

STRATFORD ON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1152323

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2013-06-06

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

Contact

Address 99 Shottery Road
Stratford-Upon-Avon
Warwickshire
99 Shottery Road
CV37 9QB

Phone 01789550193

Email david.dumper@ntlworld.com

Website www.stratforduponavonmethodist.org.uk

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: The provision of regular acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike. The provision of sacred space (the building) for prayer and contemplation. We reach out to our local community with activities engaging mothers and toddlers, children's choir, fellowship through brunches and friendship lunches, holiday at home initiative addressing needs of the elderly and lonely

Classification

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

Geography

- Warwickshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£108,643	£110,481	-	-
2024-08-31	£135,054	£127,620	-	-
2023-08-31	£101,641	£99,894	-	-
2022-08-31	£87,369	£94,064	-	-
2021-08-31	£55,017	£78,050	-	-
2020-08-31	£72,326	£86,844	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew James Steele		2023-07-19
Christopher Alan Benson		2025-05-18
DAVID JOHN LOADER		2013-06-05
DAVID LESLIE DUMPER		2013-06-05
DR LIM CHUEN HO		2013-06-05
Deacon Jane Elizabeth Mills		2002-09-01
EVELYN MAY HO		2013-06-05
GILLIAN AMY EDWARDS B.ED		2013-06-05
Graham Neville Collins		2019-04-01
Janet Mee		2019-04-01
Janet Veronica Grant		2021-02-16
MICHAEL BRIERLEY LEDGARD		2013-06-05
Phillip Neil Ledgard		2023-07-19
Rebecca Lee Ledgard		2025-05-18
Rev Iain Mark Ballard		2025-05-18
Rosina Margaret Blakemore		2023-07-19
Sheila Brown		2021-07-13
Stephen Paul Peacop		2024-05-01

STRATFORD ON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1152323

Accounts



STRATFORD ON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

incorporating Henley in Arden Methodist Church

ANNUAL REPORT

and

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Receipts & Payments)

Year ending 31 AUGUST 2024

South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit 12/5

CHARITY REGISTRATION Number 1152323

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT for year ended 31 August 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2024.

Mission Statement

Our vision is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those around us and to provide a place of witness and worship for all people. Our aim is to have a dynamic, growing Church with warm fellowship and outreach where people of all ages and backgrounds can meet the Lord Jesus Christ and feel part of a caring Church family.

Full Name of Charity: **Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church**

Registration Charity Number: **1152323**

Date of Charity registration: **8 June 2013**

Main communication address: c/o Treasurer, Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church Centre, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BG

Minister: Deacon Jane Mills
Presbyter: Rev Sally Jones
Church Stewards: Steve Peacop (appointed 1 May 2024)
 Jan Grant (appointed 16 February 2021)
Treasurer: Phillip Ledgard (appointed 19 July 2023)
Secretary: David Dumper (appointed 5 June 2013)
Property Steward: Vacant
Resources Secretary: Graham Collins (appointed 1 April 2019)

The members of the Church Council of Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church are the Charity Trustees*, membership being made up of church office holders, Minister, Presbyter and representatives appointed by the church at the Annual General Meeting.

Representatives as at 1 September 2024:

Chris Benson*	Circuit Representative	Lim Ho	Church Representative
Brenda Birnie	Church Representative	Michael Ledgard	Church Representative
Margaret Blakemore	Henley Representative	David Loader	Church Representative
Sheila Brown	Church Representative	Janet Mee	Church Representative
Alan Cumming	Church Representative	Malcolm Smith	Church Representative
Gillian Edwards	Church Representative	Andrew Steele	Henley Representative
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*Chris Benson is not a Charity Trustee for the Church.

Independent examiner: Mark Whitehouse, 42 Lillington Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 5YZ

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The advancement of:

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- b) The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- c) The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
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- e) Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.
- f) The charity supports Connexional & Mission work in the UK and Overseas including an active Overseas Sponsorship scheme, All We Can, Christian Aid, Action for Children, Methodist Homes for the Aged, and South Warwickshire Methodist circuit projects
- g) Additional support is given to Stratford Churches Together, Stratford upon Avon Foodbank and Talking Newspapers for the Blind (Stratford)

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We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

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In 2003 this church began its Eco-Congregation programme and was given 3 awards over the next 15 years. In 2014 the premises were redeveloped with the aim of becoming more energy efficient and successfully reducing our carbon footprint. In summer 2019 we received the Gold Eco-Church award from A Rocha the first Methodist church in the UK to do so, and only the sixth church in the country of any denomination at that time. An active ECO group continues to meet monthly.

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The major risks have been identified and recorded by the trustees with professional advice taken as required. A regular review process is undertaken and recorded.

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Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults.
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Church is set such that reserves should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the church building and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full expenses including the assessment payable to the Circuit. As Trustees our reserves policy is based on a realistic assessment of our needs present and future. The following formula was adopted by Church Council in October 2005:

- Reserves are deemed to be those moneys, which are held in trust by the Church Council, but excluding Endowment Funds. This includes our Bank & CFB accounts plus all Model Trust Bequests, which are not restricted.
- Minimum Reserves should not fall below the equivalent of six months routine expenditure (for August 2024 this calculates as £55,000); and
- Maximum Reserves should not exceed the equivalent of six months routine expenditure plus the estimated shortfall between income and expenditure budgeted for the next three financial years plus amounts set aside to be spent in respect of building and development projects as declared under that section of the current schedule A.

The Reserves of Stratford on Avon Methodist Church on 31 August 2024 amounted to £42,821 (2023: £39,166). No endowment or restricted funds are held. This figure includes £2,965 belonging to Internal Organisations (2023: £2,080). Whilst we still have a shortfall versus the minimum reserves policy, caused by the erosion during the Covid restrictions, the shortfall has reduced during the year.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 has been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Review of the year (incorporating financial review)

Throughout the year Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church has been a church worshipping on two sites at Stratford upon Avon and at Henley in Arden. During the past twelve months worship has continued at both churches with administration and finance now under the control of Stratford upon Avon with Henley in Arden representation on all committees. Throughout the year to August 2024 the financial transactions for both sites have been recorded as one church.

Income Trends

In the year to 31 August 2024, total income of £135,054 is £33,413 higher than in 2023. Of this, £21,947 represents restricted funds raised for green investment. The immediate target was to purchase and install two energy storage batteries. Unrestricted income was also increased year on year by £11,466, led by lettings income increasing strongly to over £51,512 (2023: £42,453).

Church income is primarily drawn from standing orders, Sunday cash collections, Gift aid tax credit, donations, legacies, gifts, and fundraising from church groups and members, being 59% of total income (2023: 55%); and letting income paid by external users of the building 38% (2023: 42%).

Following redevelopment of church in 2014 our green features continue to export energy to the National Grid yielding over 2% of annual income (2023: 2%).

COVID 19 had a severe impact on both the finances and outreach of the Charity but by the end of the financial year we had broadly returned to pre-COVID levels of lettings income.

Expenditure Trends

The major cost has been in relation to the annual assessment paid to the South Warwickshire Circuit. Our contribution this financial year of £51,148 represents 38% of annual income (2023: £48,666, being 48% of income).

Other significant expenditures include staff & administration costs of 8% (2023: 9%), maintenance and cleaning of Church premises 20% (2023: 21%), and utilities & insurance 14% (2023: 19%) of annual income. Ongoing repairs and maintenance costs of keeping our two churches capable of running as the Community Centres that they are increased by £1,300 this past year.

Expenditure on the two energy storage batteries totalled £17,283 giving rise to restricted reserves carried forward into the following financial year.

Fund balances

The charity had a surplus of receipts over payments of £7,434 in the year, of which £2,770 represents unrestricted funds, and £4,664 being restricted.

We are holding funds of £2,965 (2023: £2,080) for Wesleys Family Club as an Internal Organisation. An Internal Organisation is defined by Connexion as being a group or organisation formed or set up by the Church Council. This money comes under the control of the Church Council, though it will sometimes be held in a separate bank account and be the responsibility of a different treasurer. These groups have their own officers appointed by the Church Council. Stratford Methodist Church acts as banker for Wesleys for this fund. These monies are included in our reserves, and they belong to the Church not the internal organisation.

The total liquid assets of the charity amounted to £47,485 as at 31 Aug 2024 (2023: £39,166) of which £4,664 is reserved for restricted green investments initiatives (2023: £nil).

Other Assets and Liabilities

Aside from the liquid assets held by the charity, are Land and Buildings assets valued at £4,348,885 (2023: £4,270,158) and other assets of £189,558 (2023: £185,713). The land and building asset value of our two churches is calculated from the insurance reinstatement cost (inclusive of organ) less 15% architects fees and removal of debris costs plus Contents. In addition, there is a £400,000 land value attributed to our Stratford side. Other assets reflect an insurance valuation of the contents across both sites. The Methodist Connexion is the ultimate owner of all church buildings and land but the trustees are deemed responsible for the upkeep of said premises whilst in their custody.

Not recorded in the receipts and payments accounts as presented, are certain other assets and liabilities. The charity has the following other assets and liabilities excluded from reporting requirements:

- Invoices raised but cash not received for lettings before 31 August 2024: £1,821.
- Costs prepaid in the year, relating to periods post 31 August 2024: £235

- Cost invoices received but not yet paid from suppliers relating to activity before 31 August 2024: £939
- Cost accruals for services received but where no invoice has been received, relating to activity before 31 August 2024: £277.

Plans for 2024/25

Deacon Jane Mills continues as minister at Stratford upon Avon and Henley in Arden and Rev. Sally Jones continues as our presbyter. Our minister Jane continues outreach initiatives utilising our premises at both sites.

Following the successful fund-raising activities during the year, the solar batteries will be connected and put into full use. Opportunities to further enhance our energy saving initiatives across both sites will be explored.

We hope that income from giving and letting will continue to replenish our reserves depleted during the Covid restrictions.

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 11 February 2025

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 11 February 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Sally Jones Date 14 February 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church

Charity Number 1152323

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Stratford upon Avon Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 10 to 11. 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

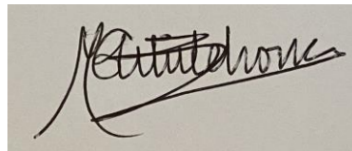
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- 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 Mark Whitehouse

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA (ICAEW)

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024				Stratford upon Avon Methodist		Church	
	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
			£	£	£		£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		44,649		44,649		43,513
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		877		877		523
a4	Lettings		51,512		51,512		42,453
a5	Other receipts		16,069	21,947	38,016		15,152
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		113,107	21,947	135,054	(a7)	101,641
	SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		51,148		51,148		48,666
b3	Donations		200		200		
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		13,633		13,633		12,052
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		14,828		14,828		18,947
b6	Eco/Green initiative Projects			17,283	17,283		
b7	Other payments		30,528		30,528		20,229
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		110,337	17,283	127,620	(b9)	99,894
	SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	2,770	4,664	7,434		1,747
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		37,086		37,086	(c6)	35,339
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	39,856	4,664	44,520		37,086
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	39,856	4,664	44,520	(c8)	37,086 (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				£		£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year						
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations				1,478		2,669
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				797		2,669
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)			681		

Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**SECTION E** Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

	INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1	Wesleys	1,985	1,100	885		2,080	2,965
e2							
e3							
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	1,985	1,100	885		2,080 (e11)	2,965 (e1)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	135,054 (a7)	127,620 (b9)	7,434	(c7)	37,086 (c6)	44,520 (c)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	137,039	128,720	8,319		39,166 (x)	47,485.000 (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	5	1,042
f2	Bank Current Account	3,124	31,494
f3	Bank Deposit Account	147	148
f4	Central Finance Board	32,413	10,439
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	1,397	1,397
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	37,086 (c6)	44,520.00 (c)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	2,080 (e11)	2,965 (e1)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	39,166 (x)	47,485 (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)	4,270,158
g3	Other Assets	185,713
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)

STRATFORD ON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1152323

Accounts



STRATFORD ON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

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- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Church is set such that reserves should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the church building and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full expenses including the assessment payable to the Circuit. As Trustees our reserves policy is based on a realistic assessment of our needs present and future. The following formula was adopted by Church Council in October 2005:

- Reserves are deemed to be those moneys, which are held in trust by the Church Council, but excluding Endowment Funds. This includes our Bank & CFB accounts plus all Model Trust Bequests, which are not restricted.
- Minimum Reserves should not fall below the equivalent of six months routine expenditure (for August 2024 this calculates as £55,000); and
- Maximum Reserves should not exceed the equivalent of six months routine expenditure plus the estimated shortfall between income and expenditure budgeted for the next three financial years plus amounts set aside to be spent in respect of building and development projects as declared under that section of the current schedule A.

The Reserves of Stratford on Avon Methodist Church on 31 August 2024 amounted to £42,821 (2023: £39,166). No endowment or restricted funds are held. This figure includes £2,965 belonging to Internal Organisations (2023: £2,080). Whilst we still have a shortfall versus the minimum reserves policy, caused by the erosion during the Covid restrictions, the shortfall has reduced during the year.

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 has been prepared on a receipts and payments basis and in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

Review of the year (incorporating financial review)

Throughout the year Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church has been a church worshipping on two sites at Stratford upon Avon and at Henley in Arden. During the past twelve months worship has continued at both churches with administration and finance now under the control of Stratford upon Avon with Henley in Arden representation on all committees. Throughout the year to August 2024 the financial transactions for both sites have been recorded as one church.

Income Trends

In the year to 31 August 2024, total income of £135,054 is £33,413 higher than in 2023. Of this, £21,947 represents restricted funds raised for green investment. The immediate target was to purchase and install two energy storage batteries. Unrestricted income was also increased year on year by £11,466, led by lettings income increasing strongly to over £51,512 (2023: £42,453).

Church income is primarily drawn from standing orders, Sunday cash collections, Gift aid tax credit, donations, legacies, gifts, and fundraising from church groups and members, being 59% of total income (2023: 55%); and letting income paid by external users of the building 38% (2023: 42%).

Following redevelopment of church in 2014 our green features continue to export energy to the National Grid yielding over 2% of annual income (2023: 2%).

COVID 19 had a severe impact on both the finances and outreach of the Charity but by the end of the financial year we had broadly returned to pre-COVID levels of lettings income.

Expenditure Trends

The major cost has been in relation to the annual assessment paid to the South Warwickshire Circuit. Our contribution this financial year of £51,148 represents 38% of annual income (2023: £48,666, being 48% of income).

Other significant expenditures include staff & administration costs of 8% (2023: 9%), maintenance and cleaning of Church premises 20% (2023: 21%), and utilities & insurance 14% (2023: 19%) of annual income. Ongoing repairs and maintenance costs of keeping our two churches capable of running as the Community Centres that they are increased by £1,300 this past year.

Expenditure on the two energy storage batteries totalled £17,283 giving rise to restricted reserves carried forward into the following financial year.

Fund balances

The charity had a surplus of receipts over payments of £7,434 in the year, of which £2,770 represents unrestricted funds, and £4,664 being restricted.

We are holding funds of £2,965 (2023: £2,080) for Wesleys Family Club as an Internal Organisation. An Internal Organisation is defined by Connexion as being a group or organisation formed or set up by the Church Council. This money comes under the control of the Church Council, though it will sometimes be held in a separate bank account and be the responsibility of a different treasurer. These groups have their own officers appointed by the Church Council. Stratford Methodist Church acts as banker for Wesleys for this fund. These monies are included in our reserves, and they belong to the Church not the internal organisation.

The total liquid assets of the charity amounted to £47,485 as at 31 Aug 2024 (2023: £39,166) of which £4,664 is reserved for restricted green investments initiatives (2023: £nil).

Other Assets and Liabilities

Aside from the liquid assets held by the charity, are Land and Buildings assets valued at £4,348,885 (2023: £4,270,158) and other assets of £189,558 (2023: £185,713). The land and building asset value of our two churches is calculated from the insurance reinstatement cost (inclusive of organ) less 15% architects fees and removal of debris costs plus Contents. In addition, there is a £400,000 land value attributed to our Stratford side. Other assets reflect an insurance valuation of the contents across both sites. The Methodist Connexion is the ultimate owner of all church buildings and land but the trustees are deemed responsible for the upkeep of said premises whilst in their custody.

Not recorded in the receipts and payments accounts as presented, are certain other assets and liabilities. The charity has the following other assets and liabilities excluded from reporting requirements:

- Invoices raised but cash not received for lettings before 31 August 2024: £1,821.
- Costs prepaid in the year, relating to periods post 31 August 2024: £235

- Cost invoices received but not yet paid from suppliers relating to activity before 31 August 2024: £939
- Cost accruals for services received but where no invoice has been received, relating to activity before 31 August 2024: £277.

Plans for 2024/25

Deacon Jane Mills continues as minister at Stratford upon Avon and Henley in Arden and Rev. Sally Jones continues as our presbyter. Our minister Jane continues outreach initiatives utilising our premises at both sites.

Following the successful fund-raising activities during the year, the solar batteries will be connected and put into full use. Opportunities to further enhance our energy saving initiatives across both sites will be explored.

We hope that income from giving and letting will continue to replenish our reserves depleted during the Covid restrictions.

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 11 February 2025

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 11 February 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Sally Jones Date 14 February 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church

Charity Number 1152323

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Stratford upon Avon Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 10 to 11. 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

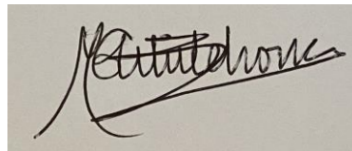
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- 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 Mark Whitehouse

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCA (ICAEW)

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024				Stratford upon Avon Methodist		Church	
	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
			£	£	£		£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		44,649		44,649		43,513
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		877		877		523
a4	Lettings		51,512		51,512		42,453
a5	Other receipts		16,069	21,947	38,016		15,152
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		113,107	21,947	135,054	(a7)	101,641
	SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS						
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		51,148		51,148		48,666
b3	Donations		200		200		
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		13,633		13,633		12,052
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		14,828		14,828		18,947
b6	Eco/Green initiative Projects			17,283	17,283		
b7	Other payments		30,528		30,528		20,229
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		110,337	17,283	127,620	(b9)	99,894
	SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	2,770	4,664	7,434		1,747
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		37,086		37,086	(c6)	35,339
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	39,856	4,664	44,520		37,086
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	39,856	4,664	44,520	(c8)	37,086 (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				£		£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year						
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations				1,478		2,669
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations				797		2,669
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)			681		

Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**SECTION E** Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

	INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1	Wesleys	1,985	1,100	885		2,080	2,965
e2							
e3							
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	1,985	1,100	885		2,080 (e11)	2,965 (e1)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	135,054 (a7)	127,620 (b9)	7,434	(c7)	37,086 (c6)	44,520 (c)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	137,039	128,720	8,319		39,166 (x)	47,485.000 (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	5	1,042
f2	Bank Current Account	3,124	31,494
f3	Bank Deposit Account	147	148
f4	Central Finance Board	32,413	10,439
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	1,397	1,397
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	37,086 (c6)	44,520.00 (c)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	2,080 (e11)	2,965 (e1)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	39,166 (x)	47,485 (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)	4,270,158
g3	Other Assets	185,713
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)

STRATFORD ON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1152323

Accounts



STRATFORD ON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

[incorporating Henley in Arden Methodist Church]

ANNUAL REPORT

and

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Receipts & Payments)

Year ending 31 AUGUST 2023

South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit 12/5

CHARITY REGISTRATION Number 1152323

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT for year ended 31 August 2023

Introduction

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2023

Mission Statement

Our vision is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those around us and to provide a place of witness and worship for all people. Our aim is to have a dynamic, growing Church with warm fellowship and outreach where people of all ages and backgrounds can meet the Lord Jesus Christ and feel part of a caring Church family.

Review of the year

As from 1 Sept 2022 Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church became a church worshipping on two sites the members at Henley in Arden having voted previously to become part of Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church. During the past twelve months worship has continued at both churches with administration and finance now under the control of Stratford. Assimilation of Henley accounting has for the most part transferred to Stratford and this set of accounts includes the receipts and payments and reserves of both churches. The intention is that by August 2024 this process will be completed.

Also this is the last report and accounts under my stewardship as treasurer having retired on 31 Aug 2023 after 21 years in said office and having passed the baton to my successor Mr Phil Ledgard.

Income Trends

Church income is primarily drawn from Standing Orders, Sunday cash collections, Gift aid tax credit, Donations, Legacies, Gifts, and Fundraising from church groups and members 55%; and letting income paid by external users of the building 42%.

Following redevelopment of church in 2014 our green features have enabled us to export energy to the National Grid yielding over 2% of annual income.

COVID 19 had a severe impact on both the finances and outreach of the Charity. We still have not returned to our pre covid level of income from lettings, but this year has seen a welcome increase in both giving and lettings

Expenditure Trends

The major cost has been in relation to the annual assessment paid to the South Warwickshire Circuit. Our contribution this financial year represents 49% of annual income.

Other significant expenditures include staff & administration costs of 9%, Maintenance & Cleaning of Church premises 21%, and Utilities & Insurance 19% of annual income. The energy crisis has created an additional cost of nearly £10,000 this past year.

Fund balances

The total liquid assets of the two churches amounted to £39,166 as at 31 Aug 2023

Plans for 2023/24

Deacon Jane Mills became minister at Stratford & Henley in Sept 2022 and our presbyter Rev. Sally Jones was appointed in July 2023. Two members from Henley were elected to Stratford's church council. Our minister Jane has created outreach initiatives utilising our premises at both sites.

We hope that income from giving and letting will continue to increase replenishing our reserves depleted during the Covid restrictions

Trustee's Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRSSE) 2015

Full Name of Charity: **Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church**

Registration Charity Number: **1152325**

Date of Charity registration: **8 June 2013**

Main communication address: c/o Treasurer, Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church Centre, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BG

The members of the Church Council of Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of church office holders, Minister, Presbyter and representatives appointed by the church at the Annual General Meeting.

Names of trustees is noted on page 13 of this report.

Treasurer: Mr David Dumper replaced by Mr Phillip Ledgard as from 1 Sept 2023

David Dumper acted as the principal officer overseeing the daily financial management and accounting for the church during the past year.

Independent examiner: Mark Whitehouse, 42 Lillington Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 5YZ

Bankers

- HSBC 13 Chapel Street, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 6ET
- HSBC Henley In Arden

Investment Bankers

- Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, 9 Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 4PE
- Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JQ

Aims and Organisation

The Charity provides services and events resulting in the provision of public Christian worship for all and provides a facility for local groups and organisations to use our premises for the purposes of a wider witness within Stratford-upon-Avon and Henley in Arden and surrounding area

The objectives of the Charity are set out in The Methodist Church Act 1976 and include the following - The advancement of

- a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and 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 of the Charity

- Worshiping God through prayer, song and other acts of worship including the organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
- Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.
- The charity supports Connexional & Mission work in the UK and Overseas including an active Overseas Sponsorship scheme, All We Can, Christian Aid, Action for Children, Methodist Homes for the Aged, and South Warwickshire Methodist circuit projects
- Additional support is given to Stratford Churches Together, Stratford upon Avon Foodbank and Talking Newspapers for the Blind (Stratford)

Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

ECO Church

In 2003 this church began its Eco-Congregation programme and was given 3 awards over the next 15 years. In 2014 the premises were redeveloped with the aim of becoming more energy efficient and successfully reducing our carbon footprint. In summer 2019 we received the Gold Eco-Church award from A Rocha the first Methodist church in the UK to do so, and only the sixth church in the country of any denomination at that time. An active ECO group meets monthly.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the church is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the church is undertaken by the Church trustees along with the Minister.

The Trustees are appointed at the AGM of the church.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the church and the role of Trustees is given to the Church Trustees at various meetings

Related Parties

The Church regarding its financial year ending 31 Aug 2023 was part of the South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit itself a part of the Birmingham District, also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The internal organisations linked to this church during this past year are Wesleys (mother & toddlers); Holiday at Home/Contact the Elderly; and Knit, Stitch & Natter.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the trustees with professional advice taken as required. A regular review process is undertaken and recorded.

Income and Expenditure is monitored and compared with the approved annual budget by a Finance committee which meets quarterly as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves and identify opportunities to increase our reserves

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Church is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 6 months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the church building and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full expenses including the assessment payable to the Circuit. Unfortunately, the previous two years saw an erosion of our reserves due to Covid and only this year have we managed to balance income and expenditure. We now hold the equivalent of less than 4 months expenditure.

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 2022/23 – STRATFORD UPON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

CHARITY Account	2023	2023	NOTES	2022	2022
Offertory and Tax Recoverable	43513		1, 3	43208	
Interest and Investment Income	523			55	
Lettings	42453		2	28067	
Gifts, Donations, Legacies	2676			170	
Grants & Fund Raising	9574		4	7200	
Energy Export	2610		5	2383	
Missc Income	37			741	
Insurance Claims				5197	
Mission	255		6	348	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	101641			87369	
Circuit Assessment		48666	7		41136
Repairs & Maintenance		12053	8		9381
Gas & Electricity		14960	9		5369
Insurance		3987	10		2960
Cleaning		8461	11		10536
Wesley Leader		432			3367
Organist Fees					75
Office		8772	12		8687
Audit Fee					990
Missc Expenditure		2208			2886
Insurance Claims					7129
Mission		355	6		1548
TOTAL PAYMENTS		99894			94064
NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT		1747	13		-6695
	101641	101641		87369	87369

GENERAL Account Reserve

Balance brought forward Stratford	24269			30964	
Balance brought forward Henley	11070				
Net Incoming Resources	1747		13	-6695	
Balance carried forward	37086			24269	

BALANCE SHEET - Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church at 31 August 2023

	<u>2023</u>	Notes	<u>2022</u>
<u>CHURCH FUNDS</u>			
General Account	£37,086		£24,269
Internal Organisations	£2,080	14	£3,613
TOTAL of LIQUID FUNDS	£39,166		£27,882
Church Buildings & Contents – Stratford & Henley	£4,455,871	15	£3,400,775
TOTAL	£4,495,037		£3,428,657

REPRESENTED BY

HSBC Current Account Stratford	£1,423		£10,462
HSBC Current Account Henley	£1,701		
HSBC Deposit Account Henley	£147		
Cash in Hand	£5		£13
Internal Organisations	£2,080		£3,613
CFB Deposit Stratford	£32,370		£12,397
CFB Deposit Henley	£43		
TMCP 8366	£1,397		£1,397
TOTAL of LIQUID FUNDS	£39,166		£27,882
Church Buildings & Contents – Stratford & Henley	£4,455,871		£3,400,775
TOTAL	£4,495,037		£3,428,657

Internal Organisations reporting to Church Council Year End 2023

	Opening Balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balances
Wesleys	2135	1065	-1120	2080
Holiday At Home	733		-733	0
Knit, Stitch & Natter	745	820	-1565	0
Total	3613	1885	-3418	2080

Balances held in HSBC Current Account at 31 Aug 2023

Wesleys	2080.46
Total	2080.46

External Organisations for Year End 2023

	Opening Balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balances
Arden Forest Eco		1267.00	-1267.00	0
Long Lartin Angel Tree		150.00	-150.00	0
Christian Aid		160.50	-160.50	0
MHA		172.03	-172.03	0
Action For Children		875.55	-875.55	0
SWC leaving gifts		44.40	-44.40	0
Total		2669.48	-2669.48	0

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS

1. Our regular giving at Stratford increased by 15% following an appeal to members in 2022. Our thanks to the hard work put in by Graham Collins (Gift Aid Secretary) in obtaining our tax recovery.
2. Letting income reflects the return from hirers. This is split £34,252 Stratford and £8,101 Henley
3. Giving in previous year included £6,600 raised by a Gift Day in Stratford in 2021
4. This total includes Bazaar £1,643; Beetle Drive £144; Christmas Card £535; Brunch £1,349; Wesleys £1,000; Knit Stitch & Natter £1565; Holiday at Home £733; Books & Cards £1402; Grant £1,000 for Henley from Warwickshire County Council for community refrigerator.
5. Electricity sold to the grid is split Solar Panels £1,925 and Ground Source Heat Pump £685
6. Mission is no longer a separate account within the South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit so each individual church is now responsible for collection and payment of Mission funds. Expenditure last year – Heart of England Forest £1,267; Action for Children £876; Christian Aid £161; MHA £172; Angel Tree (Long Lartin) £150; A Rocha International £100; Overseas Sponsorship (Tax rebate) £255
7. Our Circuit assessment for 2022/2023 was split Stratford £42,642 & Henley £6,024
8. General maintenance split Stratford £9,135 & Henley £3,021
9. Stratford's Gas & Electric contract is with Good Energy Ltd. Gas £6,862; Electricity £4,488. However, if we deduct the income from Energy Export (see note 5) the net cost of gas & electric is only £8,740. Henley only use electricity current contract with Octopus Energy and their costs were £4,342. This is more than double that paid the previous year and energy cost has become a major element of expenditure.
10. Insurance split Stratford £3,255 & Henley £731
11. Cleaning of the Stratford premises is contracted to Goldhill Contracting Ltd with separate contract with Unit Sales Ltd for janitorial supplies. We have not yet been billed for the final two months of the year by Goldhill so these figures are understated by more than £1,000. The total also includes £570 for Henley.
12. Office expenditure is split as follows - salary £6,445; photocopying £987; telephone/Wi-Fi £931, office expenses £410.
13. General account shows an operating surplus of £1,747. Our reserve has also increased to £39,166 due to the transfer from Henley of their reserve.

14. An Internal Organisation is defined by Connexion as being a group or organisation formed or set up by the Church Council. This money comes under the control of the Church Council, though it will sometimes be held in a separate bank account and be the responsibility of a different treasurer. These groups have their own officers appointed by the Church Council. Stratford Methodist Church acts as banker for some of these organisations as detailed on page 9. These monies are included in our reserves, and they belong to the Church not the internal organisation.
15. The building asset value of our two churches is calculated from the insurance reinstatement cost (inclusive of organ) less 15% architects fees and removal of debris costs plus Contents. However, the current SORP rules applying to these accounts mandate that we now include the market value of our freehold land, which I calculated in 2016 to be £400,000 for Stratford but have not calculated a figure for Henley. The Methodist Connexion is the ultimate owner of all church buildings and land but the trustees are deemed responsible for the upkeep of said premises whilst in their custody.

RESERVES POLICY of STRATFORD ON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

It is important to ensure sufficient reserves are available to enable the Church to achieve its aims of mission, but on the other hand, holding too much money in reserve can promote criticism and may well cause searching questions to be asked as to whether this Church as a charity is hoarding cash. As Trustees our reserves policy is based on a realistic assessment of our needs present and future. The following formula was adopted by Church Council at its October 2005 meeting.

- Reserves are deemed to be those moneys, which are held in trust by the Church Council, but excluding Endowment Funds. This includes our Bank & CFB accounts plus all Model Trust Bequests, and Redevelopment monies held by our custodian trustees 'Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes,' which are not restricted.
- [Minimum] Reserves should not fall below the equivalent of six months routine expenditure.
or
- [Maximum] Reserves should not exceed the equivalent of six months routine expenditure plus the estimated shortfall between income and expenditure budgeted for the next three financial years plus amounts set aside to be spent in respect of building and development projects as declared under that section of the current schedule A.

The Reserves of Stratford on Avon Methodist Church on 31 August 2023 amounted to £39,166. No endowment or restricted funds are held. This figure includes £2,080 belonging to Internal Organisations.

- Minimum Reserve as per formula is £50,000 see note
- Maximum Reserve as per formula is £100,000
[50,000 + 50,000 operating loss and capital expenditure during next three years]

Note to Reserves Policy

Minimum reserve is calculated by taking 50% of Charity account expenditure which for 2023 amounted to £99,893 excluding internal organisations.

Our reserves will be further depleted unless we regularly increase giving and letting income. Our current reserve is less than 80% of minimum required by said policy.

TRUSTEES of STRATFORD ON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

Registered Charity Number: **1152323****22 Trustees as of 1 September 2023**

Rev. Sally Jones	Chairperson
Deacon Jane Mills	Church minister
Phil Ledgard	Treasurer
David Dumper	Secretary
Brenda Birnie	Church Representative
Margaret Blakemore	Henley Representative
Sheila Brown	Circuit Representative
Graham Collins	Resources Secretary
Alan Cumming	Church Representative
Rev. James Dobson	Church Steward
Gillian Edwards	Church Representative
Stephen Farmery	Property Steward
Janet Grant	Church Steward
Evelyn Ho	Church Representative
Lim Ho	Church Representative
Michael Ledgard	Church Representative
David Loader	Church Representative
Janet Mee	Church Representative
Malcolm Smith	Church Representative
Andrew Steele	Henley Representative
Susan Rimmer	Church Representative
Elizabeth Walker	Church Representative

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Stratford upon Avon Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

South Warwickshire	Circuit	Circuit no.	5/12
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1152323

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:

Deacon Jane Mills

Church Stewards:

Rev. James Dobson	Janet Grant

Treasurer:

David Dumper

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	43,513		43,513	43,208
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	523		523	55
a4	Lettings	42,453		42,453	28,067
a5	Other receipts	15,152		15,152	16,039
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	101,641		101,641 (a7)	87,369

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	48,666		48,666	41,136
b3	Donations				
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	12,052		12,052	16,510
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	18,947		18,947	8,329
b6					830
b7	Other payments	20,229		20,229	27,259
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	99,894		99,894 (b9)	94,064

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR (a6-b8)	1,747		1,747	(6,695)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	24,269		24,269 (c6)	30,964
c3	Sub total (c1+c2)	26,016		26,016	24,269
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c3+c4)	26,016		26,016 (c8)	24,269 (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				
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		2,669		
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		2,669		
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (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 Wesleys	1,065	1,120	(55)		2,135	2,080
e2 Holiday at Home		733	(733)		733	
e3 Knit Stitch & Natter	820	1,565	(745)		745	
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	1,885	3,418	(1,533)		3,613 (e11)	2,080 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	101,641 (a7)	99,894 (b9)	1,747	11,070 (c7)	24,269 (c6)	37,086 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	103,526	103,312	214	11,070	27,882 (x)	39,166 (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 2023

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	13	5
f2 Bank Current Account	10,462	3,124
f3 Bank Deposit Account		147
f4 Central Finance Board	12,397	32,413
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	1,397	1,397
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	24,269 (c6)	37,086 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	3,613 (e11)	2,080 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	27,882 (x)	39,166 (y)

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)	3,261,030	4,270,158
g3 Other Assets	139,745	185,713
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

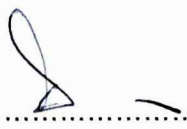
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of **Stratford on Avon Methodist Church**

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 24 OCT 2023
Name and address of treasurer DAVID LESLIE DUMPER, 99 CHOTTEAT ROAD
STRATFORD UPON AVON, WARWICKSHIRE Post Code CV37 9QZ

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were ~~not~~ ^{will be} presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 24 OCT 2023

Signature of the Chair of the meeting
Name of the Chair of the meeting REV SALLY JONES Date 24 OCT 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

Charity Number .. 1152323

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 1 to 5. 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 .. Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

12.5

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

MARK WHITEHOUSE

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

ACA (ICAEW)

Name of firm (where appropriate)

N/A

Address

42 LILLINGTON ROAD,

LEAMINGTON SPA.

Post Code

CV32 54Z

Date

29/04/2024

* delete or circle as appropriate

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Stratford upon Avon Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

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Church Stewards:

Rev. James Dobson	Janet Grant

Treasurer:

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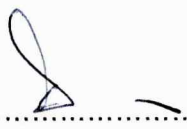
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Signature of the Chair of the meeting
Name of the Chair of the meeting REV SALLY JONES Date 24 OCT 2023

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Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

Charity Number .. 1152323

Responsibilities and basis of report

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Signature of independent examiner



Name of independent examiner

MARK WHITEHOUSE

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

ACA (ICAEW)

Name of firm (where appropriate)

N/A

Address

42 LILLINGTON ROAD,

LEAMINGTON SPA.

Post Code

CV32 54Z

Date

29/04/2024

* delete or circle as appropriate

STRATFORD ON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1152323

Accounts



STRATFORD ON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT

And

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Receipts & Payments)

Year ending 31 AUGUST 2022

South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit 12/5

CHARITY REGISTRATION Number 1152323

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT for year ended 31 August 2022

Introduction

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2022

Mission Statement

Our vision is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those around us and to provide a place of witness and worship for all people. Our aim is to have a dynamic, growing Church with warm fellowship and outreach where people of all ages and backgrounds can meet the Lord Jesus Christ and feel part of a caring Church family

Review of the year

Income Trends

Church income is primarily drawn from Standing Orders, Sunday cash collections, Gift aid tax credit, Donations, Legacies, Gifts, and Fundraising from church groups and members 58%; and letting income paid by external users of the building 32%.

Following redevelopment of church in 2014 our green features have enabled us to export energy to the National Grid yielding just over 3% of annual income

COVID 19 had a severe impact on both the finances and outreach of the Charity. Since closure of the premises in March 2020 worship services were only able to resume on our premises during August 2021. Weekly services had continued remotely by means of the ZOOM platform. Income from giving reduced significantly and other than rental from Stratford upon Avon Foodbank no other letting income has existed until September 2021 and recovery has been slow during past twelve months representing just 60% of pre covid letting income.

Expenditure Trends

The major cost has been in relation to the annual assessment paid to the South Warwickshire Circuit. Our contribution this financial year represents 47% of annual income.

Other significant expenditures include staff & administration costs of 14%, Maintenance & Cleaning of Church premises 23%, and Utilities & Insurance 9% of annual income. The energy crisis means we will need to find an additional £9,000 this coming year to pay our utility bills on current consumption.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2022 the net current assets of the Church had reduced to £27,807

Plans for 2022/23

We welcome Deacon Jane Mills as from September 2022 as our minister replacing our presbyter Rev, Audrey Simpson who retired in August 2022 after seven years in office.

We hope that income from giving and letting will increase to replenish our depleted reserves.

Trustee's Annual Report on Finance and Governance

Basis of preparation and legal framework

The Charity's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 has been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 2015 as applicable to the Financial Reporting Standard (FRSSE) 2015

Full Name of Charity: **Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church**

Registration Charity Number: **1152325**

Date of Charity registration: **8 June 2013**

Main communication address: c/o Treasurer, Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church Centre, Old Town, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6BG

The members of the Church Council of Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of church office holders, Minister and representatives appointed by the church at the Annual General Meeting.

Names of trustees is noted on page 13 of this report.

Treasurer: Mr David Dumper

David Dumper acted as the principal officer overseeing the daily financial management and accounting for the church during the year.

Independent examiner: Mark Whitehouse, 42 Lillington Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 5YZ

Investment Bankers

- Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, 9 Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 4PE
- Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JQ

Aims and organisation

The Charity provides services and events resulting in the provision of public Christian worship for all and provides a facility for local groups and organisations to use our premises for the purposes of a wider witness within the Stratford-upon-Avon community

The objectives of the Charity are set out in The Methodist Church Act 1976 and include the following - The advancement of

- a) The Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and 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 of the Charity

- Worshiping God through prayer, song and other acts of worship including the organisation and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
- Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.
- The charity supports Connexional & Mission work in the UK and Overseas including an active Overseas Sponsorship scheme, All We Can, Christian Aid, World Mission Fund, Mission in Britain, Action for Children, Methodist Homes for the Aged, Christian Aid and South Warwickshire Methodist circuit projects
- Additional support is given to Stratford Churches Together, Stratford Ecumenical Homeless Project, Stratford upon Avon Foodbank and Talking Newspapers for the Blind (Stratford)

Public Benefit

We confirm the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

ECO Church

In 2003 this church began its Eco-Congregation programme and was given 3 awards over the next 15 years. In 2014 the premises were redeveloped with the aim of becoming more energy efficient and successfully reducing our carbon footprint. In summer 2019 we received the Gold Eco-Church award from A Rocha the first Methodist church in the UK to do so, and only the sixth church in the country of any denomination at that time.

Structure, Governance and Management

The governing document for the church is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the church is undertaken by the Church trustees along with the Minister.

The Trustees are appointed at the AGM of the church.

Trustee Training

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the church and the role of Trustees is given to the Church Trustees at various meetings

Related Parties

The Church regarding its financial year ending 31 Aug 2022 was part of the South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit itself a part of the Birmingham District, also accountable to the Methodist Conference.

The internal organisations linked to this church during this past year are Wesleys (mother & toddlers); Holiday at Home/Contact the Elderly; and Knit, Stitch & Natter.

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the trustees with professional advice taken as required. A regular review process is undertaken and recorded. A separate working party met regularly to update Covid risk assessments with the intention of resuming worship services in line with government restrictions from August 2021, and the return of hirers from September 2021.

Income and Expenditure is monitored and compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- the establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice

Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy; government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy for the Church is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to 6 months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the church building and / or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full expenses including the assessment payable to the Circuit. Unfortunately, these past two years has seen the erosion of our reserves and we now hold the equivalent of less than 4 months expenditure.

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 2021/22 – STRATFORD UPON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

CHARITY Account	<u>2022</u>	<u>2022</u>	NOTES	<u>2021</u>	<u>2021</u>
Offertory and Tax Recoverable	43208		1, 3	33809	
Interest and Investment Income	55			51	
Lettings	28067		2	9433	
Gifts, Donations, Legacies	170			4302	
Grants & Fund Raising	7200		4	871	
Energy Export	2383		5	2292	
Missc Income	741			289	
Insurance Claims	5197		12		
Mission	348		6	3771	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	87369			54818	
Circuit Assessment		41136	7		41136
Repairs & Maintenance		9381	8		9942
Gas & Electricity		5369	9		2415
Insurance		2960			2669
Cleaning		10536	10		1021
Wesley Leader		3367			3217
Organist Fees		75			162
Office		8687	11		8556
Audit Fee		990			990
Missc Expenditure		2886			1463
Insurance Claims		7129	12		
Mission		1548	6		3410
TOTAL PAYMENTS		94064			74981
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS		-6695	13		-20163
	87369	87369		54818	54818

GENERAL Account Reserve

Balance brought forward	30889			51052
Net Incoming Resources	-6695		13	-20163
Balance carried forward	24194			30889

BALANCE SHEET of STRATFORD UPON AVON METHODIST CHURCH 31 Aug 2022

	<u>2022</u>	Notes	<u>2021</u>
<u>CHURCH FUNDS</u>			
General Account	£24,194		£30,889
Internal Organisations	£3,613	14	£3,584
TOTAL of LIQUID FUNDS	£27,807		£34,473
Church Building, Land, Contents	£3,400,775	15	£3,104,870
TOTAL	£3,428,582		£3,139,343

REPRESENTED BY

HSBC Current Account	£10,387		£2,188
Cash in Hand	£13		£45
Internal Organisations	£3,613		£3,584
CFB Deposit	£12,397		£27,259
TMCP 8366	£1,397		£1,397
TOTAL of LIQUID FUNDS	£27,807		£34,473
Church Building, Land, Contents	£3,400,775		£3,104,870
TOTAL	£3,428,582		£3,139,343

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS reporting to CHURCH COUNCIL year end 2022

	Opening Balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balances
Wesleys	2251	1011	-1127	2135
Holiday At Home	733			733
Knit, Stitch & Natter	600	745	-600	745
Total	3584	1756	-1727	3613

Balances held in HSBC Current Account as at 31 Aug
2022

Wesleys	2135.12
Holiday At Home	733.13
Knit, Stitch & Natter	745.00
Total	3613.25

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS year end 2022

	Opening Balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balances
Eco Project 2020/1	830		-830	0
Long Lartin Angel Tree		166	-166	0
Red Cross Ukraine Appeal		126	-126	0
All We Can		482	-482	0
Christian Aid		362	-362	0
MHA		125	-125	0
Action For Children		329	-329	0
Total	830	1590	-2420	0

NOTES to the ACCOUNTS

1. Our regular giving £36,607 a 10% increase upon the previous year, and reflects the gradual return to public worship since lockdown ended. Our thanks to the hard work put in by Graham Collins (Gift Aid Secretary) in obtaining our tax recovery
2. Letting income reflects the return of hirers. This is progress but we have some way to go to return to pre covid levels in excess of £41,000 per annum.
3. Giving included the £6,600 raised by our Gift Day last October.
4. This total includes Bazaar £1,040; Beetle Drive £112; Christmas Card £187; St Georges Day entertainment £420; Naples (Florida) Choir £227; Brunch £804; Wesleys £1,000; Books & Cards £202; Grant Stratford Town Trust £500 & Grant South Warwickshire Circuit for Audio Visual upgrade
5. Electricity sold to the grid is split Solar Panels £1,751 and Ground Source Heat Pump £632
6. Mission is no longer a separate account within the South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit so each individual church is now responsible for collection and payment of Mission funds. Expenditure last year – Heart of England Forest £830; Action for Children £329; Christian Aid £362; All We Can £482; MHA £125; Red Cross Ukraine Appeal £126; Angel Tree (Long Lartin) £166; Overseas Sponsorship (Tax rebate) £255, and Platinum Jubilee Tea £463
7. Our Circuit assessment for 2021/2022 remained at £41,136.
8. Only one item in excess of £1,000 was the upgrading of the Audio/Visual system of £1,063
9. Our Gas & Electric contracts were renewed with Good Energy Ltd as from 1 Jan 2020 for a two-year fixed term. Gas £2,810; Electricity £2,559. However, if we deduct the income from Energy Export (see note 5) the net cost of gas & electric is only £2,986. Good Energy extended our fixed rate by a further 8 months that's the good news. From September 2022 we go onto a monthly variable rate and current estimate for the next twelve months is that our gas & electric spend will increase to £14,000.
10. Cleaning of the church premises is contracted to Goldhill Contracting Ltd with separate contract with Unit Sales Ltd for janitorial supplies
11. Office expenditure is split as follows - salary £6,364; photocopying £947; telephone/Wi-Fi £1,115, office expenses £261.
12. During the last year 4 insurance claims have been made. The first last October was for impact damage to car park wall caused by a third-party motorist. Repairs were agreed with Aviva (TP insurer) and a full recovery of £850 cost was successful.

In Feb/Mar this year we suffered repeated break ins to the church and items were stolen. Our costs amounted to £6,279 and we were able to recover from Methodist Insurance £4,437 net of 3 excesses and improvements to the fabric.

13. General account shows an operating deficit of £6,620 reducing our reserve to £24,269
14. An Internal Organisation is defined by Connexion as being a group or organisation formed or set up by the Church Council. This money comes under the control of the Church Council, though it will sometimes be held in a separate bank account and be the responsibility of a different treasurer. These groups have their own officers appointed by the Church Council. Stratford Methodist Church acts as banker for some of these organisations as detailed on page 9. These monies are included in our reserves, and they belong to the Church not the internal organisation.
15. The building asset value of the Church premises is calculated from the insurance reinstatement cost of £3,365,918 (inclusive of organ) less 15% architects fees and removal of debris costs = £2,861,030. Contents £139,745. However, the current SORP rules applying to these accounts mandate that we now include the market value of our freehold land, which I calculated in 2016 to be £400,000.

RESERVES POLICY of STRATFORD ON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

It is important to ensure sufficient reserves are available to enable the Church to achieve its aims of mission, but on the other hand, holding too much money in reserve can promote criticism and may well cause searching questions to be asked as to whether this Church as a charity is hoarding cash. As Trustees our reserves policy is based on a realistic assessment of our needs present and future. The following formula was adopted by Church Council at its October 2005 meeting.

- Reserves are deemed to be those moneys, which are held in trust by the Church Council, but excluding Endowment Funds. This includes our Bank & CFB accounts plus all Model Trust Bequests, and Redevelopment monies held by our custodian trustees 'Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes,' which are not restricted.
- [Minimum] Reserves should not fall below the equivalent of six months routine expenditure.

or
- [Maximum] Reserves should not exceed the equivalent of six months routine expenditure plus the estimated shortfall between income and expenditure budgeted for the next three financial years plus amounts set aside to be spent in respect of building and development projects as declared under that section of the current schedule A.

The Reserves of Stratford on Avon Methodist Church at 31 August 2022 amounted to £27,807. No endowment or restricted funds are held. This figure includes £3,613 belonging to Internal Organisations.

- Minimum Reserve as per formula is £42,733see note
- Maximum Reserve as per formula is £72,773 [42,773 + 30,000 operating loss]

Note to Reserves Policy

Minimum reserve is calculated by taking 50% of Charity account expenditure which for 2022 amounted to £85,546 excluding insurance claims (not regular expenditure). The proposed budget for the coming twelve months is difficult and subject to some hard decisions to be made by the trustees to maintain cash flow. The big unknown is energy costs currently estimated on September variable rate to increase our spend by an additional £9,000.

Our reserves will be further depleted, unless we see an increase in regular giving, letting income to pre Covid levels, or a reduction in our circuit assessment. All these factors cannot be accurately estimated. Excluding monies held by internal organisations our current reserve is at 56% of minimum required by said policy.

TRUSTEES WHO MANAGE THE CHARITY (as at 1 Sep 2022)

Revd. Dr Iain Ballard	Chairperson & Superintendent Minister
Deacon Jane Mills	Minister
Mr David Dumper	Church Treasurer & Secretary
Miss Brenda Birnie	Church Representative
Mrs Penny Brain	Church Steward
Mrs Sheila Brown	Circuit Steward
Mr Graham Collins	Resources Committee Secretary
Mr Alan Cumming	Church Representative
Revd. James Dobson	Church Steward
Mrs Shirley Dumper	Property Steward
Mrs Gillian Edwards	Church Representative
Mr Stephen Farmery	Property Steward
Mrs Kathleen Fraser	Church Representative
Ms Janet Grant	Church Steward
Mrs Evelyn Ho	Church Representative
Dr Lim Ho	Church Representative
Mr Michael Ledgard	Church Representative
Mrs Janet Mee	Church Representative
Mr David Loader	Church Representative
Mr Malcolm Smith	Communion Steward
Mrs Susan Rimmer	Church Steward
Mrs Elizabeth Walker	Church Representative

Total number of TRUSTEES is 22

With the passing of our dear friend Margaret Smith the important office of Church Secretary remains vacant. Until a new trustee is appointed David Dumper, our treasurer, has taken on this role in order that we can sign important documents for banking, circuit and connexion.

OUR BANKERS

HSBC	13, Chapel Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV376ET
CFB	Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, 9 Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 4PE
TMCP	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JQ

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

STRATFORD UPON AVON METHODIST	Church
--------------------------------------	---------------

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2022

Circuit	Circuit no.	5/12
----------------	--------------------	-------------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1152323

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 Audrey Simpson

Church Stewards:

Rev James Dobson

Janet Grant

Susan Rimmer

Penelope Brain

Treasurer:

David Dumper

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	43,208		43,208	33,809
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	55		55	51
a4	Lettings	28,067		28,067	9,433
a5	Other receipts	16,039		16,039	11,525
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	87,369		87,369 (a7)	54,818

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	41,136		41,136	
b3	Donations				41,136
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	16,510		16,510	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	8,329		8,329	9,942
b6		27,259		27,259	5,084
b7	Other payments	830		830	18,819
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	94,064		94,064 (b9)	74,981

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(6,695)	(6,695)	(20,163)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		30,889	30,889 (c6)	51,052
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	24,194	24,194	30,889
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	24,194	24,194 (c8)	30,889 (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		830		
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		1,590		2,840
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		2,420		2,010
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)			830

RATFORD UPON AVON METHODIST Church

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 Wesleys	1,011	1,127	(116)		2,251	2,135
e2 Holiday At Home					733	733
e3 Knit Stitch & Natter	745	600	145		600	745
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	1,756	1,727	29		3,584 (e11)	3,613 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	87,369 (a7)	94,064 (b9)	(6,695)	(c7)	30,889 (c6)	24,194 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	89,125	95,791	(6,666)		34,473 (x)	27,807 (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	45	13
f2 Bank Current Account	2,188	10,462
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	27,259	12,397
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	1,397	1,397
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	30,889 (c6)	24,194 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	3,584 (e11)	3,613 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	34,473 (x)	27,807 (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)	2,979,859	3,261,030
g3 Other Assets	125,011	139,745
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)

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.....

1 Nov 2022

Name and address of treasurer David Dumper, 99 Shottery Road, Stratford upon Avon

Post Code..... CV37 9QB

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 1 Nov 2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Revd Dr Iain Danks

Date

1 Nov 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church

Charity Number . 1152323

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages 2 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.

[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 MARK WHITEHOUSE

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACA (ICAEW)

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 42 LILLINGTON ROAD

..... LEAMINGTON SPA. Post Code CV32 5YZ

Date 16TH MARCH 2023

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-22

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

STRATFORD UPON AVON METHODIST	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2022

Circuit	Circuit no.	5/12
----------------	--------------------	-------------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1152323

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 Audrey Simpson

Church Stewards:

Rev James Dobson

Janet Grant

Susan Rimmer

Penelope Brain

Treasurer:

David Dumper

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	43,208		43,208	33,809
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	55		55	51
a4	Lettings	28,067		28,067	9,433
a5	Other receipts	16,039		16,039	11,525
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	87,369		87,369 (a7)	54,818

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	41,136		41,136	
b3	Donations				41,136
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	16,510		16,510	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	8,329		8,329	9,942
b6		27,259		27,259	5,084
b7	Other payments	830		830	18,819
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	94,064		94,064 (b9)	74,981

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(6,695)	(6,695)	(20,163)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		30,889	30,889 (c6)	51,052
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	24,194	24,194	30,889
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	24,194	24,194 (c8)	30,889 (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		830		
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		1,590		2,840
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		2,420		2,010
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)			830

RATFORD UPON AVON METHODIST Church

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 Wesleys	1,011	1,127	(116)		2,251	2,135
e2 Holiday At Home					733	733
e3 Knit Stitch & Natter	745	600	145		600	745
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	1,756	1,727	29		3,584 (e11)	3,613 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	87,369 (a7)	94,064 (b9)	(6,695)	(c7)	30,889 (c6)	24,194 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	89,125	95,791	(6,666)		34,473 (x)	27,807 (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	45	13
f2 Bank Current Account	2,188	10,462
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	27,259	12,397
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	1,397	1,397
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	30,889 (c6)	24,194 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	3,584 (e11)	3,613 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	34,473 (x)	27,807 (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)	2,979,859	3,261,030
g3 Other Assets	125,011	139,745
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)

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.....

1 Nov 2022

Name and address of treasurer David Dumper, 99 Shottery Road, Stratford upon Avon

Post Code..... CV37 9QB

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 1 Nov 2022

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting

Revd Dr Iain Danks

Date

1 Nov 2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church

Charity Number . 1152323

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages 2 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.

[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 MARK WHITEHOUSE

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACA (ICAEW)

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 42 LILLINGTON ROAD

..... LEAMINGTON SPA. Post Code CV32 5YZ

Date 16TH MARCH 2023

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-22

STRATFORD ON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1152323

Accounts



Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements

For the year ended
31st August 2021

Registered Charity Number: 1152323

C Wiltshire & Co
Chartered Accountants
17 Greenhill Street, Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 6LF
www.cwiltshire.co.uk
E-mail: cw@cwiltshire.co.uk

Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021**

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Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021

TRUSTEES

Rev A Simpson	Mrs J Grant (appointed 16/2/2021)
Miss B J Birnie	Mrs E M Ho
Mrs S Brown (appointed 21/1/2021)	Dr L C Ho
G N Collins	M B Ledgard
Rev J Dobson	D J Loader
D L Dumper	Mrs J Mee
Mrs S A Dumper	Mrs S Rimmer
Mrs G A Edwards	M D Smith
Mrs M Farmery	Mrs M J Smith (resigned 23/3/2021)
S Farmery	Miss S D Stroud (resigned 16/2/2021)
Mrs K M Fraser	Mrs M Taylor
Mrs S D Giles (resigned 15/2/2022)	Mrs E Walker
W J Giles (resigned 15/2/2022)	

The treasurer, Mr David Dumper acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Church during the year.

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS	Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church Old Town Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6BG
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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1152323
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	C Wiltshire & Co Chartered Accountants 17 Greenhill Street Stratford upon Avon CV37 6LF
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BANKERS	HSBC 13 Chapel Street Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6ET
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Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Mission statement, objectives and aims

Mission statement

Our vision is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those around us and to provide a place of witness and worship for all people. Our aim is to have a dynamic, growing church with warm fellowship and outreach where people of all ages and backgrounds can meet the Lord Jesus Christ and feel part of a caring church family

Objectives and aims

The objectives of the charity are set out in The Methodist Church Act 1976 and include the following:

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 connexial, district, circuit, local or other organization 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 of the charity

- Worshipping God through prayer, song and other acts of worship including the organization and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
- Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.
- Provision of chaplaincy services to Cedar Lawn care home.
- The charity supports Connexional and mission work in the UK and overseas including an active Overseas Sponsorship scheme, Junior Missionary Association, World Mission Fund, Mission in Britain, Action for Children, Methodist Homes for the Aged, Christian Aid, and South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit projects.
- Additional support is given to Stratford Churches Together, Stratford Ecumenical Homeless Project, Stratford upon Avon Foodbank and Talking Newspapers for the Blind (Stratford).

Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021

Significant activities

The Church provides services and organises events resulting in the provision of public Christian worship for all and provides a facility for local groups and organisations to use our premises for the purposes of a wider witness within the Stratford-upon-Avon community.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

In preparing these financial statements the Trustees have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Income Trends

Church income is primarily drawn from the Sunday collections, Gift aid tax credit, Donations, Legacies, Gifts, and Fundraising from church groups and members (71%); and letting income paid by external users of the building (17%).

Following redevelopment of church in 2014 our green features have enabled us to export energy to the National Grid yielding just over 4% of annual income

COVID 19 has had a severe impact on both the finances and outreach of the Charity. During this financial year, lockdown has meant that no worship services have taken place on church premises. Weekly services have continued remotely by means of the Zoom platform. Income from giving has reduced significantly and other than rental from Stratford upon Avon Foodbank no other letting income has existed.

Expenditure Trends

The major cost has been in relation to the annual assessment paid to the South Warwickshire Circuit. Our contribution this financial year represents 75% of annual income.

Other significant expenditures include staff & administration costs of 15%, maintenance & cleaning of church premises (20%), and utilities & insurance 9% of annual income

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2021 the net current assets of the church were £31,705.

Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021

Plans for 2021-22

The charity's planning for the coming year sees the resumption of Sunday worship subject to government Covid restrictions, and a gradual return of hirers, subject still to social distancing and risk assessment. We hope that income from giving and letting will help replenish our depleted reserves.

Stratford-upon-Avon Foodbank

Since Lockdown in March 2020 the Stratford upon Avon Foodbank relocated to our premises free gratis until the end of July 2020, and since Aug 2020 through to August 2021 have paid a nominal rental.

ECO Church

In 2003 this church began its Eco-Congregation programme and was given 3 awards over the next 15 years. In 2014 the premises were redeveloped with the aim of becoming more energy efficient and successfully reducing our carbon footprint. In summer 2019 we received the Gold Eco-Church award from A Rocha the first Methodist church in the UK to do so, and only the sixth church in the country of any denomination at that time.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The Reserves Policy for the church is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to six months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the church building and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full expenses including the assessment payable to the Circuit.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The governing document for the church is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The trustees are appointed at the AGM of the church.

Organizational structure

The members of the Church Council of Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of church office holders, Minister and representatives appointed by the church at the annual general meeting.

Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021

Day to day management of the church is undertaken by the church leadership team along with the minister.

The internal organizations linked to this church during the past year were Wesleys (mothers and toddlers); Men's Meeting Point; Holiday at Home/Contact the Elderly; and Knit, Stitch & Natter.

Induction, and continued training of trustees

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the church and the role of Trustees is given to the Church Trustees at various meetings

Wider network

Throughout the financial year ending 31st August 2021, the church was part of the South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit, itself a part of the Birmingham District, accountable to the Methodist Conference.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management and safeguarding

Risk Management

The major risks have been identified and recorded by the trustees with professional advice taken as required. A regular review process is undertaken and recorded. A separate working party met regularly to update Covid risk assessments with the intention of beginning worship services in line with government restrictions from August 2021, and the return of hirers from September 2021.

Income and Expenditure is monitored and compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
- We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
- We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.

Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021

- We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognized good practice.

Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church also commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 15 February 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

D L Dumper
Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF STRATFORD ON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Stratford on Avon Methodist Church (the Trust) for the year ended 31st August 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts 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.

C Wiltshire

Chartered Accountant

C Wiltshire & Co
Chartered Accountants
17 Greenhill Street
Stratford upon Avon
CV37 6LF

Date: 15 February 2022

Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021**

		2021	2020
		Unrestricted	Total funds
		fund	
	Notes	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	2	47,542	64,822
Charitable activities	4		
General charitable activities		7,424	7,136
Investment income	3	<u>51</u>	<u>368</u>
Total		55,017	72,326
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities	5		
General charitable activities		78,050	86,844
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(23,033)	(14,518)
Other recognised gains/(losses)			
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets		<u>2,686</u>	<u>63,388</u>
Net movement in funds		(20,347)	48,870
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		3,153,502	3,104,632
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>3,133,155</u></u>	<u><u>3,153,502</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Stratford on Avon Methodist Church**BALANCE SHEET
31ST AUGUST 2021**

		2021	2020
		Total funds	Total funds
	Notes	£	£
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	10	3,101,450	3,098,928
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	750	750
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>34,484</u>	<u>54,814</u>
		35,234	55,564
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(3,529)	(990)
		<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>31,705</u>	<u>54,574</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>3,133,155</u>	<u>3,153,502</u>
NET ASSETS		<u><u>3,133,155</u></u>	<u><u>3,153,502</u></u>
FUNDS	13		
Unrestricted funds:			
General fund		<u>3,133,155</u>	<u>3,153,502</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>3,133,155</u></u>	<u><u>3,153,502</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 15 February 2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

D L Dumper
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Tangible fixed assets

With the exception of office equipment, tangible fixed assets are revalued each year in line with the insured value of the Charity's property and other assets. Depreciation is therefore not provided on such assets as in the opinion of the Trustees, such amounts would not be material.

Office equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years or the useful life of the asset if shorter.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Offertories	28,249	30,461
Donations	1,802	627
Gift aid	5,558	7,003
Legacies	2,500	-
Contributions for use of premises	<u>9,433</u>	<u>26,731</u>
	<u>47,542</u>	<u>64,822</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2021	2020
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>51</u>	<u>368</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2021	2020
		£	£
Other income	General charitable activities	3,653	7,136
Mission	General charitable activities	<u>3,771</u>	<u>-</u>
		<u>7,424</u>	<u>7,136</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 6) £	Grant funding of activities £	Support costs (see note 7) £	Totals £
General charitable activities	<u>35,760</u>	<u>41,136</u>	<u>1,154</u>	<u>78,050</u>

6. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs	9,497	9,978
Rates and water	363	351
Insurance	2,670	2,664
Light and heat	4,123	4,378
Telephone	1,289	1,394
Postage and stationery	949	1,381
Internal organisations, mission and outreach	4,606	1,057
Sundries	1,300	3,022
Repairs and maintenance	9,942	9,783
Cleaning	<u>1,021</u>	<u>7,978</u>
	<u>35,760</u>	<u>41,986</u>

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs £
General charitable activities	<u>1,154</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021

7. SUPPORT COSTS - continued

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

	2021	2020
	General	Total
	charitable	activities
	activities	
	£	£
Independent Examiner	990	990
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>164</u>	<u>164</u>
	<u><u>1,154</u></u>	<u><u>1,154</u></u>

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st August 2021 nor for the year ended 31st August 2020.

One trustee received an honorarium of £36 in the current year (2020 £360) in their capacity as church organist.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st August 2021 nor for the year ended 31st August 2020.

9. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
Lay employees	<u><u>2</u></u>	<u><u>2</u></u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1st September 2020	2,977,298	125,886	3,103,184
Revaluations	<u>2,561</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>2,686</u>
At 31st August 2021	<u>2,979,859</u>	<u>126,011</u>	<u>3,105,870</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st September 2020	-	4,256	4,256
Charge for year	<u>-</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>164</u>
At 31st August 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>4,420</u>	<u>4,420</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st August 2021	<u>2,979,859</u>	<u>121,591</u>	<u>3,101,450</u>
At 31st August 2020	<u>2,977,298</u>	<u>121,630</u>	<u>3,098,928</u>

Cost or valuation at 31st August 2021 is represented by:

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
Valuation in 2020	2,977,298	125,886	3,103,184
Valuation in 2021	<u>2,561</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>2,686</u>
	<u>2,979,859</u>	<u>126,011</u>	<u>3,105,870</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other debtors	<u>750</u>	<u>750</u>

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	2020
	£	£
Accrued expenses	<u>3,529</u>	<u>990</u>

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.9.20	Net movement in funds	At 31.8.21
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	3,153,502	(20,347)	3,133,155
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>3,153,502</u>	<u>(20,347)</u>	<u>3,133,155</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Movement in funds
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	55,017	(78,050)	2,686	(20,347)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>55,017</u>	<u>(78,050)</u>	<u>2,686</u>	<u>(20,347)</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.9.19	Net movement in funds	At 31.8.20
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	3,104,632	48,870	3,153,502
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>3,104,632</u>	<u>48,870</u>	<u>3,153,502</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Movement in funds
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	72,326	(86,844)	63,388	48,870
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>72,326</u>	<u>(86,844)</u>	<u>63,388</u>	<u>48,870</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.9.19	Net movement in funds	At 31.8.21
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	3,104,632	28,523	3,133,155
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>3,104,632</u>	<u>28,523</u>	<u>3,133,155</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2021

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	127,343	(164,894)	66,074	28,523
	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>127,343</u>	<u>(164,894)</u>	<u>66,074</u>	<u>28,523</u>

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st August 2021.

15. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charity is controlled by its Trustees.

STRATFORD ON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1152323

Accounts



Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements

For the year ended
31st August 2020

Registered Charity Number: 1152323

C Wiltshire & Co
Chartered Accountants
17 Greenhill Street, Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 6LF
www.cwiltshire.co.uk
E-mail: cw@cwiltshire.co.uk

**CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020**

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Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020

TRUSTEES	Miss B J Birnie	Dr L C Ho
	G Collins	M B Ledgard
	Rev J Dobson	D J Loader
	D L Dumper	Mrs J Mee
	Mrs S A Dumper	Mrs S Rimmer
	Mrs G A Edwards	M D Smith
	Mrs M Farmery	Mrs M J Smith
	S Farmery	Miss S D Stroud
	Mrs K M Fraser	Mrs M Taylor
	Mrs S D Giles	Mrs J Taylor – <i>retired 1st June 2020</i>
	W J Giles	Mrs E Walker
	Mrs E M Ho	

The Treasurer, Mr David Dumper acted as the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Church during the year.

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS	Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church Old Town Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6BG
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REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1152323
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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Mr C Wiltshire <i>Chartered Accountant</i> C Wiltshire & Co Chartered Accountants 17 Greenhill Street Stratford upon Avon CV37 6LF
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BANKERS	HSBC 13 Chapel Street Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6ET
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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st August 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Mission statement, objectives and aims

Mission statement

Our vision is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those around us and to provide a place of witness and worship for all people. Our aim is to have a dynamic, growing church with warm fellowship and outreach where people of all ages and backgrounds can meet the Lord Jesus Christ and feel part of a caring church family.

Objectives and aims

The objectives of the charity are set out in The Methodist Church Act 1976 and include the following:

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 connexial, district, circuit, local or other organization 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 of the Charity

- Worshipping God through prayer, song and other acts of worship including the organization and resourcing of regular public acts of worship open to members of the church and non-members alike.
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- The resourcing of pastoral work including visiting the sick and bereaved.
- Taking religious assemblies in local schools.
- Promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and services.
- Provision of chaplaincy services to Cedar Lawn care home.

Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020

- The charity supports Connexional and mission work in the UK and overseas including an Overseas Sponsorship scheme, Junior Missionary Association, World Mission Fund, Mission in Britain, Action for Children, Methodist Homes for the Aged, Christian Aid, and South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit projects.
- Additional support is given to Stratford Churches Together, Stratford Ecumenical Homeless Project, Stratford upon Avon Foodbank and Talking Newspapers for the Blind (Stratford).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

The Church provides services and organises events resulting in the provision of public Christian worship for all and provides a facility for local groups and organisations to use our premises for the purposes of a wider witness within the Stratford-upon-Avon community.

Public benefit

In preparing these financial statements the Trustees have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Income Trends

Church income is primarily drawn from the Sunday collections, Gift Aid tax credit, donations, legacies, gifts, and fundraising from church groups and members and members (57%) together with letting income paid by external users of the building (36%).

Following redevelopment of the church in 2014, our green features have enabled us to export energy to the National Grid, yielding just over 3% of annual income.

COVID-19 has had a major impact on both the finances and outreach of the Charity. Since March 2020, lockdown has meant that no worship services have taken place on church premises during the remainder of this financial year, income from giving has reduced, and letting income no longer exists.

Expenditure Trends

The major cost has been in relation to the annual assessment paid to the South Warwickshire Circuit. Our contribution this financial year represents 58% of annual income.

Other significant expenditures include staff and administration costs (17%), maintenance and cleaning of church premises (24%) and utilities and insurances (9%) of annual income.

Fund balances

As at 31 August 2020 the net current assets of the church were £54,574.

Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020

Plans for 2020-21

The Charity's financial planning for the coming year has been prepared on the basis that government COVID restrictions will apply well into 2021, and the return of any of the hirers will be limited, so income will be reliant on the continuing goodwill of our church members.

Stratford-upon-Avon Foodbank

Since lockdown in March 2020, the Stratford-upon-Avon Foodbank has relocated to our premises free gratis until the end of July 2020 and continues tenure here from August 2020 through to July 2021 subject to a nominal rental.

ECO Church

In 2003 this church began its Eco-Congregation programme and was given three awards over the next 12 years. In 2014 the premises were redeveloped with the aim of it becoming more energy efficient and successfully reducing its carbon footprint. In summer 2019 the church received the Gold Eco-Church Award from A Rocha, the first Methodist Church in the UK to do so, and only the sixth church in the country of any denomination.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The Reserves Policy for the Church is to hold a minimum sum equivalent to six months' average expenditure. This should be sufficient to meet any unforeseen item of major expenditure on the church building and/or to be able to continue, in the short term, funding planned activities in the event of any inability to raise the full expenses including the assessment payable to the Circuit.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The governing document for the church is the Deed of Union (1932) and Methodist Church Act (1976)

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The trustees are appointed at the AGM of the church.

Organizational structure

The members of the Church Council of Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church are the Charity Trustees, membership being made up of church office holders, Minister and representatives appointed by the church at the annual general meeting.

Day to day management of the church is undertaken by the church leadership team along with the minister.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020**

The internal organizations linked to this church during the past year were Wesleys (mothers and toddlers), Men's Meeting Point, Holiday at Home/Contact the Elderly, and Knit, Stitch & Natter.

Induction, and continued training of trustees

A range of guidance produced by Methodist Connexion to support the effective running of the church and the role of Trustees is given to the Church Trustees at various meetings.

Wider network

Throughout the financial year ending 31st August 2020, the church was part of the South Warwickshire Methodist Circuit, itself a part of the Birmingham District, accountable to the Methodist Conference.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management and safeguarding

Risk Management

Major risks have been identified and recorded by the Trustees with professional advice taken as required. A regular review process is undertaken and recorded. A separate working party meets weekly to update COVID risk assessments with the intention of beginning worship services in line with government restrictions from September 2020 and return later this year of some hirers.

Income and Expenditure is monitored and compared with the approved annual budget on a half yearly basis to detect trends as part of the risk management process to avoid unforeseen calls on reserves.

Safeguarding

Every person has a value and dignity which comes directly from the creation of male and female in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Methodist Connexional practice outlines commitment to the following principles:

- The care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
 - The safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
 - The establishing of safe, caring communities which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.
 - We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with Safer Recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with the relevant vetting and barring schemes.
 - We will respond without delay to every complaint made which suggests that an adult, child or young person may have been harmed, cooperating with the police and local authority in any investigation.
 - We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.
-

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020**

- We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.
- We will seek to offer pastoral care and support, including supervision and referral to the proper authorities, to any member of our church community known to have offended against a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- In all these principles we will follow legislation, guidance and recognized good practice.

The Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

The Stratford upon Avon Methodist Church also commits itself to the provision of support, advice and training for lay and ordained people that will ensure people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 22 March 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

D L Dumper
Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF STRATFORD ON AVON METHODIST CHURCH

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Stratford on Avon Methodist Church (the Trust) for the year ended 31st August 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts 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.

C Wiltshire

Chartered Accountant

C Wiltshire & Co
Chartered Accountants
17 Greenhill Street
Stratford upon Avon
CV37 6LF

Date: 22 March 2021

Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020**

		2020	2019
		Unrestricted	Total funds
	Notes	fund	£
		£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	2	64,822	84,045
Charitable activities	4		
General charitable activities		7,136	15,832
Investment income	3	368	334
Total		72,326	100,211
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities	5		
General charitable activities		86,844	85,334
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(14,518)	14,877
Other recognised gains/(losses)			
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets		63,388	(27,948)
Net movement in funds		48,870	(13,071)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward		3,104,632	3,117,703
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>3,153,502</u>	<u>3,104,632</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Stratford on Avon Methodist Church

BALANCE SHEET 31ST AUGUST 2020

		2020 Total funds £	2019 Total funds £
	Notes		
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	10	3,098,928	3,035,704
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	750	2,913
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>54,814</u>	<u>70,540</u>
		55,564	73,453
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(990)	(4,525)
		<u>54,574</u>	<u>68,928</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		3,153,502	3,104,632
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		<u>3,153,502</u>	<u>3,104,632</u>
NET ASSETS			
		<u>3,153,502</u>	<u>3,104,632</u>
FUNDS	13		
Unrestricted funds:			
General fund		<u>3,153,502</u>	<u>3,104,632</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>3,153,502</u>	<u>3,104,632</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 22 March 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

D L Dumper
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Tangible fixed assets

With the exception of office equipment, tangible fixed assets are revalued each year in line with the insured value of the Charity's property and other assets. Depreciation is therefore not provided on such assets as in the opinion of the Trustees, such amounts would not be material.

Office equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 5 years or the useful life of the asset if shorter.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Fund accounting

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2020	2019
	£	£
Offertories	30,461	34,401
Donations	627	1,394
Gift aid	7,003	7,172
Contributions for use of premises	<u>26,731</u>	<u>41,078</u>
	<u>64,822</u>	<u>84,045</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2020	2019
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u>368</u>	<u>334</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2020	2019
		£	£
Other income	General charitable activities	<u>7,136</u>	<u>15,832</u>

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 6)	Grant funding of activities	Support costs (see note 7)	Totals
	£	£	£	£
General charitable activities	<u>41,986</u>	<u>43,704</u>	<u>1,154</u>	<u>86,844</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020

6. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2020	2019
	£	£
Staff costs	9,978	9,049
Rates and water	351	339
Insurance	2,664	2,568
Light and heat	4,378	5,250
Telephone	1,394	1,421
Postage and stationery	1,381	1,301
Internal organisations, mission and outreach	1,057	5,937
Sundries	3,022	6,700
Repairs and maintenance	9,783	14,291
Cleaning	<u>7,978</u>	<u>12,096</u>
	<u>41,986</u>	<u>58,952</u>

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs
	£
General charitable activities	<u>1,154</u>

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

	2020	2019
	General charitable activities	Total activities
	£	£
Independent Examiner	990	990
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>164</u>	<u>164</u>
	<u>1,154</u>	<u>1,154</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020

8. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st August 2020 nor for the year ended 31st August 2019.

One trustee received an honorarium of £360 in the current year (2019 £1,406) in their capacity as church organist.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st August 2020 nor for the year ended 31st August 2019.

9. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2020	2019
Lay employees	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1st September 2019	2,916,864	122,932	3,039,796
Revaluations	<u>60,434</u>	<u>2,954</u>	<u>63,388</u>
At 31st August 2020	<u>2,977,298</u>	<u>125,886</u>	<u>3,103,184</u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1st September 2019	-	4,092	4,092
Charge for year	<u>-</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>164</u>
At 31st August 2020	<u>-</u>	<u>4,256</u>	<u>4,256</u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31st August 2020	<u>2,977,298</u>	<u>121,630</u>	<u>3,098,928</u>
At 31st August 2019	<u>2,916,864</u>	<u>118,840</u>	<u>3,035,704</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020	2019
	£	£
Other debtors	750	1,813
Prepayments	-	1,100
	<u>750</u>	<u>2,913</u>

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020	2019
	£	£
Accrued expenses	<u>990</u>	<u>4,525</u>

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.9.19	Net movement in funds	At 31.8.20
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	3,104,632	48,870	3,153,502
	<u>3,104,632</u>	<u>48,870</u>	<u>3,153,502</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>3,104,632</u>	<u>48,870</u>	<u>3,153,502</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Movement in funds
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	72,326	(86,844)	63,388	48,870
	<u>72,326</u>	<u>(86,844)</u>	<u>63,388</u>	<u>48,870</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>72,326</u>	<u>(86,844)</u>	<u>63,388</u>	<u>48,870</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.9.18	Net movement in funds	At 31.8.19
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	3,117,703	(13,071)	3,104,632
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>3,117,703</u>	<u>(13,071)</u>	<u>3,104,632</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	Movement in funds
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	100,211	(85,334)	(27,948)	(13,071)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>100,211</u>	<u>(85,334)</u>	<u>(27,948)</u>	<u>(13,071)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.9.18	Net movement in funds	At 31.8.20
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	3,117,703	35,799	3,153,502
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>3,117,703</u>	<u>35,799</u>	<u>3,153,502</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2020

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	172,537	(172,178)	35,440	35,799
	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>172,537</u>	<u>(172,178)</u>	<u>35,440</u>	<u>35,799</u>

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st August 2020.

15. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charity is controlled by its Trustees.