



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**

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Trustees	2 to 6
Independent Examiner's Report	7
Statement of Financial Activities	8
Balance Sheet	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10 to 16

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
--------------------------	---

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1152323
----------------------------------	---------

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Mr C Wiltshire <i>Chartered Accountant</i> C Wiltshire & Co Chartered Accountants 17 Greenhill Street Stratford upon Avon CV37 6LF
-----------------------------	--

BANKERS	HSBC 13 Chapel Street Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6ET
----------------	---

**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		3,153,502	3,104,632

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
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
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)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
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
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
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.