgeted shortfall of £14500 the actual shortfall amounted to £3566 in the General Fund. This in the main is due to the generosity of the Circuit in contributing over £6000 to our assessment in the last quarter of the year.

General Fund

Total receipts (unrestricted) amounted to £54828 – a reduction of £5100 on the previous year. Despite not being open for business, offerings have held up well as a great number of you now make your offerings by way of standing order or donations for which I thank you. Reduced Offerings and the absence of Gift Day and the Garden Party were the contributing factors affecting our income. Without the Accommodation charges from The Playbox our finances would be severely stretched. Due to the closure our letting fees were negligible. But thank goodness we did have our Autumn Fair in 2019 plus the soup lunches which contributed to our Fund Raising efforts.

Our outgoings were £12000 down on the previous year due in the main to the reduced Assessment and lower Repairs and Maintenance costs.

During the year we donated £125 to Edens from the Benevolent Fund. Our Community Worker's costs of £7685 were funded by Circuit and District grants totalling £4000 plus monies from the Wheeler Bequest. Currently there is £5539 in our cash balances for the benefit of our Community Worker therefore I do not envisage resorting to the Bequest monies in the next 12 months.

Looking ahead you will see from my budget for the current year that I am forecasting a shortfall of £14000. Circuit Assessment has been reduced to £40000 which is to be welcomed but the shortfall is of concern. We can sustain this in the short term but we must look to a

speedy return to normal service as soon as possible. As I have previously said our reserves will not last us forever.

Having said all that I am grateful to you all for your generous giving in the past year.

Monies received and paid over to other organisations – Crisis, All We Can, Action for Children and the Zimbabwean Victims Support Fund amounted to £1569.

Paul Martland FCIB Treasurer

Report of the Property Committee for the year ended 31.03.2021

The year has proved a challenge to us all due to the coronavirus pandemic. For the Property Committee, it has involved specific requirements with regard to the property itself. Although the committee has been unable to meet in person, members remained active throughout the year with continuing regular weekly visits by a property committee member, regular checks on the fire alarm system, lighting, water and heating, and preparation of notices and provision of PPE and sanitization arrangements as required. All visits to the property have been conducted in line with the prevailing government COVID guidelines. Minor works have been attended to, including the following:

- A very detailed review and revision of procedures was undertaken at the commencement of the pandemic in March/April and relevant requirements put in place, with a full risk assessment being undertaken.
- Much detailed work was undertaken to enable the church in following months to be opened for worship services and funerals in line with government COVID guidelines and

rearrangement made to the seating, sanitisation procedures and provision of PPE.

- Arrangements were put in place to allow the church to be used for sorting and distribution of food parcels and other items during the pandemic for distribution in the local neighbourhood.
- Redecoration of the Wesley Room and small hall together with other cleaning tasks including carpets and chairs.
- Minor repairs and maintenance as required, including boiler, underfloor heating, realignment of fanlights, upgrading of overhead projector in hall, upgrading of emergency lighting and regular external door adjustments due to inclement weather.
- At the request of The Playbox, additional coat and bag facilities were provided in the hall.
- Cleaning of the church hall and link continued throughout the pandemic but the church cleaner resigned for medical reasons following a period of furlough on full pay and cleaning has been on an ad hoc basis subsequently.
- Grass cutting has continued thanks to the efforts of Mr Lunn, and the garden borders are kept in good shape thanks to Andrew Clare with occasional help from other members.

Several members of the Property Committee in particular have put in a great deal of work over the past year to ensure the premises were kept in good order and COVID secure. Our particular thanks go to Philip Richardson, Richard Stanford and Peter Rix for their diligent work on our behalf.

17.04.2021

Salt Shakers Housegroup

Salt Shaker House Group has been unable to meet during the past year due to COVID-19. We have kept in touch by phone calls and internet messaging. Also our newest member Diddley who became a Christian on Palm Sunday 2020 is going to be baptised in Ipswich in July this year. Such good news to hear after a difficult year. Thank you Lord for encouraging us .



Jan Foster

The Flower Committee

Many of our usual practices have been altered this year and that is true of the flowers in Church. Apart from some decorations at Christmas and the Easter Floral Cross, silk flowers have been the only decoration. Hopefully later on this year fresh flowers will be used again. Please look out for the usual Flower Rota in the months to come and see if you can help in any way with this aid to our worship. Thank you.

Julie Rix

ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHOIR REPORT MAY 2021

Sadly I have very little to report on news re the choir due to the restrictions currently in places with Covid, but I do hear from choir members who all really miss our choir practices and contributions to the services at St John's. When we will be able to meet together as a choir is unknown, but it is hoped sometime we will be back in our usual place in the church and our singing voices will come back in full.



Ann Platten.

Choir Director.

SOUP LUNCH

We all know why we have not met over the last year. It will not be forgotten- physically, mentally, quickly or completely.



I have enjoyed preparing the Soup Lunches from the time of Rev. Marion Bright. Unfortunately things are seriously conspiring against me doing anything too heavy or tiring. Because of this progression I am unable to continue preparing the lunches. I do hope this Friday gathering will continue in some format.

Jan Turner.

HOBBIES CLUB

Hobbies have not met since March 2020. I am sure the group have missed the social meetings and 'Shoe Boxes' will have suffered too. Unfortunately numbers have dwindled, Sue R. and I feel we are unable to continue running the group. We have run the group together since Jean Goddard was too ill to continue. We do hope someone will come forward to carry on the running of Hobbies, perhaps under a different guise. Sue and I will support whatever transpires.



Jan Turner.



Churches Together
in Sudbury & District

Churches Together in Sudbury and District Report 2020-21

This has been a strange year and many of our usual activities have been unable to take place. None of the united services were able to take place in person, although the Light up a life service was made

available online. Kettle and Fish ran sessions early in the year, but these stopped from March and we are waiting for government guidelines to allow us to resume.

In spite of the lockdown, however, we still found ways to pray and to share fellowship with one another. Church News continued to circulate throughout, keeping us up to date and from early on a weekly prayer email was also circulated, which then led to the setting up of a Zoom prayer 'breakfast', meeting weekly on a Saturday morning. Ministers also continued to meet and pray regularly via Zoom and through this contact we were able to organise a community carol service which was streamed online and received over 1000 views.

Churches Together also organised a sheep trail around Sudbury during Advent. Members from many different churches knitted sheep, which were then posted around the town. People were encouraged to photograph the sheep and post the pictures on social media. The sheep then formed part of a crib scene at St Gregory's on Christmas Eve. This received favourable publicity and comments on social media remarked on how good it was to see something cheerful in a difficult year.

As things begin to re-open, please do pray for CTiSD and all organisations associated with it, that we will be able to discern the right time to take up activities and the right things to resume and to leave aside.

Ruth

Bible Study Group.

We have 'met' twice a month by email/post since August. It is very different from meeting face-to-face and having live discussions but we've risen to the challenge and it has all worked out very well. My thanks to all members for their continued support.



We completed our study of Matthew then studied Daniel, Jonah and Joel. Luke is our next book.

It has been good to welcome new members recently. More new members will be very welcome!

Isabel Hebden.

Healing Group

The Healing Group has not been able to meet since March 2020 but we continue to pray for those on the Prayer Chain and for all those around the world in need.



Maureen Hearn

The Exchange Book Club

The book group has continued but in an on line form.

We have as usual read a variety of books chosen by the members and have submitted our comments by email.



We hope it won't be too long before we can meet face to face as the discussions are always interesting.

Nita Stanford



St John's Community Team 2020-21

Last March, like everyone else, all our activities were stopped and with restrictions still in place we are still not able to provide the facilities on Fridays for mothers and children or on Saturdays for older friends.

However, we have tried to maintain contact by organising some outdoor activities, when we were not in lockdown and having virtual events when we were locked down.

In October we were able to organise an Autumn Treasure Hunt for families in Belle Vue Park. Families followed clues and then received gift bags containing craft activities to do at home during the half term. We were quite pleased with the uptake with 50 bags being given out.

Christmas was different for our Tea & Tots this year. We had decided to have a second outdoor socially distanced event like the event we ran in October. We had the "Follow that Sheep" trail which developed into a Churches Together Advent trail with the help of over 70 knitted sheep which had been scattered around Sudbury and Great Cornard for people to seek out in the run up to Christmas.

People were encouraged to photograph the sheep and upload their pictures to the Follow That Sheep Facebook page and Twitter feed.

Church members in Sudbury and Great Cornard had knitted the sheep which would eventually be rounded up and placed in the crib



scene at St Gregory's Church, Sudbury, on Christmas Eve. Several sheep photos taken by Janet Woodard and Mark Lewis are at the back of the Herald.

"Follow that Sheep" was followed by "Follow that Star" – a treasure hunt round Sudbury looking for letters which spelled out the message "A KING IS BORN". We were, thankfully, able to use St Peter's as a base and families came in through one door – having been encouraged in by Emma, our Community Worker, sanitised, left details for track and trace and collected a quiz sheet.



When they had completed the quiz – or tried to – they came back to collect their prize and a Christmas craft bag. This contained bits and pieces ready to make stars, Christmas trees, little fluffy sheep, shepherd's soup and lolly stick figures to decorate the Christmas tree. The bag also contained crosswords and word searches and a booklet telling the Christmas story. 50 bags were prepared. By the end of the session, by which time rain was falling steadily, 42 bags had been handed out. We felt that given the weather and the current circumstances, this was a good result.



Our Christingle service, which usually attracts several families, had, of course, to be cancelled. Instead, St John's with St Gregory's prepared Christingle bags, containing all the materials need to make Christingles, to be given out to children on December 19th from a stand

on Market Hill. All 80 bags, 50 of which were prepared by a team of volunteers from St John's, had been handed out by 11.30 am. An ecumenical Christingle Service had been recorded and it was planned it should be released to the St John's congregation at the time at which the Christingle Service would normally be held – 4.00 pm on Christmas Eve. During this service, Ruth gave instructions

on how to make a Christingle and explained the significance of the component parts.

For the February half term we planned a week long February Virtual Messy Church during which different craft activities were posted and demonstrated each day. Ruth demonstrated beautifully the art of tossing a pancake. The week ended with a worship session hosted by Ruth, Emma and Julia from Glemsford.



On Sunday March 14th for Mothers' Day Ruth conducted a short virtual session to include a craft activity, creating a flower on which thank you messages could be written, and the story of the 10 lepers. It was agreed this should be pre-recorded and released at 9.30 am so could be available all the rest of the day.

On April 3rd Easter Saturday, we ran another outdoor Messy Church based on a trail around Sudbury which had originally been prepared by Sally and John Wiseman. Conveniently it started and ended at the top of North Street so we were able to have our base at St John's. Not so many families took part this time, but several bought flowers for the Easter Cross and all received Easter gift bags with copies of the Easter story, craft activities and quizzes to keep them occupied during the Easter holiday – and of course, an Easter egg.



Outreach, even though in a limited form, is continuing.

Gill



Traidcraft Annual Report for the Year to 31/12/20

Sadly, the pandemic has had a catastrophic effect on Traidcraft sales, partly due to the fact that we have not been able to meet in church in the usual way and have the stall there, but perhaps chiefly due to the fact that there has been no Kettle & Fish. In a few months, there have been no sales at all, and much of the time income has only come from a handful of people.

Our sales total just under £870 for 2020, compared with £3,200 last year.

Traidcraft are still doing their best to function, and I would like to remind everyone:

Firstly, that we are able to purchase and supply goods to you, and delivery lead times are much the same now as they were pre-pandemic.

Secondly, as mentioned by Ruth in previous communications, Traidcraft Exchange, the charity arm of the organisation, who help producers set up new selling initiatives for their goods, are able to receive twice the value of any donations up until 7th June under a Government initiative (Government will match donations pound for pound).

The most positive piece of news at the moment is that we are now working with Number 72 to sell goods through their café. They started last autumn while they were able to open under looser regulations and sales up to December were £130.12, which made a significant boost to sales. Number 72 will re-open on 17th May, and I would urge anyone who used the Kettle & Fish stall in the past (or the St John's one, come to that!) to go there and see what they have on sale.

Our thanks to those who have been in touch to make purchases during the year, and please, if you possibly can, do your best to support Fair Trade either through our stall or in your regular shopping.

Special thanks, as always to Vi Goodhand and Violet Bandey, who have run the Kettle & Fish stall for so long. Violet has now moved away and will no longer be involved, whatever happens with Kettle & Fish. Many, many thanks to her for her stalwart support and work.

I would also like to pay tribute here to Ken Button, for all the help he gave is in recent years ferrying goods to Kettle & Fish on a Thursday when Simon and I were working. What a kind, thoughtful and generous man Ken was, and we all miss him very dearly. Thank you Ken so much, and God bless you.

Chris Willis



Playbox has had a very difficult year due to COVID restrictions and has caused us to be closed for a fair part of the year. We were able to open on the 8th March 2021 with a lot of changes. Due to staffing issues, it has been extremely exhausting for the remaining staff to run the group to our very high standards. We have appointed a new member of staff, Mrs Louisa Millea who will join the team in September.

The website has been invaluable in keeping in touch with parents and activities for the children to watch and take part in at home.

The staff are very grateful to Jane Sharp, Chairperson for her continued support and help checking regularly on the wellbeing of us all.

Many thanks to the Church for the use of the Wesley room as a place to quarantine toys and books for the required 72 hours.

We have two new church representatives and two new parent representatives on our management committee and look forward to a busy September 2021.

Mobile: 07591062605

Playbox Pre-School- St Johns Church

York Road

Sudbury

Suffolk

CO10 1ND

St Johns Methodist Church General Fund

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year ended ended 31st August 2021

		Unrestricted Fund £	Designated Fund £	Total £	Total 2019/2020 £
Receipts					
Offertory	Envelopes	13230			10639
	Loose	1102			2618
	BGCs	10535			9445
		<u>24867</u>			<u>22702</u>
	Gift Day	6565			4725
	Donations	3703			910
Total Offerings & Donations		<u>35135</u>	35135	35135	28337
Tax Refund		6321		6321	8551
Fund Raising		2071		2071	1995
Lettings and Accomodation Fees		14930		14930	15285
Investment Income		209	1	210	667
Benevolent Fund			0	0	295
Grants			8000	8000	4000
Total Receipts		58666	8001	66667	59130
Payments					
Assessment		40659		40659	39146
Donations			250	250	0
Repairs & Maintenance		1007		1007	2008
Utilities		2416		2416	4566
Insurance		2246		2246	2241
Other		6656		6656	7050
Community Worker			8052		7685
Total Payments		52984	8302	61286	62696
Surplus / Deficit		5682	-301	5381	-3566
Transfer from Playbox Account		2000		2000	3500
Transfers between Funds		-23		-23	
Funds brought forward from last year		105558	-2808	102750	77816
		113217	-3109	110108	102750
Funds held by church organisations		13383		13383	26777
		126600	-3109	123491	129527
Total Funds at End of Year					
General Fund HSBC		26916			9102
Benevolent Fund HSBC		1355			1605
Central Finance Board		51333			61544
TMCP (Wheeler Bequest)		30504			30499
Sub Total		110108			102750
Internal Organisations		13383			26777
Total Cash funds Held by Church		123491			129527

Note re the Designated Fund

The Charities Act provides for the Trustees of a Charity to designate funds for use for a particular purpose. At Church Council of 26th November 2015 it was agreed that the £50,0000 balance of r not previously expended from the bequest from the Tony Wheeler Estate should be so designated for use towards funding costs relating to Community Outreach, to include the employment of a

Community Worker. Drawdown from the Designated Fund as required is accordingly transferred to the Unrestricted Fund out of which the Community Worker costs are paid.

Budget
2021/2022
£

30000
6000
2000
15000
250
150
3000
56400

42564
100
5000
6000
2500
6500
8500
71164
-14764

St Johns Methodist Church General Fund

Receipts and Payments for 12 months ended 31st August 2019

		Restricted			
Receipts		Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget
				<i>Actual</i>	<i>2017/2018</i>
				<i>2017/2018</i>	<i>2019/2020</i>
Offertory	Envelopes	11874		11810	
	Loose	3056		3117	
	BGCs	9050		10500	
		<u>23980</u>		<u>25417</u>	
	Gift Day	5620		4962	
	Donations	1595		8654	
Total Offerings			31195	39043	30000
Tax Refund			7920	6586	7000
Fund Raising			3804	4282	3500
Lettings and Accomodation Fees			15352	13677	16500
Investment Income			657	376	500
Benevolent Fund Donations				125	112
Grants				4000	4000
Total Receipts			58928	4125	68076
Payments					
Assessment			45432	44350	46000
Donations				125	262
Repairs & Maintenance			7665	7484	8000
Utilities			4861	5041	5000
Insurance			2187	2403	2500
Other			6848	3783	6500
Community Worker				7186	7931
Total Payments			66993	7311	71254
Net Receipts/Payments for the year			-8065	-3186	-3178
Funds brought forward from last year			75306	3761	82245
Sub total			67241	575	79067
Transfers			35000		
Total Funds at End of Year			102241	575	79067
Cash Position			Actual	Actual	
			###	###	
General Fund HSBC			11698	10516	
Benevolent Fund HSBC			1311	1310	
Central Finance Board			25559	60491	
TMCP (Wheeler Bequest)			40499	30499	
Sub Total			79067	102816	
Internal Organisations			44011	15643	

Total Cash funds Held by Church

123078

118459

Note: £9224 in respect of the Community Worker funds are included in the above cash on an unrestricted basis

balances as at 31/08/19

St Johns Methodist Church General Fund

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St Johns Methodist Church General Fund

Receipts and Payments for 12 months ended 31st August 2019

		Restricted			
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Sub total			67241	575	79067
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Cash Position		Actual	Actual
		###	###
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Central Finance Board		25559	60491
TMCP (Wheeler Bequest)		40499	30499
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Total Cash funds Held by Church

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balances as at 31/08/19

Accounts



ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH, SUDBURY

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Minister
The Rev Ruth Ridge
4 Kedington Court, Acton, CO10 0XB
Tel: 07447091182

St John's Methodist Church
York Road
SUDBURY
Suffolk
CO10 1ND
Church Office: 01787 373185
Registered Charity No. 1151379

CHURCH STEWARDS

Mrs S Rampling, 16 St Bartholomew's Lane, Sudbury, CO10 1LG 01787 377441

Mrs G Phillips, 21 Old Court, Long Melford, CO10 9HA 01787 583557

Miss I Hebden, 3 Singleton Court, Great Cornard, Sudbury 01787 373736

Mrs J Rix, "Buxtons", Old Bury Road, Alpheton, Sudbury 01284 828775

Mrs N Newcomb, Nayland Hall Farm, Cock Street, Leavenheath, CO6 4PJ 01206 263263

WORSHIP LEADERS

Mrs N Newcomb, Nayland Hall Farm, Cock Street, Leavenheath, CO6 4PJ 01206 263263

Mrs M Hearn, 27, Windmill Close, Gt Cornard, CO10 0FL 01787 377524

Mrs A Smythe, 14 De Bures Walk, Acton, CO10 0WY 01787 313701

SENIOR COMMUNION STEWARD

Mrs D Badrick, 1 Park Road, Sudbury CO10 2QB 01787 379672

CHURCH COUNCIL SECRETARY

Mrs J Reed, 7 Turkentine Close, Great Cornard, CO10 0YR 01787 310795

TREASURER

Mr P Martland, "Inglebrook", Borley, CO10 7AE, 01787 311805

PROPERTY SECRETARY

Mr R G Stanford, 16 Chilton Court, Sudbury, CO10 2SH 01787 882181

CHOIR MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Mrs A Platten, 29, Canterbury Road, Sudbury, CO10 1LL, 01787 374069

ACTION FOR CHILDREN SECRETARY

Mr D Price, 34, Catesby Meadow, Sudbury, CO10 2BD

PASTORAL SECRETARY

Mrs M Hearn, 27, Windmill Close, Gt Cornard, CO10 0FL 01787 377524

LINK PERSON

Mr R G Stanford, 16 Chilton Court, Sudbury, CO10 2SH 01787882181

HERALD CONTACT Mrs G Phillips, 21 Old Court, Long Melford CO10 9HA
01787 583557



ST. JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL

Members (Trustees) at October 2020

Rev Deborah Borda –Superintendent Minister

Rev Ruth Ridge - Chairman

Diane Badrick	Communion Steward	Ann Platten	Choir Rep
Simon Badrick	Finance	Sue Pugh	Playbox Committee
Rev Rita Carr	Circuit minister	Sue Rampling	Senior Steward
Andrew Clare	Lettings Secretary	Judith Reed	Church Council Secretary
Maureen Hearn	Pastoral Secretary	Philip Richardson	Administrator
Isabel Hebden	Steward	Julie Rix	Steward
Bill Humm	Circuit Steward	Peter Rix	Property/Finance
Paul Martland	Treasurer	Ann Smythe	Safeguarding/CTIS
Norma Newcomb	Steward	Richard Stanford	Property/Finance
Gill Phillips	Steward/CTIS	Christine Willis	Traidcraft Rep

Annual Report

Minister: The Reverend Ruth Ridge

St John's Mission Statement;

St John's invites you to share the Good News of God's love in Christ.

We welcome everyone, and set out to give service to the community near and far.

Aims

1. The furtherance of God's work in Sudbury and surrounding area and supporting that work in the wider world.
2. Propagation of the Christian faith.
3. Providing and supporting positive opportunities for the development of activities to benefit the whole community.
4. To work constructively with other churches of other denominations and as appropriate with other organisations.
5. Provide worship opportunities for all ages, and a welcoming atmosphere for all, especially newcomers.

From our Minister

Report for St John's ACM 2021

Dear Friends,

Writing the letter for last year's annual report was one of the last things that I did before the first COVID lockdown. From 23rd March 2020 onward, life has been very different and this has been a year unlike any other we have known. Things have been incredibly difficult, but I also want to pay tribute to the family at St John's who have risen to the challenges of lockdown, continued to reach out to care for one another and adapted to new ways of worshipping, studying and being together. I wrote in one of my early letters of how lockdown felt like a time in the wilderness, but, like the Israelites under Moses, we have been glad of the constant presence of God guiding us through.



From the start of lockdown, worship moved to a weekly sheet, posted or delivered online. Although we weren't able to gather, we could still be together as we shared in the same act of worship, not just with friends at St John's, but with folk across the circuit. A weekly newsletter also kept everyone informed of circuit news and our own Herald magazine was a monthly treat with pictures and stories to help us reflect, laugh and pray. As we moved through lockdown, other forms of worship also became available, through social media and 'Zoom'. As a church we tried new things and were able to reach people who may never have visited St John's. Monthly services took place when government guidelines allowed and although services without singing or the opportunity for fellowship afterwards were strange, they did enable us to be together again to some extent.

Our pastoral team have worked hard throughout the year, making regular contact by 'phone, letter and email. When meeting has been possible, doorstep visits and tea in gardens proved an excellent opportunity to socialise. Other meetings took place online; bible study continued via post and email and regular Zoom chat sessions were held. All Church Councils happened via Zoom, as did our Lent course – we all found ourselves learning new skills!

Playbox took a front line role as things began to open again. Staff were already busy supporting children and families at home through regular calls, videos and provision of learning material, but as soon as they were able safely to do so they welcomed the children back. Things had to be done differently, but throughout the staff have worked hard to make the building a welcoming, friendly, safe place for children to learn.

The Community Team role also changed radically as all weekly activities came to a sudden halt. Again, contact was enabled online through social media and Emma immediately began representing the church on the local community network – linking volunteers to those who needed practical help, or simply a chat. As awareness of the needs of families struggling economically became apparent, Emma co-ordinated a fresh food collection from local supermarkets and, working alongside local supermarkets and with the community wardens began distribution to up to 50 families. We may not have been ‘open for business’ in the church building, but we were still able to share the love of Jesus with our neighbours, especially in these difficult times

Now, 13 months on from the start of that first lockdown, slowly, things are beginning to re-open and there are signs of hope that we may be able to meet properly once again soon. It is, however, a time for patience, for reflection and for kindness, both to ourselves and to others, as we rediscover activities that have been long missed. Things will not be the same as they were, time has moved on and we have all changed. However this is an opportunity to make a new start. One thing is certain, God continues to be alongside us, eternal and yet ever new and it is He who will help us in the transition to the new normal.

God bless.

Ruth Ridge.

Membership Report

Received into membership: Mr Mark Lewis

Deceased members: Mrs Rita Burnham
Mr Harry Smith
Mrs Beverly Richardson
Mr Ken Button

Transferred Mrs Ann Boardman

Membership. 70.

Pastoral Roll. 125

Prayer Chain

We are twelve members of St. John's who pray for others when requests received. I telephone the other members who then pray for them.



Those who have asked for prayer often say it is a comfort to know others are praying for them.

All requests are confidential.

Maureen Hearn

Treasurer's Report to Church Council

FINANCIAL MATTERS AND CONCERNS

For all of us 2020 has been a difficult year in many ways. We have all been affected by the pandemic including the Church. Nevertheless St Johns is still here and functioning thanks to your continued support on many fronts but especially that of finance. We give thanks for that.

You have all as trustees received a copy of the certified accounts for the year to 31st August 2020 in the standard format, together with my breakdown of the General Fund in the form of Receipts and Payments. The former has been examined and approved by Moore Green in accordance with Charity Commission directions.

I would comment as follows :- against a budgeted shortfall of £14500 the actual shortfall amounted to £3566 in the General Fund. This in the main is due to the generosity of the Circuit in contributing over £6000 to our assessment in the last quarter of the year.

General Fund

Total receipts (unrestricted) amounted to £54828 – a reduction of £5100 on the previous year. Despite not being open for business, offerings have held up well as a great number of you now make your offerings by way of standing order or donations for which I thank you. Reduced Offerings and the absence of Gift Day and the Garden Party were the contributing factors affecting our income. Without the Accommodation charges from The Playbox our finances would be severely stretched. Due to the closure our letting fees were negligible. But thank goodness we did have our Autumn Fair in 2019 plus the soup lunches which contributed to our Fund Raising efforts.

Our outgoings were £12000 down on the previous year due in the main to the reduced Assessment and lower Repairs and Maintenance costs.

During the year we donated £125 to Edens from the Benevolent Fund. Our Community Worker's costs of £7685 were funded by Circuit and District grants totalling £4000 plus monies from the Wheeler Bequest. Currently there is £5539 in our cash balances for the benefit of our Community Worker therefore I do not envisage resorting to the Bequest monies in the next 12 months.

Looking ahead you will see from my budget for the current year that I am forecasting a shortfall of £14000. Circuit Assessment has been reduced to £40000 which is to be welcomed but the shortfall is of concern. We can sustain this in the short term but we must look to a

speedy return to normal service as soon as possible. As I have previously said our reserves will not last us forever.

Having said all that I am grateful to you all for your generous giving in the past year.

Monies received and paid over to other organisations – Crisis, All We Can, Action for Children and the Zimbabwean Victims Support Fund amounted to £1569.

Paul Martland FCIB Treasurer

Report of the Property Committee for the year ended 31.03.2021

The year has proved a challenge to us all due to the coronavirus pandemic. For the Property Committee, it has involved specific requirements with regard to the property itself. Although the committee has been unable to meet in person, members remained active throughout the year with continuing regular weekly visits by a property committee member, regular checks on the fire alarm system, lighting, water and heating, and preparation of notices and provision of PPE and sanitization arrangements as required. All visits to the property have been conducted in line with the prevailing government COVID guidelines. Minor works have been attended to, including the following:

- A very detailed review and revision of procedures was undertaken at the commencement of the pandemic in March/April and relevant requirements put in place, with a full risk assessment being undertaken.
- Much detailed work was undertaken to enable the church in following months to be opened for worship services and funerals in line with government COVID guidelines and

rearrangement made to the seating, sanitisation procedures and provision of PPE.

- Arrangements were put in place to allow the church to be used for sorting and distribution of food parcels and other items during the pandemic for distribution in the local neighbourhood.
- Redecoration of the Wesley Room and small hall together with other cleaning tasks including carpets and chairs.
- Minor repairs and maintenance as required, including boiler, underfloor heating, realignment of fanlights, upgrading of overhead projector in hall, upgrading of emergency lighting and regular external door adjustments due to inclement weather.
- At the request of The Playbox, additional coat and bag facilities were provided in the hall.
- Cleaning of the church hall and link continued throughout the pandemic but the church cleaner resigned for medical reasons following a period of furlough on full pay and cleaning has been on an ad hoc basis subsequently.
- Grass cutting has continued thanks to the efforts of Mr Lunn, and the garden borders are kept in good shape thanks to Andrew Clare with occasional help from other members.

Several members of the Property Committee in particular have put in a great deal of work over the past year to ensure the premises were kept in good order and COVID secure. Our particular thanks go to Philip Richardson, Richard Stanford and Peter Rix for their diligent work on our behalf.

17.04.2021

Salt Shakers Housegroup

Salt Shaker House Group has been unable to meet during the past year due to COVID-19. We have kept in touch by phone calls and internet messaging. Also our newest member Diddley who became a Christian on Palm Sunday 2020 is going to be baptised in Ipswich in July this year. Such good news to hear after a difficult year. Thank you Lord for encouraging us .



Jan Foster

The Flower Committee

Many of our usual practices have been altered this year and that is true of the flowers in Church. Apart from some decorations at Christmas and the Easter Floral Cross, silk flowers have been the only decoration. Hopefully later on this year fresh flowers will be used again. Please look out for the usual Flower Rota in the months to come and see if you can help in any way with this aid to our worship. Thank you.

Julie Rix

ST JOHN'S CHURCH CHOIR REPORT MAY 2021

Sadly I have very little to report on news re the choir due to the restrictions currently in places with Covid, but I do hear from choir members who all really miss our choir practices and contributions to the services at St John's. When we will be able to meet together as a choir is unknown, but it is hoped sometime we will be back in our usual place in the church and our singing voices will come back in full.



Ann Platten.

Choir Director.

SOUP LUNCH

We all know why we have not met over the last year. It will not be forgotten- physically, mentally, quickly or completely.



I have enjoyed preparing the Soup Lunches from the time of Rev. Marion Bright. Unfortunately things are seriously conspiring against me doing anything too heavy or tiring. Because of this progression I am unable to continue preparing the lunches. I do hope this Friday gathering will continue in some format.

Jan Turner.

HOBBIES CLUB

Hobbies have not met since March 2020. I am sure the group have missed the social meetings and 'Shoe Boxes' will have suffered too. Unfortunately numbers have dwindled, Sue R. and I feel we are unable to continue running the group. We have run the group together since Jean Goddard was too ill to continue. We do hope someone will come forward to carry on the running of Hobbies, perhaps under a different guise. Sue and I will support whatever transpires.



Jan Turner.



Churches Together
in Sudbury & District

Churches Together in Sudbury and District Report 2020-21

This has been a strange year and many of our usual activities have been unable to take place. None of the united services were able to take place in person, although the Light up a life service was made

available online. Kettle and Fish ran sessions early in the year, but these stopped from March and we are waiting for government guidelines to allow us to resume.

In spite of the lockdown, however, we still found ways to pray and to share fellowship with one another. Church News continued to circulate throughout, keeping us up to date and from early on a weekly prayer email was also circulated, which then led to the setting up of a Zoom prayer 'breakfast', meeting weekly on a Saturday morning. Ministers also continued to meet and pray regularly via Zoom and through this contact we were able to organise a community carol service which was streamed online and received over 1000 views.

Churches Together also organised a sheep trail around Sudbury during Advent. Members from many different churches knitted sheep, which were then posted around the town. People were encouraged to photograph the sheep and post the pictures on social media. The sheep then formed part of a crib scene at St Gregory's on Christmas Eve. This received favourable publicity and comments on social media remarked on how good it was to see something cheerful in a difficult year.

As things begin to re-open, please do pray for CTiSD and all organisations associated with it, that we will be able to discern the right time to take up activities and the right things to resume and to leave aside.

Ruth

Bible Study Group.

We have 'met' twice a month by email/post since August. It is very different from meeting face-to-face and having live discussions but we've risen to the challenge and it has all worked out very well. My thanks to all members for their continued support.



We completed our study of Matthew then studied Daniel, Jonah and Joel. Luke is our next book.

It has been good to welcome new members recently. More new members will be very welcome!

Isabel Hebden.

Healing Group

The Healing Group has not been able to meet since March 2020 but we continue to pray for those on the Prayer Chain and for all those around the world in need.



Maureen Hearn

The Exchange Book Club

The book group has continued but in an on line form.

We have as usual read a variety of books chosen by the members and have submitted our comments by email.



We hope it won't be too long before we can meet face to face as the discussions are always interesting.

Nita Stanford



St John's Community Team 2020-21

Last March, like everyone else, all our activities were stopped and with restrictions still in place we are still not able to provide the facilities on Fridays for mothers and children or on Saturdays for older friends.

However, we have tried to maintain contact by organising some outdoor activities, when we were not in lockdown and having virtual events when we were locked down.

In October we were able to organise an Autumn Treasure Hunt for families in Belle Vue Park. Families followed clues and then received gift bags containing craft activities to do at home during the half term. We were quite pleased with the uptake with 50 bags being given out.

Christmas was different for our Tea & Tots this year. We had decided to have a second outdoor socially distanced event like the event we ran in October. We had the "Follow that Sheep" trail which developed into a Churches Together Advent trail with the help of over 70 knitted sheep which had been scattered around Sudbury and Great Cornard for people to seek out in the run up to Christmas.

People were encouraged to photograph the sheep and upload their pictures to the Follow That Sheep Facebook page and Twitter feed.

Church members in Sudbury and Great Cornard had knitted the sheep which would eventually be rounded up and placed in the crib



scene at St Gregory's Church, Sudbury, on Christmas Eve. Several sheep photos taken by Janet Woodard and Mark Lewis are at the back of the Herald.

"Follow that Sheep" was followed by "Follow that Star" – a treasure hunt round Sudbury looking for letters which spelled out the message "A KING IS BORN". We were, thankfully, able to use St Peter's as a base and families came in through one door – having been encouraged in by Emma, our Community Worker, sanitised, left details for track and trace and collected a quiz sheet.



When they had completed the quiz – or tried to – they came back to collect their prize and a Christmas craft bag. This contained bits and pieces ready to make stars, Christmas trees, little fluffy sheep, shepherd's soup and lolly stick figures to decorate the Christmas tree. The bag also contained crosswords and word searches and a booklet telling the Christmas story. 50 bags were prepared. By the end of the session, by which time rain was falling steadily, 42 bags had been handed out. We felt that given the weather and the current circumstances, this was a good result.



Our Christingle service, which usually attracts several families, had, of course, to be cancelled. Instead, St John's with St Gregory's prepared Christingle bags, containing all the materials need to make Christingles, to be given out to children on December 19th from a stand

on Market Hill. All 80 bags, 50 of which were prepared by a team of volunteers from St John's, had been handed out by 11.30 am. An ecumenical Christingle Service had been recorded and it was planned it should be released to the St John's congregation at the time at which the Christingle Service would normally be held – 4.00 pm on Christmas Eve. During this service, Ruth gave instructions

on how to make a Christingle and explained the significance of the component parts.

For the February half term we planned a week long February Virtual Messy Church during which different craft activities were posted and demonstrated each day. Ruth demonstrated beautifully the art of tossing a pancake. The week ended with a worship session hosted by Ruth, Emma and Julia from Glemsford.



On Sunday March 14th for Mothers' Day Ruth conducted a short virtual session to include a craft activity, creating a flower on which thank you messages could be written, and the story of the 10 lepers. It was agreed this should be pre-recorded and released at 9.30 am so could be available all the rest of the day.

On April 3rd Easter Saturday, we ran another outdoor Messy Church based on a trail around Sudbury which had originally been prepared by Sally and John Wiseman. Conveniently it started and ended at the top of North Street so we were able to have our base at St John's. Not so many families took part this time, but several bought flowers for the Easter Cross and all received Easter gift bags with copies of the Easter story, craft activities and quizzes to keep them occupied during the Easter holiday – and of course, an Easter egg.



Outreach, even though in a limited form, is continuing.

Gill



Traidcraft Annual Report for the Year to 31/12/20

Sadly, the pandemic has had a catastrophic effect on Traidcraft sales, partly due to the fact that we have not been able to meet in church in the usual way and have the stall there, but perhaps chiefly due to the fact that there has been no Kettle & Fish. In a few months, there have been no sales at all, and much of the time income has only come from a handful of people.

Our sales total just under £870 for 2020, compared with £3,200 last year.

Traidcraft are still doing their best to function, and I would like to remind everyone:

Firstly, that we are able to purchase and supply goods to you, and delivery lead times are much the same now as they were pre-pandemic.

Secondly, as mentioned by Ruth in previous communications, Traidcraft Exchange, the charity arm of the organisation, who help producers set up new selling initiatives for their goods, are able to receive twice the value of any donations up until 7th June under a Government initiative (Government will match donations pound for pound).

The most positive piece of news at the moment is that we are now working with Number 72 to sell goods through their café. They started last autumn while they were able to open under looser regulations and sales up to December were £130.12, which made a significant boost to sales. Number 72 will re-open on 17th May, and I would urge anyone who used the Kettle & Fish stall in the past (or the St John's one, come to that!) to go there and see what they have on sale.

Our thanks to those who have been in touch to make purchases during the year, and please, if you possibly can, do your best to support Fair Trade either through our stall or in your regular shopping.

Special thanks, as always to Vi Goodhand and Violet Bandey, who have run the Kettle & Fish stall for so long. Violet has now moved away and will no longer be involved, whatever happens with Kettle & Fish. Many, many thanks to her for her stalwart support and work.

I would also like to pay tribute here to Ken Button, for all the help he gave is in recent years ferrying goods to Kettle & Fish on a Thursday when Simon and I were working. What a kind, thoughtful and generous man Ken was, and we all miss him very dearly. Thank you Ken so much, and God bless you.

Chris Willis



Playbox has had a very difficult year due to COVID restrictions and has caused us to be closed for a fair part of the year. We were able to open on the 8th March 2021 with a lot of changes. Due to staffing issues, it has been extremely exhausting for the remaining staff to run the group to our very high standards. We have appointed a new member of staff, Mrs Louisa Millea who will join the team in September.

The website has been invaluable in keeping in touch with parents and activities for the children to watch and take part in at home.

The staff are very grateful to Jane Sharp, Chairperson for her continued support and help checking regularly on the wellbeing of us all.

Many thanks to the Church for the use of the Wesley room as a place to quarantine toys and books for the required 72 hours.

We have two new church representatives and two new parent representatives on our management committee and look forward to a busy September 2021.

Mobile: 07591062605

Playbox Pre-School- St Johns Church

York Road

Sudbury

Suffolk

CO10 1ND

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CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2020

Bury St. Edmunds	Circuit	Circuit no	1403
------------------	---------	------------	------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1151379

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 Ruth Ridge

Church Stewards:

Mrs S Rampling

Miss I Hebden

Mrs J Rix

Mrs G Phillips

Mrs N Newcomb

Treasurer:

Mr W P Martland

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	36,888	295	37,183	39,240
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	660	7	667	657
a4	Lettings	885		885	2,252
a5	Other receipts	19,895	4,000	23,895	30,904
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	58,328	4,302	62,630 (a7)	73,053

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	39,146		39,146	45,432
b3	Donations				125
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	2,008		2,008	7,665
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	6,807		6,807	7,048
b6					
b7	Other payments	7,050	7,685	14,735	14,034
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	55,011	7,685	62,696 (b9)	74,304

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	3,317	(3,383)	(66)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		102,241	575	102,816 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	105,558	(2,808)	102,750
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	105,558	(2,808)	102,750 (c8)
					102,816 (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		NIL		NIL
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		1,569		1,393
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		1,569		1,393
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)	NIL		NIL

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 2020 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	The Playbox	95,817	81,055	14,762	(3,500)	14,877	26,139
e2	Choir	180	263	(83)	(100)	365	182
e3	Hobbles	75		75		19	94
e4	Messy Church	19	51	(32)		102	70
e5	Re-Unite & Monday Club	10		10	(38)	106	78
e6	St Johns Community Team	676	344	332	(285)	NIL	47
e7	Flower Committee	5	12	(7)		174	167
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	96,782	81,725	15,057	(3,923)	15,643 (e11)	26,777 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	62,830 (a7)	62,696 (b9)	(66)	(c7)	102,816 (c6)	102,750 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	159,412	144,421	14,991	(3,923)	118,459 (x)	129,527 (y)
		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if
necessary and bring the totals
forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2020**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	NIL	
f2 Bank Current Account	11,826	10,707
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	60,491	61,544
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	30,499	30,499
f6 Church funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	102,816 (c6)	102,750 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	15,643 (e11)	26,777 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	118,459 (x)	129,527 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2019	At 31 August 2020
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	2,580,000	2,856,478
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 .. St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 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 Date.....

Name and address of treasurer W P Martland

Inglebrook Borley Sudbury CO10 7AE

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 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 Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury

Charity Number .. 1151379

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St Johns Sudbury Methodist..... Church for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages one... to three.... 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 .. St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury

Independent Examiner's Statement

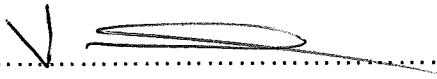
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

~~the the~~

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 VINCENT CHANDLER

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACA FCEA

Name of firm (where appropriate) MOORE GREEN

Address 22 FRANKS ROAD

..... Sudbury Post Code CE10 2AA

Date 23/11/2020

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-19

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CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

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c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	105,558	(2,808)	102,750
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	105,558	(2,808)	102,750 (c8)
					102,816 (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	NIL	NIL
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	1,569	1,393
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	1,569	1,393
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)	NIL

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 2020 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	The Playbox	95,817	81,055	14,762	(3,500)	14,877	26,139
e2	Choir	180	263	(83)	(100)	365	182
e3	Hobbles	75		75		19	94
e4	Messy Church	19	51	(32)		102	70
e5	Re-Unite & Monday Club	10		10	(38)	106	78
e6	St Johns Community Team	676	344	332	(285)	NIL	47
e7	Flower Committee	5	12	(7)		174	167
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	96,782	81,725	15,057	(3,923)	15,643 (e11)	26,777 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	62,830 (a7)	62,696 (b9)	(66)	(c7)	102,816 (c6)	102,750 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	159,412	144,421	14,991	(3,923)	118,459 (x)	129,527 (y)
		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if
necessary and bring the totals
forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2020**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	NIL	
f2 Bank Current Account	11,826	10,707
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	60,491	61,544
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	30,499	30,499
f6 Church funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	102,816 (c6)	102,750 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	15,643 (e11)	26,777 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	118,459 (x)	129,527 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2019	At 31 August 2020
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	2,580,000	2,856,478
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 .. St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 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 Date.....

Name and address of treasurer W P Martland

Inglebrook Borley Sudbury CO10 7AE

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 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 Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury

Charity Number .. 1151379

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St Johns Sudbury Methodist..... Church for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages one... to three.... 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 .. St Johns Methodist Church Sudbury

Independent Examiner's Statement

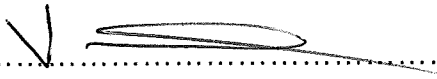
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

~~the the~~

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 VINCENT CHANDLER

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACA FCEA

Name of firm (where appropriate) MOORE GILLEN

Address 22 FRANKS ROAD

..... Sudbury Post Code CB10 2AA

Date 23/11/2020

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-19