



Trinity Methodist Church Leighton Buzzard

Annual Report for the year ended 31 August 2023

Registered Charity No: 1151861

Administrative information

Address

North Street, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 1ES <http://www.trinitylb.org.uk>

Aims and organisation

Our Mission statement

Trinity Methodist Church exists to create a community of disciples of Jesus who

- worship God
- share God's love
- help others to follow Jesus
- encourage each other to grow in the Christian faith
- serve God in Leighton Buzzard and throughout the world

Public benefit

In making decisions about the activities of the church, the trustees have had due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Management

The church is constituted under the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church in Britain. It is part of the South Bedfordshire Circuit.

The church is managed by the Church Council who are the Trustees of the Charity. Members of the Council are elected directly by Church members at the Annual Church Meeting, can be co-opted, or, as post holders in the church community, are members ex officio.

The Church Council is responsible for strategic decisions affecting the management, worship and spiritual life of the church.

Members of Church Council at the date of this report

S-W Jung (Chair & Minister)
M Mele (Secretary to Church Council)
S M Pollard (Treasurer)
A Gray (Senior Steward)
J A Roberts (Circuit Steward)

A J Arnold P A Baker R K Bates N S Bibbings* C A Bosworth J Cornfoot	D S Dawes M C Dover E M Green A H Guy N Henshaw R T Hitchcock	C S Horsefield S Horsefield K Keeley C J Lowe A R H Oldroyd P M Owers	R J Owers C A Roots B E Sinfield A D Stokes S Stokes P E Wagner
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*Minister in the South Bedfordshire Circuit.

The following were also members during the year to 31 August 2023: E A Hitchcock, J Whyman-Bates

Committees

The implementation of Church Council decisions is delegated to the Minister, Leadership Team, Treasurer and these Committees.

- Worship
- Pastoral
- Community Action Group (from August 2023)
- Property
- Resources
- Connections Committee

Review of progress and achievements

We continue to hold two services in the church and one by zoom each Sunday, as well as our bi-weekly bible studies by zoom. Numbers attending our monthly Messy Church service, which is aimed at families, fell following the COVID pandemic but is recovering slowly. Our mid-week service, held on Tuesday mornings, is regularly attended by 25-30 people from the locality and nearby villages and is particularly appreciated by those who are unable to attend the services on Sunday.

Two biweekly groups meet in the church, a new Games Fellowship and “Knit and natter”, giving opportunities for people to meet together. The three sections of the Scout Group continue to meet weekly. The Girls Brigade, which met at Trinity for many years, formally closed in May with a thanksgiving service.

The Pastoral Leaders continue to work to ensure that all members are supported through regular contact from a member of the congregation and provide help as required. Production of the twice monthly newsletter continues to be carried out by volunteers, ensuring that all members continue to receive updates either by email or in print.

A number of our members have come together to form a Community Action Group to support Trinity’s engagement in public issues and those facing the wider community, including fairtrade, ecology, homelessness. This included supporting the move across the town to open a “warm space” for a regular time each week during the colder months where anyone could come in to the building for activities and refreshments. However, there was very little takeup over the time this was open and this was not continued.

We were able once again, after 3 years absence, to take a stall at the town’s May Fayre where we provided games for the children and told people about the work of the church.

The church was awarded the silver Eco Church Award in July 2023.

Plans for Future Periods

Following a Gift Day in October 2022 which demonstrated the financial commitment of church members we held a special event in June 2023– “Talking about Trinity” – to bring together and understand the aspirations of church members around the building, worship, and our services for the local community. The event was attended by nearly 40 members. A number of these suggestions could be put in place quickly, and we are working on taking other ideas forward where possible.

In compliance with General Data Protection Regulations we are working to update and reprint our church directory later in 2023.

Financial Summary for 2022/23

General statement

Overall the financial performance for 2022/3 represented a considerable improvement when compared with the poor year of 2021/2, with a surplus in the General Fund of £21,186 and in the Community Links Fund of £2,224. Having reduced the balance in our Painting and Refurbishment Fund to zero in the previous year, we were also able to start building up this reserve again during 2022/3 so that the balance at the end of the year was £4,088.

General Fund

The improvement in the General Fund was due mainly to an exceptionally successful Gift Day which was held in October 2022. Members and friends of Trinity responded to our appeal with both lump sum gifts and increases to regular giving which gave rise to an overall increase in giving to the General fund of £17,903 in the year. We also saw a modest increase in our income from use of premises and we were able to restrict our expenditure on property compared with the previous year. The overall effect of this was to generate a surplus of £21,186 in this Fund.

Community Links

The Community Links Fund benefitted from donations by members of the congregation and these gave rise to an overall surplus in this Fund of £2,224. During the year we secured the services of a Messy Church Leader and the cost of this was borne from the Community Links Fund without the need to draw on any reserves.

Legacies

We did not spend any of our legacy or memorial funds during the year so the balance increased with interest to £19,675.

Other Restricted Funds

These funds, which have been donated for particular purposes, stood at £6,667 at the year end.

Painting and Refurbishment Fund

As mentioned earlier, we were able to start building up the balance in this Fund during the year with a £4,000 transfer from the General Fund so the balance at the end of the year, with interest, was £4,088.

Donations

Trinity donated £500 directly from the General Fund.

Financial Information

The independently examined annual accounts of the Church are produced in the Methodist Standard Format. A copy of those accounts is available on request. The information in this report is a summary of the accounts adopted by Church Council on 24 October 2023 and is consistent with the independently examined accounts but has not been subject to an independent examination.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 August 2023

INCOME	General Fund	Community	General Fund	Community
	2022/3	Links	2021/2	Links
	£	£	£	£
Offeratories	77,166	2,980	59,263	1,830
Gift Aid	12,542	570	11,875	436
Use of Premises	14,460		12,602	
Feed in Tariff	1,276		1,282	
Job Retention				48
Interest	1,068	114		
Other	1,498	230	619	653
	108,010	3,894	85,641	2,967
EXPENDITURE				
Circuit Assessment	58,342		57,956	
Property	24,687		30,135	
Printing, Copying and Office	2,017	398	2,039	926
Church Life	1,278	415	1,903	745
Donations	500		200	
Employment		857	2,686	3,751
Bank Charges			50	
	86,824	1,670	94,969	5,422
surplus/(deficit)	21,186	2,224	(9,328)	(2,455)
BALANCE SHEET				
Summary of Funds	2022/3		2021/2	
General Fund	37,438		16,252	
Community Links Fund				
(Restricted)	3,823		1,599	
Legacies and Memorials	19,675		19,140	
Other Funds (Restricted)	6,667		6,310	
Painting and Refurbishment	4,088			
Total Funds	71,691		43,301	

Represented by

Current Account	8,799	7,775
CFB Deposit account	46,141	19,213
TMCP	16,882	16,385
Cash in Hand	37	32
Adjustment	(168)	(104)
Total Funds	71,691	43,301

Donations from Retiring Collections 3,060

Reserves Lower Limit 21,600

Reserves Limit 24,000

Reserves Upper Limit 36,000

End of year reserves are £13,438 above our Reserves Limit of £24,000

Approval

This report was approved by Church Council on 28 February 2024.

Rev Seung-Wook Jung,
Minister

