



The Church of  
**St Philip and St Paul with Wesley**

Scarisbrick New Road, Southport, Merseyside PR8 6QF

**Annual Report  
and  
Accounts**

For the year ended  
31 December 2022

# **THE CHURCH OF ST PHILIP AND ST PAUL WITH WESLEY, SOUTHPORT**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

### **Reference and Administrative Information**

The Church of St Philip and St Paul with Wesley is a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Charity registration number: 1155030

Official correspondence can be sent to:

St Philip and St Paul with Wesley, Scarisbrick New Road, Southport PR8 6QF.

The Joint Council (JC) arises from our Sharing Agreement on the building. In practice the meetings of the JC are very brief and deal with questions of policy regarding expenditure on management, exceptional expenditure, substantial capital expenditure on structural repairs or improvement of the church building. The Ecumenical Church Council (ECC) arises from being a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) and is the joint decision-making body for the church. Those who served on the Ecumenical Church Council during 2022 until the date of approval of this report are:

The Rev'd Marie-Anne Kent (Minister)  
Mrs Margaret Harwood (Church Steward till April 2022)  
Ms Yvonne Sowood (Church Steward till April 2022)  
Mr Peter Jones (Treasurer)  
Mrs Val Jones  
Mrs Beth Matthews  
Mr Barry Stewart  
Mrs Anne Stewart (From April 2022)  
Mr Mike Swinnerton (From April 2022)  
Mrs Carol Newman (From April 2022)  
Mrs Shirley Potts (Circuit Steward rep)

### **The following members of the Ecumenical Church Council also make up the PCC**

Rev'd Steve McGanity (Priest-in-Charge)  
Rev'd Rachel Bray (Curate)  
Miss Gail Rooke (Churchwarden)  
Mrs Christine Moyes (Till April 2022)  
Miss Margaret Moore  
Mr Mark Paterson (Till April 2022)  
Miss Samantha Ramsay  
Mr Jeremy Hooper  
Mrs Annette Swinnerton (Till April 2022)  
Mrs Helen Ball

Reader: Mrs Christine Moyes.

Local Preachers: Mr Nigel Mawdsley

Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Bethan Matthews

Bankers: Barclays Bank plc, 265-267 Lord Street, Southport PR8 2HF

Independent Examiner: Mr Stephen Hardiman

Architect: NJSR Chartered Architects, 57-59 Hoghton Street Southport PR9 0PG

The day to day management control of the church is exercised by the Leadership team which is made up of the Methodist Minister, the Curate, Churchwardens, Church Stewards and the Treasurer. It meets in the lead up to all Council meetings, helping to set the agendas and continue to develop vision. Church Council sub-groups covering different areas of church life, and on occasion special task groups, also meet during the year, carry out detailed work and report back to the council.

## **STRUCTURE, MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE**

The Methodist Church Council (MCC) is constituted according to the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church Standing Order 611. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956. All Church members are encouraged to participate fully in the life of the church. The Property sub-group oversees building maintenance and repair and reports back to the Council. Individual members of the church councils receive external training as and when deemed appropriate eg Safeguarding training.

### **Risk Assessments**

The ECC undertakes an ongoing programme of risk assessments to identify their major risks. Procedures are being put in place to manage those risks and minimise their impact on the life of the church. Action in the main areas of risk is taken as follows.

#### **(a) Financial Risk**

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported to every church council meeting (approx. 7 times a year). Investments are only made in approved low risk funds approved for charity use. All assets are insured and levels are reviewed. Best practice is followed for cash handling.

#### **(b) Compliance with Law and Regulation**

A procedure for recording accidents is in place and Church Wardens and Church Stewards have been briefed in fire evacuation procedures. We seek to meet the requirements of Health and Safety legislation and the Equality Act 2010. We have a fire safety officer and have continued to carry out regular work in the building to further comply with issued guidance. We have reviewed and risk assessed our emergency procedures. We followed government guidance for Covid-compliance during the pandemic, carrying out regular Risk Assessments, which have helped guide decisions about if and when to close the building for worship.

#### **(c) Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection (Safeguarding Policy)**

We are committed to following best practice with regard to safeguarding and child protection. Safeguarding is a standing item on our church council agenda. All church council members are required to undertake up to date safeguarding training. The Methodist Church's annual Safeguarding Audit also ensures that our processes are rigorous and up to date.

#### **(d) Operational Risk**

Plans have been agreed with our Church School for services to be held in the school hall in the event of the main worship area of the church becoming unusable for a limited period. The use of the St Paul's Hall would also be an option.

All formal risk assessments are recorded and filed, and reviewed annually.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The objective of the church and its councils in formal Church of England terms is “to cooperate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical” (PCC Powers measure 1956). In Methodist Standing Orders it is the local church that exercises the whole ministry of Christ where it is and it is the church council itself which “has authority and oversight over the whole area of the ministry of the church”. In our experience as an LEP, these different ways of stating our objective are complementary. When planning our objectives for the year, the church council gives consideration to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance to charities concerned with the advancement of religion.

The church’s four key values continue to be: Worship, Belong, Grow and Serve. Our 2022 Verse for the year was Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. *Psalm 27:14*. We reflected on this at many points during the year.

Our priorities in 2022 were:

- Building on the outcomes of the Church review
- Reflecting on what we have learnt from the pandemic about how we work
- Planning for leadership team changes in April.
- Re-building our connection with families who haven’t returned since the pandemic began.
- Re-establishing groups that have suffered during the pandemic, particularly the Toddler group, and Friends Together (bereavement group) building a strong foundation for future work.
- Connecting with local social prescribers.
- Strengthening our pastoral care system.

## **Factors relevant to the achievement of our stated objectives.**

Feedback from the Church Review.

2022 has been a year of some rebuilding after the major impact of Covid on the life of the church. This will continue into 2023 as the impact has been sustained and significant on many levels, especially in regard to the scale of the pastoral care needs for both congregation and community. We have started to address how we might practically do this better, but it is challenging.

Feedback to the wider church about the outcomes from the Church Review took place early in the year and we continue to work to address some of those. For example, mental health was clearly identified as an area of concern within our community. Two facilitators have now trained to lead Kintsugi Hope well-being groups and they will begin to be rolled out in 2023. We recognized a desire to build stronger links with school and the wider community. In 2022 we launched a Thursday morning Tea & Toast initiative for school families. This developed in focus and action during the year and is being appreciated by children and families. It has been encouraging to receive donations from local supermarkets etc to practically support it.

Church groups such as Tiddlers and Toddlers and the Friends Together groups have built up again and very much valued by all who come and we honour the leadership teams of these missional groups in the life of the church.

Marie-Anne, our Methodist Minister was on sabbatical from May to the end of the summer. Rachel was priested in June 2022. We decided to experiment with Café Church in the Autumn and look forward to developing the model during 2023.

We held Spring and Christmas fairs which helped raise much needed funds, but were excellent events in building community within the congregation and encouraging many from our community to come through the doors.

## **Achievements and performance including review of charitable achievements against objectives**

The following section highlights areas of activity and performance

### **Methodist Membership and the Electoral Roll**

At 31st December 2022, there were 76 members on the Methodist membership roll; 38 Joint Members and 38 Methodist Members. One person had transferred in from another church, 6 people were removed from the roll, 5 become joint members and 4 members had died.

At 31 December, there were 103 on the Church of England electoral roll, 2 people had died and there were 7 new members.

### **WORSHIP AND CHURCH LIFE**

In 2022, average attendance at Sunday Worship has been 57 adults and 7 children. For 10.30 baptism services the average was 79 adults and 9 children. We have continued our monthly midweek communion services and hope to grow attendance at these in 2023. We host a monthly 9am Circuit Communion service. In November, we hosted a Circuit Service which was live-streamed. We also took part in an outdoor act of worship at 11am on 11th November which included some of our school children. During the year we had 10 infant baptisms and 4 weddings. There were 4 church funerals, 1 Memorial service and 2 funeral services at Southport crematorium.

### **Pastoral care**

As mentioned above, the extent of the pastoral care task is enormous and there are no easy answers. We stay in touch monthly with all on our community roll which includes a letter from one of the clergy and details of upcoming events as well as information about regular groups and events. Lyfe groups have continued to support one another in different ways and we hope to strengthen some of the groups in 2023. Links with local nursing and care homes have continued. Our Friends Together group for those who have been bereaved is very much appreciated and the Christmas meal in December, to which other older members of the congregation were invited was once again a highlight. Home Communion is taken out to some who can't get to church.

### **Youth and children's work.**

Our Trekkerz group for the 3-11's continues under the leadership of a committed team and is very much valued by both the children and their families. The Sunday@6 group for the 11+'s has grown and also includes young people from outside of PPW. A group of young people went to the Methodist Youth Assembly 3Generate at the end of September and was enjoyed by both the young people and the team of leaders. We plan to take a group again in 2023. Our Guiding groups have restarted and we hope that Girls Brigade will relaunch in 2023.

### **Church-School Partnership**

Our foundation governors support the work of the school and the Chair of Governors is a member of our Church. His membership on the Church Council continues to be an asset in strengthening church-school links. Marie-Anne and Rachel lead school assemblies both in school and in church and also go into classes from time to time to take part in lessons. They also meet half-termly with the Vision and Values group from school. The excellent Prayer buddies initiative continues and is enjoyed by both school and church. A member of the church also takes part in Sweaty Church. We honour the outstanding commitment and work of all our school staff during another demanding year.

## **CHURCH PROPERTY.**

### **Internal:**

The church has been maintained as necessary and to an adequate standard. We continue to be reliant on paid cleaning contractors to keep the building clean. The boilers and fire extinguishers have been serviced and the fire alarm system was serviced. The lift now functions well and is now subject regular checks under a service contract. We had a major leak in the hall roof during the winter storms. This necessitated an insurance claim due to the scale of the work.

We initiated a faculty for the removal of the remaining nave pews following consultation. This is to enable greater flexibility of use of the nave space for worship and other things.

### **External:**

The repair and redesign of the front entrance has been delayed further throughout the year but it hoped this work will be completed in Spring 2023. The gutters were cleaned and a number of problem areas were identified which will need addressing further in 2023.

The grounds have been maintained as necessary although the condition of the car park/driveway remains in poor condition in places. The gardening team have continued to maintain the flowerbeds and lawn.

## **FINANCE**

### **Performance of investments**

The return on our investments improved in 2022 due to the rise in interest rates. Interest received increased from £40 in 2021 to £1134 in 2022. The bulk of the interest received was attributed to the St Paul's Trust (£952). The St Paul's Trust is a permanent Endowment fund and the interest is added back to the fund. We are committed to restoring this fund to £100,000 by 2060 as per the agreement with the Charity Commission. Use of these funds is strictly regulated by the terms of the Endowment and cannot currently be freed up. Interest earned on our CFB deposit account (balance £13,000) amounted to £151 in 2022.

### **Financial Review**

The General Account figures were better than expected due to a number of factors:

Income: Giving was maintained at a similar level to 2021 whilst other donations saw a significant increase. Other significant increases in income came from fund raising, weddings and funerals and the transfer of part of the flat rent to the general account.

In addition to the grant we have gratefully received each year from the Broadhurst Trust, we received a fuel grant from the Liverpool Diocese and a grant from Sefton Council to aid our Tea and Toast project. Overall income was up by £9,000.

Expenditure: Whilst expenses in some areas were higher than expected this was offset by assistance from the Southport Circuit and the Liverpool Diocese in the form of reductions in the

overall Assessment and Parish Share for the year. Total expenditure for the year was as expected, resulting a surplus for 2022 of £1,556

Utility bills are a major expense. The dramatic rise in energy costs did not affect the church in 2022. However in 2023 we can expect to see our electric bill increase by 27% and our gas bill increase by 85%. Careful thought must be given to how and when we heat and, to a lesser extent, light the building.

### **Restricted Funds Account.**

The main activity in this account was the long-awaited transfer of the Rwanda funds to Rwanda (£4,525) for the work of the school run by Peace Ruzindana, wife of the former Pastor of St Mark's, Shyira.

### **Building For Our Future Account.**

This account is funded by the rental income from the church flat (48A Hampton Rd, above the school). The income is designated for the flat maintenance and church grounds maintenance. During the year the income was £5,225. The flat maintenance was £789. This surplus enabled us to make the decision to transfer £1,500 to support the general account and to purchase the new chairs for the nave at a cost of £1,140.

### **Grundy Homes Charity.**

The church was approached by the trustees of the Grundy homes Charity asking if the church would take this back on as they were ageing and concerned for the future. This was agreed and five trustees were nominated and this was formally handed over in Autumn 2022.

### **Reserves Policy**

We continue to aspire to hold £20,000 in our general reserve. However our current financial situation makes this impossible to realise at the moment.

### **Agent Transactions**

The Church Council acted as a financial agent for funerals and weddings for the following people/organizations: The Diocese of Liverpool, the Church Ministers, as well as for the vergers and organists for occasional offices. Agent payments were directly passed on to the appropriate individuals.

## **PLANS FOR THE FUTURE:**

Areas for focus and development in 2023 are:

- To continue to respond to the outcomes from the 2021 Church Review
- If the faculty is agreed, to remove the remaining nave pews, make good the floor space, put the remaining seats in place and start to explore how we might creatively use the nave space.
- To improve our financial situation
- To continue to look for opportunities to take worship outside the walls of the church

ECUMENICAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF  
St Philip & St Paul with Wesley  
**GENERAL FUND Receipts and Payments**  
**at 31 December 2022**

<b>Income</b>	<b>2022</b>		<b>2021</b>	
<b>Giving and donations</b>				
Tax efficient planned giving	16,266		22,019	
Income Tax recovered	8,061		8,126	
Other planned giving	6,593		5,935	
Plate collections and other giving	<u>13,937</u>		<u>8,992</u>	
		44,858		45,072
Donations	<u>4,114</u>		<u>2,621</u>	
		4,114		2,621
<b>Other trading activities</b>				
Lettings	7,154		4,312	
Fundraising	3,476		1,618	
Weddings & Funerals (net)	<u>2,052</u>			
		12,681		5,930
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Fees				
Grants	<u>4,625</u>		<u>2,700</u>	
		4,625		2,700
<b>Receipts from investments</b>				
Bank interest				
<b>Other Income</b>				
Other income	<u>1,257</u>	1,257	<u>2,236</u>	2,236
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>67,535</b>		<b>58,559</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Parish Share and Circuit Assessment	45,501		47,792	
Clergy and LML expenses	479		382	
Mission and relief agencies	1,713		665	
Utilities	4,727		5,604	
Insurance	4,136		4,029	
Maintenance and cleaning	6,295		4,243	
Major capital expenditure			0	
Equipment	123		190	
Salaries			1,184	
Hospitality & outreach	430		0	
Resources for ministry	26		35	
Magazine printing			0	
Publicity & communications	140		252	
Admin & stationery	465		393	
Upkeep of services	285		92	
Governance	498		501	
Accounting			379	
Sundries	<u>1,160</u>		<u>413</u>	
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>65,978</b>		<b>66,154</b>
<b>Excess of income over expenditure</b>		<b>1,556</b>		<b>-7,595</b>
Balance b/f at 1 January 2022		<b>16,446</b>		<b>24,039</b>
Balance c/f at 31 December 2022		<b><u>18,002</u></b>		<b><u>16,446</u></b>

*Balance at 31.12.22 includes £10,000 designated building*



ECUMENICAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF  
St Philip & St Paul with Wesley  
**RESTRICTED AND DESIGNATED FUNDS STATEMENT**  
**at 31 December 2022**

<b>FUND</b>	<b>Bal b/f at 1.1.22</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Bal c/f at 31.12.22</b>
<b>Special Collections</b> <i>Money given specifically for mission</i>	0	67	0	67
<b>Benevolence</b> <i>To relieve poverty</i>	2,041	129	196	1,974
<b>Bible Reading</b> <i>To encourage the use of Bible reading</i>	28	162	170	20
<b>Flowers</b> <i>For flowers in the church</i>	114	0	72	42
<b>Disability</b> <i>An RNID grant</i>	59	0	0	59
<b>Special Holding</b> <i>gift</i>	370	0	370	0
<b>Rwanda</b> <i>To build our Rwanda link</i>	4,521	96	4,525	92
<b>Traidcraft</b> <i>For fairly traded goods</i>	268	0	0	268
<b>Christian Aid</b>	20	200	0	220
<b>Parish Weekends</b> <i>Church weekends away</i>	395	1,870	1,590	675
<b>Building Designated</b> <i>Expenditure on building and grounds</i>	25,866	5,342	3,451	27,757
<b>Children's work restricted</b> <i>For children's work</i>	2,648	17	0	2,665
<b>Youth restricted</b> <i>For work with young people</i>	2,215	362	353	2,224
<b>St Paul's Trust *</b>	74,700	983	0	75,683
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>113,245</b>	<b>9,227</b>	<b>10,727</b>	<b>111,745</b>

\* St Paul's Trust

Permanent Endowment set up from proceeds from the sale of the land at St Paul's School. Some of the capital was used for the reordering of the church in 2000. The capital is to be recouped by 2060.

Name of Church .. St Philip/Paul with Wesley

### Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner .....

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address 12 Cobden Road Southport Merseyside

..... Post Code .... PR9 7TJ

Date .... April 14/2023

\* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-22

ECUMENICAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF  
St Philip & St Paul with Wesley  
**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**  
at 31 December 2022

<b>Cash Funds</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Barclays General Current Account	18,002	16,446
Barclays Building For Our Future Account	17,725	15,952
Barclays Restricted Funds Account	5,263	9,672
Methodist CFB Deposit Account	13,047	12,895
CCLA account held by Diocese	75,683	74,700
<b>Total current and deposit accounts</b>	<b><u>129,720</u></b>	<b><u>129,665</u></b>
This figure represents:		
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		
General Fund	18,002	16,446
Building & grounds des	27,791	25,866
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42,312</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
Special collections	67	0
Flower	42	114
Benevolence	1,974	2,014
Bible Reading notes	20	28
Children's work	2,619	2,648
Youth Work	2,209	2,215
Disability Grant	59	59
Christian Aid	220	20
Rwanda	92	4,522
Special Holding	0	370
Traidcraft	268	268
Church Weekend	675	395
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,653</b>
<b>Permanent Endowment</b>	<b>75,683</b>	<b>74,700</b>
	<b><u>129,720</u></b>	<b><u>129,665</u></b>

**Notes**

The financial statements of the ECC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis.

The following assets are recognised but not necessarily valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities:

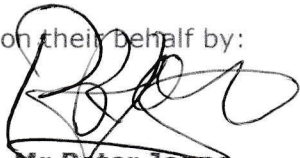
Moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for their disposal.

Approved by the ECC on

2023 and signed on their behalf by:

  
**Rev'd Marie-Anne Kent**  
Methodist Minister

  
**Rev Rachel Bray**  
Curate

  
**Mr Peter Jones**  
Treasurer