DORSET GARDENS METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1160211

Details

Other names	DG
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2015-01-29
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Dorset Gardens Methodist Church Dorset Gardens Brighton BN2 1RL
Phone	01273605502
Email	office@dgmc.org.uk
Website	www.dgmc.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 SUBSIDUARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH;(D) ANY PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CHARITY BEING A CHARITY SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Activities: 1. Providing worship (Methodist)2. Serving the community (see Annual Report)3. Providing pastoral support to members of the Church and the community.

Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- Brighton And Hove

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£172,350	£149,671	-	-
2024-08-31	£141,309	£198,927	-	-
2023-08-31	£133,901	£173,270	-	-
2022-08-31	£192,723	£163,403	-	-
2021-08-31	£175,182	£141,722	-	-
2020-08-31	£83,739	£123,528	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
BARBARA ANN LAMB		2012-05-01
DR TONY LEONARD Q.P.M., BSC (ECON), PH.D		2010-02-01
Dr Deeptima Massey		2020-10-01
IAN HATTON LAMB		2008-05-01
Jennifer Susan Lamb		2020-08-01
KATHLEEN LEONARD		2010-05-01
MICHAEL ROBERT HICKMAN B.ED		2007-09-01
MISS BETH WHITTAKER SRN, SCM, ONC, OND		2006-05-01
MR KEN SMITH		2013-05-01
MRS SUE HARRINGTON		2011-01-01
Paul STEADMAN		2015-05-01
ROSEMARY ANN CUTHBERT		2014-03-01
Raymond Waller		2023-04-23
Rev ANDREW LOWE		2014-09-01
Rev Heather Alison LEAKE DATE		2002-09-01
STEVE PRESTON		2016-09-01
Samantha Dyke		2024-09-01
Victoria Kennedy		2023-04-23

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DORSET GARDENS METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1160211

Accounts

DORSET GARDENS METHODIST CHURCH
Registered Charity 1160211

www.dgmc.org.uk

Annual Report of the Trustees for Year ending 31st August 2025

The Trustees of Dorset Gardens Methodist Church welcome you to our Annual Report covering the Financial Year ended 31 August 2025.

1. **Mission statement and Aims**

Mission Statement : "We will share God's love with those around us"

Worship
Our worship is open and inclusive of all, celebrating God's saving love expressed through Jesus in ways that are relevant, collaborative and inspirational.
We do this by:-
- Providing a rich blend of words and music that embraces and reflects our diverse community.
- Offering worship that is relevant, encouraging and challenging.
- Creating an atmosphere which enables everyone to express worship in ways which are meaningful to them.
- Helping everyone to discern and develop their own gifts and talents within worship and the community.
- Offering wholeness through worship, prayer and a healing ministry.

Nurture
We offer opportunities for everyone to grow and learn as Christians within a supportive and accepting environment.
We do this by:
- Creating opportunities for everyone to study, e.g. House Groups, and pray together.
- Using arts and crafts, music, and literature in ways which nurtures spiritual growth.
- Creating opportunities for young people and children to deepen their faith and feel valued as active members of our community.

Pastoral Care
We are a loving church family where everyone is welcomed, loved, cared for, and supported by each other.
We do this by:
- Looking after our church family through hospitality, fellowship and caring for each other e.g. through our group of pastoral visitors..
- Extending that care into the community.
- Being a praying people who also embrace the needs of our community and the world.

Service
We express God's love by serving the community and the world, challenging injustice, and being responsible stewards of God's creation.
We do this by:
- Providing an environment where everyone finds a loving welcome, a sense of worth, and a listening ear.
- Offering our love, our energy, and our prayers wherever they are needed
- Enabling and working in partnership with community groups
- Actively promoting awareness of injustice and helping everyone to respond appropriately.
- Being an eco-friendly church as far as possible.
- Being a place of welcome and support to students and meeting them where they are.

Equal Opportunities Statement
Dorset Gardens Methodist Church is an inclusive church.
All are welcomed regardless of age, gender, race or sexual orientation.
We are registered as a church to conduct marriages of both same sex and opposite couples.

2. **Objectives and Activities**
In planning its activities, Dorset Gardens has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion together with the 'Our Calling' framework as defined by the Methodist Church of Great Britain. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament as we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of the wider community.

3. **Achievements and Performance**

a) Worship

- A Sunday morning service is held in our sanctuary every week at 10.30am and a service of prayer and praise is held at 1pm every Thursday in our Prayer Chapel.
- Evening healing services continue to be offered on the fourth Sunday of the month, led by the Revd Cynthia Park, the Revd Andy Lowe and Shirley Veater. This quiet, meditative service includes communion and the opportunity for the laying on of hands.
- Food and fellowship, an enhanced offering of food runs at least monthly after a Sunday morning service and is popular & much appreciated.
- The annual World Aids Day was on Sunday 1st December in 2024 and was marked with a morning service led by the Revd Heather Leake Date, our HIV Chaplain. There was also a Community Lunch by Lunch Positive, an act of remembrance in the small chapel, showing the film *How to survive a Plague* and the provision of a chilled out space.
- The tradition of a Community Carol Service was once again held on the afternoon of Christmas Eve and included readers representing a few of our user groups. Also the Sunday Club making the Chrismon symbols creating a simple but effectively decorated tree.
- The Revd Will Fletcher, Minister of Haywards Heath Methodist Church (and member of the Patcham Silver Brass Band) preached at the Church Anniversary in May 2025.
- Dorset Gardens hosted the Circuit Together Service on the afternoon of 18th May as café style and included the blessing of the Easter Offering and followed the theme of 'Education for All, Hope for All' which considers how education transforms lives and communities and opens God's promise of hope and fullness of life for all people.

b) Pastoral

- In the Autumn of 2024 we distributed 36 harvest gifts particularly to those who are housebound, widowed, in care/nursing homes and those living rough and attend Open House regularly. The main purpose of sharing these gifts is to live out God's love and demonstrate our faith, compassion and support to all without any prejudice.
- On Sunday 5th January 2025, as part of the Covenant Service, Revd Andy Lowe recommissioned the Pastoral Visitors by saying a profound prayer and words of gratitude.
- Our Pastoral Visitors are continuing to reach out to those who they are "in charge" of but also beyond. Through their visits, phone calls, letters they ensure everyone feels loved, welcomed, valued and safe. We are grateful for the love and care they offer to support the church and wider community.
- The Methodist Church published a helpful resource in August 2024 entitled 'Pastoral Care Guidance', developed with input from District Safeguarding Officers in Lincolnshire, Manchester, and Sheffield, and in consultation with pastoral visitors and secretaries. These provide useful resources and training material for our own team.

c) Young People

- We have been strategically exploring youth work as a circuit with a view to taking a small group to the Methodist Youth gathering *3Generate* in Birmingham in October 2025.

- So far some of our youngsters from DG have shared in All Age Worships and some monthly family fun afternoons.

- Our Young Church **'Sunday Club'** meets weekly, attracting a small but enthusiastic group who take part in a variety of activities and occasionally contribute to worship. During the year, two young members were baptised, each celebration supported by family and friends and accompanied by themed activities.
- Seasonal events were marked creatively. Harvest included decorative displays, while Advent focused on making and displaying Chrismons to explore Christian symbols. At Christmas, the group also contributed to nativity-themed decorations. During Lent and Easter, activities included creating an Easter Garden, decorating a cross, and sharing refreshments with the congregation.
- The group also engaged in wider church life, contributing to the church anniversary celebrations and exploring themes such as prayer, including an outdoor activity on Ascension Sunday. Pentecost was marked with themed decorations.
- Over the summer, sessions focused on the stories of David, with a range of interactive and creative activities to support learning and engagement.
- **Tearaway Tots:** Thursday sessions continue to grow in strength, offering free fruit through support from Morrisons, who also donated new wooden toys. Monday sessions are now well established, regularly welcoming over 20 children, with a steady stream of new families attending across both days. Feedback remains consistently positive, with families valuing the welcoming atmosphere and popular snacks.
- In March, we secured HSF (Housing Support Fund) funding via Brighton & Hove City Council to support families experiencing financial hardship, distributing 60 kitchen appliances (air fryers, slow cookers, and sandwich toasters) and £1,490 in Morrisons vouchers to help with the cost of living.
- A bank holiday drop-in café for toddlers and primary-aged children attracted 28 children and has led to plans for four similar summer holiday sessions.
- **Fun Clubs:** holiday fun days for primary-aged children continue to be well attended. The February half-term event, themed "Sowing the Seeds," included a wide range of creative and practical activities such as herb planting, crafts, and baking. These sessions now run regularly on Thursdays during school holidays.
- We are grateful to our dedicated volunteers for their hard work in delivering these activities, with particular thanks to Rosemary Cuthbert for leading Sunday Club and Samantha Dyke, our Children & Families Worker, for her energy and creativity.

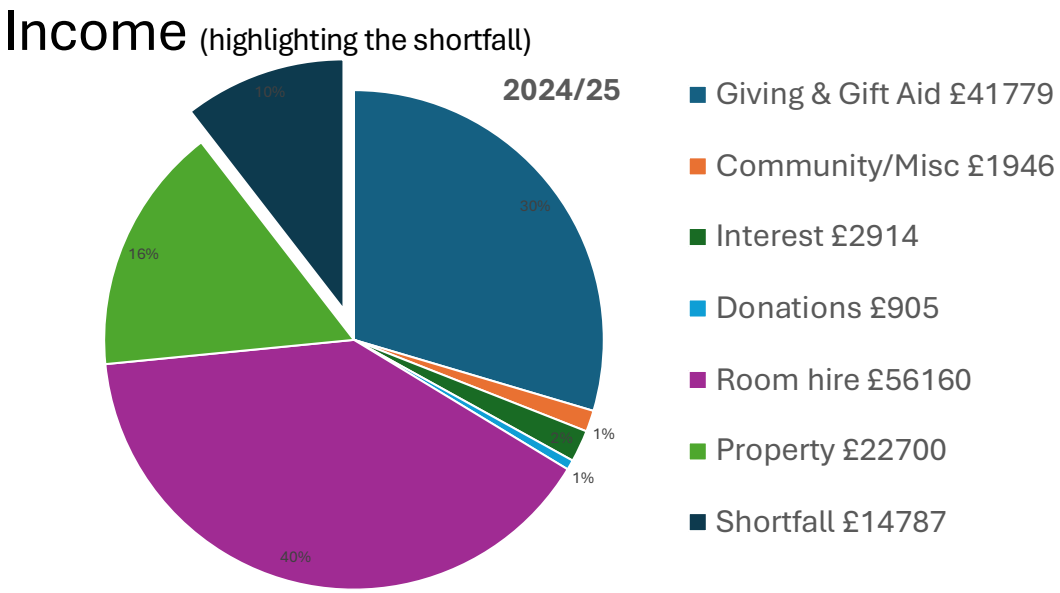
d) Service & Community

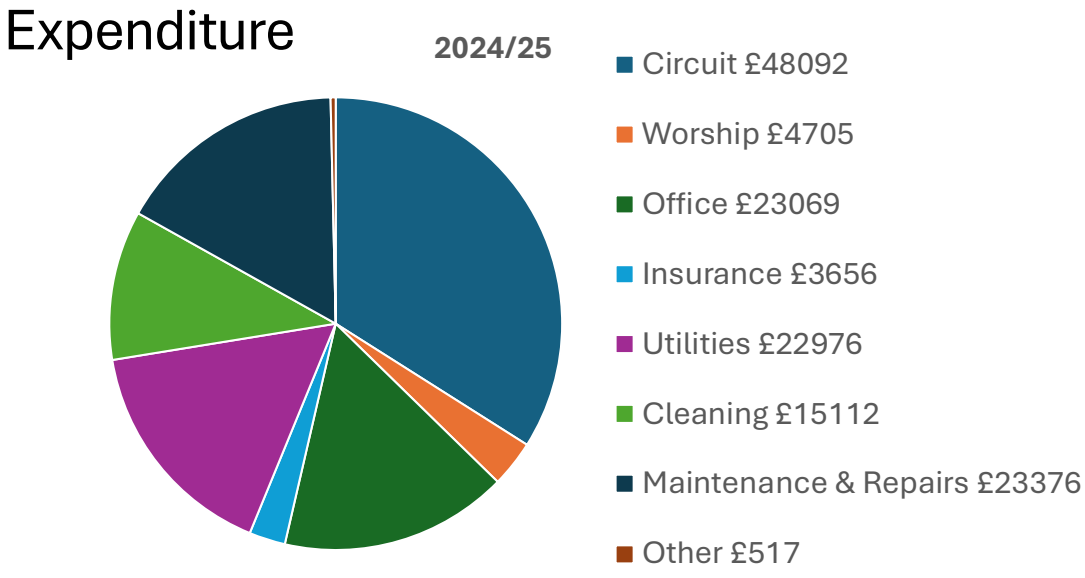
- We continue to support the Circuit Project Supporting Refugees through fundraising, donations, and educational and social events, benefiting six local refugee charities and helping to promote informed and compassionate dialogue around migration.
- Our Harvest service in October generated substantial donations of food and toiletries for the Voices in Exile Foodbank, supplemented by ongoing contributions throughout the year. We make approximately monthly deliveries, primarily to Voices in Exile and occasionally to the University of Sussex (University of Sanctuary). We also donated £110 in cash to Care4Calais and provided winter clothing and toiletries in response to an appeal.
- The Jollof Café Night in December, focusing on "The Freedom to Move & Freedom to Stay," was fully attended and contributed to community engagement and discussion on migration issues.
- We have joined the Methodist Church's Joint Public Issues Team's Constituency Action Network to strengthen engagement with our local MP and ensure the church's voice is represented in public life.
- Regular activities supporting fellowship and outreach continue to flourish, such as Open House (weekly) and Knit 'n' Natter (monthly).
- Community Lunches (held on the fifth Sunday of every month) are for those who are homeless or vulnerably housed.

- We host and support a wide range of groups, including the 14th Brighton Scout Group and 3rd Brighton Rainbows & Brownies, as well as organisations serving people living with HIV, trans and non-binary communities, parents and carers in need of counselling support, those living with Parkinson's, NHS campaigners, and 12-step recovery groups.

4. **Financial Review**

The Standard Form of Accounts for year ending 31 August 2025 are attached and were signed off by the Church Council Meeting held on Sunday 8th February 2025.
Our Income is from three main sources: Individual giving, church lettings, and rental income from the property at 12 Dorset Gardens, plus a small amount of interest from investments. Lettings income from is reduced due to the repairs required and the costs of the new Private Sector Property Licenses. The cost of running the church building continues to increase beyond our income and we again had a shortfall in our general accounts – see below.





In 2023/24 the church used some of its reserves to contribute to an appeal to top up the Methodist Church Pension Reserve Fund. In October 2024 the contribution was returned as the top up was no longer required. These returned funds have been used to cover the 2024/25 deficit. During this year we received a legacy from the estate of Revd Mary Bailey (a former Minister), this has been added into the reserves.

5. **Structure, Governance and Management**

a) **The Circuit Meeting**

The Circuit Meeting of Brighton & Hove is the body of Managing Trustees that is responsible for the affairs of the five Methodist churches: Dorset Gardens, Hove, Patcham, Stanford Avenue, and Woodingdean. The Circuit Meeting acts as the focal point of the working fellowship of the churches in the Circuit, overseeing their pastoral, training and evangelistic work.

b) **The Church Council**

The Church Council of Dorset Gardens is the body of Managing Trustees that is responsible for the affairs of the Church and the development of Church Policy. The Church Council Meeting together with the Church Minister, the Church Stewards & Leadership team, and lay employees' exercise that combination of spiritual leadership and administrative efficiency which enables the Church to fulfil its purposes as set out in the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church.

c) **Staffing**

- The Revd Andy Lowe is the Circuit Superintendent Minister and Dorset Gardens Minister.
- Andy took a sabbatical from 1 May to 31 July 2025. In the interim, the Revd Karen Bell served as Acting Superintendent. During his time away, Andy joined an archaeological dig at Barcombe Mills; however, the overall intention was rest and recuperation after a gruelling few years, and he was grateful to the Methodist Church for enabling this.
- Following consultation across the circuit, the Circuit Invitation Committee recommended that an open invitation be extended to the Revd Andy Lowe to remain in post for a further three years from September 2026 to August 2029. This recommendation was adopted unanimously by the Circuit Meeting.
- We are also grateful for the support, particularly during Andy's sabbatical, of the supernumerary minister, the Revd Cynthia Park (a former minister of Dorset Gardens), and a minister in Local Appointment, the Revd Heather Leake Date.

d) **Safeguarding**

- The Methodist Church places safeguarding at the heart of its life and ministry. Safeguarding means taking active steps to create and maintain a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.
- We all share responsibility for ensuring that everyone who enters our church building feels safe, especially children, young people, and vulnerable adults. As an inclusive church, we are committed to caring for all who come through our doors.
- This includes people who may be facing challenges such as mental health difficulties, addiction, homelessness, concerns about their sexuality, or uncertainty around their immigration status.
- During this reporting period, no safeguarding concerns were identified.

e) **Church Archive**

- Our Church Archival Officer & Circuit Archivist has been actively involved in Connexional consultation on a new Handbook for Methodist Archivists. This was formally launched in March 2025 and available on the Methodist Church website. https://media.methodist.org.uk/media/documents/Methodist_Archivists_Handbook.pdf We are grateful for the meticulous work undertaken by our archivist Michael Hickman.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Dorset Gardens Methodist	Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2025

Brighton & Hove	Circuit	Circuit no.	36/12

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1160211
If not a registered charity **His Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number**	

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Rev Andy Lowe

Church Stewards:

Sue Harrington
Elizabeth Whittaker
Brandford Osei
Ian Lamb
Steve Preston
Ray Waller

Treasurer:

Jennie Lamb

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Dorset Gardens Church

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
			£	£	£		£
a1	**RECEIPTS**	Note					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		42,684		**42,684**		45,837
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		642	5,726	**6,368**		7,550
a4	Lettings		56,160		**56,160**		52,928
a5	Other receipts		66,778	360	**67,138**		34,993
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**166,264**	**6,086**	**172,350**	(a7)	**141,308**
	SECTION B						
b1	**PAYMENTS**						
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		48,092		**48,092**		53,832
b3	Donations						
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		23,376		**23,376**		42,381
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		27,363		**27,363**		33,468
b6	Cleaning		15,112		**15,112**		10,914
b7	Other payments		28,741	6,987	**35,728**		58,332
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**142,684**	**6,987**	**149,671**	(b9)	**198,927**
	SECTION C						
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	(a6-b8)	23,580	(901)	**22,679**		(57,619)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		102,824	118,050	**220,874**	(c6)	278,493
c3	**Sub total**	(c1+c2)	126,404	117,149	**243,553**		**220,874**
c4	Transfers and adjustments		3,034	(3,034)		(c7)	
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	(c3+c4)	**129,438**	**114,115**	**243,553**	(c8)	**220,874** (c6)

	SECTION D		
d	**FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)**	£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year		807
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	735	1,494
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	735	2,301
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID** (d1+d2-d3)		

Dorset Garder 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 2025 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

	INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts		Payments		Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments		Opening balances		Closing balances	
e1												
e2												
e3												
e4												
e5												
e6												
e7												
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds									(e11)		(e12)
e9	**Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)**	**172,350**	(a7)	**149,671**	(b9)	**22,679**		(c7)	**220,874**	(c6)	**243,553**	(c8)
e10	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**172,350**		**149,671**		**22,679**			**220,874**	(x)	**243,553**	(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 2025	OPENING BALANCES £		CLOSING BALANCES	
f1	Cash in hand				
f2	Bank Current Account	11,870		13,230	
f3	Bank Deposit Account				
f4	Central Finance Board	19,369		25,196	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	155,135		176,117	
f6	Other funds	34,500		29,010	
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**220,874**	(c6)	**243,553**	(c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)
f9	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**220,874**	(x)	**243,553**	(y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5

Name of Church Dorset Gardens Methodist Church No 36/12

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer ..... Date 8th February 2026

Name and address of treasurer Jennie Lamb

38 Chester Terrace Brighton BN1 6GB

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 8th February 2026

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Andy Lowe Date 8th February 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

Charity Number 1160211

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Dorset Gardens Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 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 ..... Dorset Gardens Methodist

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 ..... S J Neate

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... FMATT

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

Address ..... 23 Surrenden Lodge Surrenden Road Brighton

..... Post Code BN1 6QB

Date .... 7th January 2026

* delete or circle as appropriate

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Dorset Gardens Methodist	Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2025

Brighton & Hove	Circuit	Circuit no.	36/12

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Steve Preston
Ray Waller

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Jennie Lamb

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Dorset Gardens Church

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Dorset Garder Church

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e3												
e4												
e5												
e6												
e7												
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds									(e11)		(e12)
e9	**Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)**	**172,350**	(a7)	**149,671**	(b9)	**22,679**		(c7)	**220,874**	(c6)	**243,553**	(c8)
e10	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**172,350**		**149,671**		**22,679**			**220,874**	(x)	**243,553**	(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 2025	OPENING BALANCES £		CLOSING BALANCES	
f1	Cash in hand				
f2	Bank Current Account	11,870		13,230	
f3	Bank Deposit Account				
f4	Central Finance Board	19,369		25,196	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	155,135		176,117	
f6	Other funds	34,500		29,010	
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**220,874**	(c6)	**243,553**	(c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)
f9	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**220,874**	(x)	**243,553**	(y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5

Name of Church Dorset Gardens Methodist Church No 36/12

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer ..... Date 8th February 2026

Name and address of treasurer Jennie Lamb

38 Chester Terrace Brighton BN1 6GB

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 8th February 2026

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Andy Lowe Date 8th February 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

Charity Number 1160211

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Dorset Gardens Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 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 ..... Dorset Gardens Methodist

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 ..... S J Neate

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... FMATT

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

Address ..... 23 Surrenden Lodge Surrenden Road Brighton

..... Post Code BN1 6QB

Date .... 7th January 2026

* delete or circle as appropriate

DORSET GARDENS METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1160211

Accounts

DORSET GARDENS METHODIST CHURCH
Registered Charity 1160211

www.dgmc.org.uk

Annual Report of the Trustees for Year ending 31st August 2024

The Trustees of Dorset Gardens Methodist Church welcome you to our Annual Report covering the Financial Year ended 31 August 2024.

1. **Mission statement and Aims**

Mission Statement : "We will share God's love with those around us"

Worship
Our worship is open and inclusive of all, celebrating God's saving love expressed through Jesus in ways that are relevant, collaborative and inspirational.
We do this by:-
- Providing a rich blend of words and music that embraces and reflects our diverse community.
- Offering worship that is relevant, encouraging and challenging.
- Creating an atmosphere which enables everyone to express worship in ways which are meaningful to them.
- Helping everyone to discern and develop their own gifts and talents within worship and the community.
- Offering wholeness through worship, prayer and a healing ministry.

Nurture
We offer opportunities for everyone to grow and learn as Christians within a supportive and accepting environment.
We do this by:
- Creating opportunities for everyone to study, e.g. House Groups, and pray together.
- Using arts and crafts, music, and literature in ways which nurtures spiritual growth.
- Creating opportunities for young people and children to deepen their faith and feel valued as active members of our community.

Pastoral Care
We are a loving church family where everyone is welcomed, loved, cared for, and supported by each other.
We do this by:
- Looking after our church family through hospitality, fellowship and caring for each other e.g. through our group of pastoral visitors..
- Extending that care into the community.
- Being a praying people who also embrace the needs of our community and the world.

Service
We express God's love by serving the community and the world, challenging injustice, and being responsible stewards of God's creation.
We do this by:
- Providing an environment where everyone finds a loving welcome, a sense of worth, and a listening ear.
- Offering our love, our energy, and our prayers wherever they are needed
- Enabling and working in partnership with community groups
- Actively promoting awareness of injustice and helping everyone to respond appropriately.
- Being an eco-friendly church as far as possible.
- Being a place of welcome and support to students and meeting them where they are.

Equal Opportunities Statement
Dorset Gardens Methodist Church is an inclusive church.
All are welcomed regardless of age, gender, race or sexual orientation.
We are registered as a church to conduct marriages of both same sex and opposite couples.

2. **Objectives and Activities**

In planning its activities, Dorset Gardens has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion together with the 'Our Calling' framework as defined by the Methodist Church of Great Britain. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament as we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of the wider community.

3. **Achievements and Performance**

a) **Worship**

- Evening healing services have been introduced on the fourth Sunday of the month, led by the Revd Cynthia Park and Shirley Veater. This quiet, meditative service includes communion and the opportunity for the laying on of hands.
- A time of food and fellowship has been introduced after the first Sunday service of the month and has been well received.
- The annual World Aids Day Service was held on 4 December and led by the Revd Heather Leake Date and the Revd Michael Hydes from the Village Metropolitan Community Church (VMCC).
- Our popular Carol service was held on Christmas Eve for the second year in conjunction with VMCC and included readers representing some of our user groups.
- During the summer of 2024 we enjoyed a number of special services including: in May longstanding DG member and local preacher Ken Smith led the Church Anniversary; in June we celebrated Revd Heather Leake Date's 20 years as an HIV Chaplain; in July local preacher Alan Saunders led his last service at DG and was thanked for his preaching ministry over the last six decades; and later that month Revd Duleep Fernando (President of the Methodist Conference in Sri Lanka from 1994-2000) was a guest preacher.
- Revd Andy Lowe ran the Lent Course *Windows into the First Holy Week and Easter* based on material by Revd Stephen Dawes.
- We are delighted to welcome Will Mason as our regular organist. He replaces Tony Leonard who has retired after years of dedicated playing the keyboard. Thank you, Tony.

b) **Pastoral**

- The annual Covenant Service took place in early January 2024; at which two new pastoral visitors were commissioned.
- The pastoral visitors offer help and care to a range of people both in the church and wider community via home visits, over coffee and/or through regular phone calls/emails. During these interactions the pastoral leaders aim to sustain others through prolonged difficulty or immediate needs, offering guidance about resources, bringing different perspectives or simply listening.
- Revd Andy Lowe, Revd Cynthia Park, and two pastoral visitors, who have been authorised by the Church Council, visit those who are housebound to offer Holy Communion as and when requested.

d) Young People

- Our Young Church 'Sunday Club' meets weekly and attracts a small but enthusiastic group, enjoying a range of activities and participating in the worship from time to time. Over Advent and Christmas they looked at the Birth of Jesus and cut out and decorated stars to stick in windows and made sheep and a stable for the Nativity scene.
- In Spring, Sunday Club spent several weeks looking at the resurrection stories, followed bible month on Genesis during July, and then looked at some more Old Testament stories.

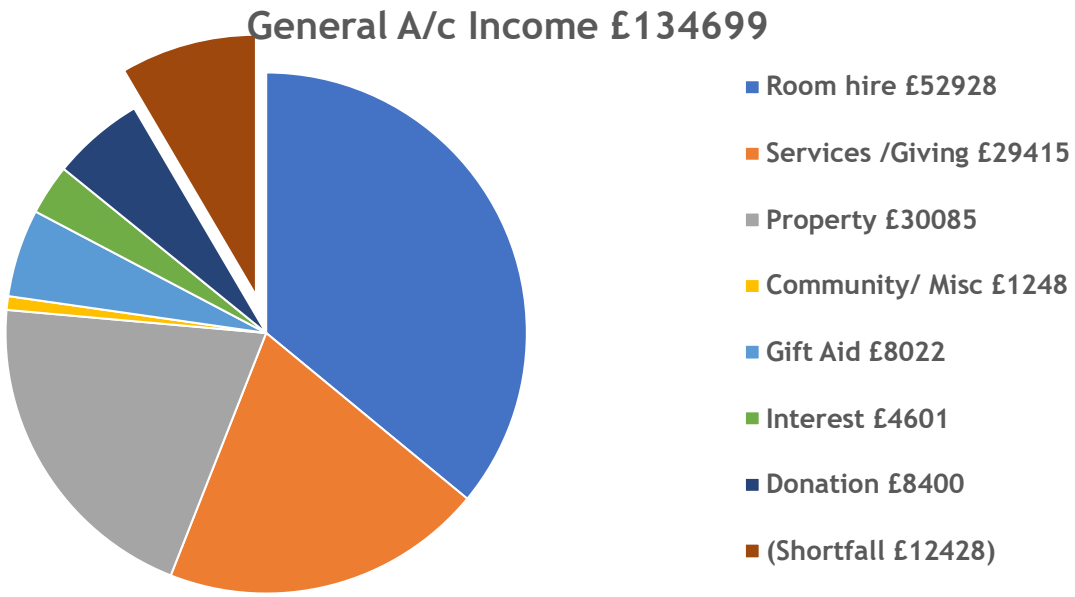
- The Christmas Holiday Club had a festive time at this year with children creating giant snowflakes that were almost as big as themselves, which looked beautiful displayed in the front windows across our community. The children also decorated wonderful chocolate Yule logs to take home. Parents also appreciated the chance for a cuppa and a delicious coconut snowball biscuit while they all chatted and sang a Christmas song together at the close of the day.
- Tearaway Tots attracts a diverse group of parents, carers, toddlers, and babies from across the globe to enjoy fun play, healthy toddler snacks, support over a cuppa, as well as singing and varied craft sessions.
- Children & Families Worker Liz Neale celebrated her seven years of service at a March service, and we were sad to say farewell as she secured an exciting new job in a local College. We welcomed replacement Sam (Samantha) Dyke into the role with a vision to work with the existing Tearaway Tots and Holiday Club and bring the community and church closer together.
- In her first term with Tearaway Tots Sam reported: "We've had two very successful Clothes Swaps, planted sunflower seeds, had a messy play session and finished with the end of term discos. It has been a real pleasure and blessing getting to know the babies, toddlers and their parents/ carers. We have also had visits from Brighton & Hove Energy Services Cooperative (BHESCo) and the Special Care Dental Team who provided valuable advice and support."
- A summer Holiday Club ran for primary age children. The first four days explored *Our City by the Sea*, with a guest from Rampion Visitors Centre and looking at the sea life that can be found on our shoreline. A further day at the end of August explored *Love Languages.*
- Thanks to all our volunteers who worked incredibly hard to support such successful events and particularly to our past and present Children and Families Worker for their energy, creativity and inspiration.

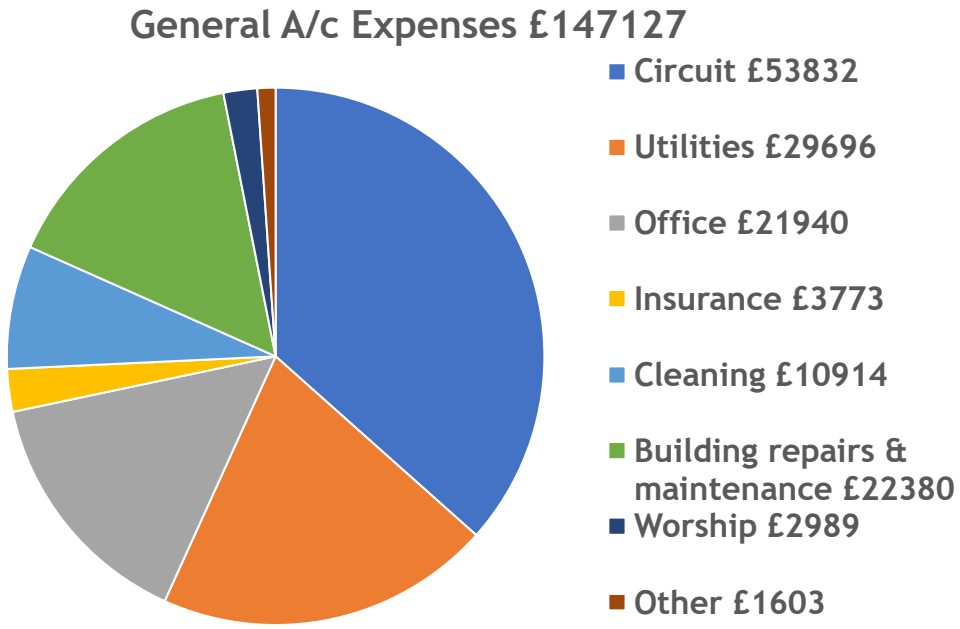
e) Service & Community

1. We continue to actively support our Circuit Project Supporting Refugees via fund raising, donations of supplies and education/social events for six local refugee charities as well as working to change the conversation around migrants. In July we hosted a fund-raising concert by the Brighton Male Voice Choir.
2. Open House @ DG continues to thrive, 2 pm to 4 pm every Thursday and providing a warm welcome, good conversation, music, refreshments and games.
3. Knit 'n' Natter meet on the first Friday of each month and apart from enjoying social time together the output from the groups goes towards various needs including hospitals, overseas aid and Christmas gift boxes.
4. Community Lunches are held on any 5th Sunday of the month where a volunteer team serve a hot meal to on average 50 people who live on the margins of society.
5. The 14th Brighton Scout Group where groups of Scouts, Cubs and Beavers pursue a full range of activities have always called Dorset Gardens home. In fact in the summer of 2023 they celebrated their Centenary having first met on Friday 20th July 1923. The 3rd Brighton Rainbows & Brownies who meet on Monday evenings came to Dorset Gardens after lockdown and have decided to make this their permanent home.
6. We are also pleased to provide a home for the following community groups:
   a) **Lunch Positive** reach, support, and involve large numbers of people living with HIV. In June 2023 they celebrated their 15th birthday by hosting a lunch for over 140.
   b) **The Clare Project** supports trans, non-binary, and intersex adults across Sussex.
   c) **Held in Mind** delivers counselling support to the parents and carers of children at local primary schools and nurseries.
   d) **People living with Parkinsons** can attend twice weekly dance and fellowship groups.
   e) **Sussex Defend the NHS** brings together employees, campaigners and communities.
   f) As safe space for 12 Step Groups including **Alcoholics Anonymous**, **Cocaine Anonymous,** and **Narcotics Anonymous** meetings.

4. **Financial Review**

The Standard Form of Accounts for year ending 31 August 2024 are attached and were signed off by the Church Council Meeting held on Sunday 16th February 2025.
Our Income comes from three sources: Individual giving, church lettings, and rental income from the property at 12 Dorset Gardens. At times we are also the beneficiaries of legacies from people who valued our work and during this year we drew from a legacy to upgrade the pipe work in our boiler room and the sound & AV in the Sanctuary. We have also needed to draw from our reserves to cover a shortfall in our general accounts – see below.





Ongoing thanks to all the work of our Treasurer Jennie Lamb.

5. **Structure, Governance and Management**

a) **The Circuit Meeting**

The Circuit Meeting of Brighton & Hove is the body of Managing Trustees that is responsible for the affairs of the five Methodist churches: Dorset Gardens, Hove, Patcham, Stanford Avenue, and Woodingdean. The Circuit Meeting acts as the focal point of the working fellowship of the churches in the Circuit, overseeing their pastoral, training and evangelistic work.

b) **The Church Council**

The Church Council of Dorset Gardens is the body of Managing Trustees that is responsible for the affairs of the Church and the development of Church Policy. The Church Council Meeting together with the Church Minister, the Church Stewards & Leadership team, and lay employees exercises that combination of spiritual leadership and administrative efficiency which enables the Church to fulfil its purposes as set out in the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church.

c) **Staffing**

Revd. Andrew Lowe, Circuit Superintendent and Dorset Gardens Minister.
We are also benefit from the help of a supernumerary minister, Revd Cynthia Park (who was once the minister with pastoral responsibility for Dorset Gardens), and a minister in Local Appointment, Revd Heather Leake Date.

b) **Safeguarding**

The Methodist Church is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its life and ministry. Safeguarding is about the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. We all of us need to do our best to ensure everyone who comes into our church building is safe, particularly children, young people and vulnerable adults. We are an all-inclusive church, so we need to try and take care of them all. We have people coming into our building who have mental health issues, addiction problems, homelessness, anxieties about their sexuality, or immigration status.
No reportable Safeguarding issues were noted during this period.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

ChurchDorset Gardens Methodist

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

Brighton & Hove	**Circuit**	**Circuit no.**	**36/12**

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1160211
If not a registered charity **His Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number**	

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Rev Andy Lowe

Church Stewards:

Susan Harrington
Elizabeth Whittaker
Ian Lamb
Brandford Osei
Graham Wall
Ray Waller (from June 2024)

Treasurer:

Jennie Lamb

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
			£	£	£		£
a1	**RECEIPTS**	Note					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		45,837		**45,837**		42,706
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		4,601	2,949	**7,550**		6,620
a4	Lettings		52,928		**52,928**		53,139
a5	Other receipts		31,334	3,660	**34,994**		31,436
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**134,700**	**6,609**	**141,309**	(a7)	**133,901**
	SECTION B						
b1	**PAYMENTS**						
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		53,832		**53,832**		49,528
b3	Donations						10,422
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		42,381		**42,381**		26,745
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		33,468		**33,468**		31,526
b6	Cleaning		10,914		**10,914**		10,207
b7	Other payments		58,332		**58,332**		44,842
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**198,927**		**198,927**	(b9)	**173,270**
	SECTION C						
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	**(a6-b8)**	(64,227)	6,609	**(57,618)**		(39,369)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		167,052	111,441	**278,493**	(c6)	317,862
c3	**Sub total**	**(c1+c2)**	102,825	118,050	**220,875**		**278,493**
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	**(c3+c4)**	**102,825**	**118,050**	**220,875**	(c8)	**278,493** (c6)

	SECTION D		
d	**FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)**	£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year	807	
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	1,494	1,947
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	2,301	1,140
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID** (d1+d2-d3)		**807**

Dorset Gardens 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 2024 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

	INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts		Payments		Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments		Opening balances		Closing balances	
e1												
e2												
e3												
e4												
e5												
e6												
e7												
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds									(e11)		(e12)
e9	**Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)**	141,309	(a7)	198,927	(b9)	(57,618)		(c7)	278,493	(c6)	220,875	(c8)
e10	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	141,309		198,927		(57,618)			278,493	(x)	220,875	(y)
	Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**TOTAL PAYMENTS**								

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024	OPENING BALANCES		CLOSING BALANCES	
f1	Cash in hand				
f2	Bank Current Account	15,041		11,871	
f3	Bank Deposit Account				
f4	Central Finance Board	17,743		19,369	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	200,327		155,135	
f6	Other funds	45,382		34,500	
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**278,493**	(c6)	**220,875**	(c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)
f9	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**278,493**	(x)	**220,875**	(y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5

Name of Church Dorset Gardens Methodist No 36/12

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 6-1-25

Name and address of treasurer Jennie Lamb

36 Chester Terrace Brighton Post Code BN1 6GB

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 27 April 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Andy Lowe Date 16/2/25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Dorset Dorset Gardens Methodist

Charity Number 1106211

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Dorset Gardens Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 1 to 3. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church ..... Dorset Gardens Methodist

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 ..... S J Neate

Name of independent examiner ..... S J Neate

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... FMAAT retired

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

Address 23 Surrenden Lodge Surrenden Road Brighton

..... Post Code BN1 6QB

Date 6-1-25

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form Reviewed Aug-24

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

ChurchDorset Gardens Methodist

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

Brighton & Hove	**Circuit**	**Circuit no.**	**36/12**

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1160211
If not a registered charity **His Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number**	

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

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Rev Andy Lowe

Church Stewards:

Susan Harrington
Elizabeth Whittaker
Ian Lamb
Brandford Osei
Graham Wall
Ray Waller (from June 2024)

Treasurer:

Jennie Lamb

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
			£	£	£		£
a1	**RECEIPTS**	Note					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		45,837		**45,837**		42,706
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		4,601	2,949	**7,550**		6,620
a4	Lettings		52,928		**52,928**		53,139
a5	Other receipts		31,334	3,660	**34,994**		31,436
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**134,700**	**6,609**	**141,309**	(a7)	**133,901**
	SECTION B						
b1	**PAYMENTS**						
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		53,832		**53,832**		49,528
b3	Donations						10,422
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		42,381		**42,381**		26,745
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		33,468		**33,468**		31,526
b6	Cleaning		10,914		**10,914**		10,207
b7	Other payments		58,332		**58,332**		44,842
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**198,927**		**198,927**	(b9)	**173,270**
	SECTION C						
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	**(a6-b8)**	(64,227)	6,609	**(57,618)**		(39,369)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		167,052	111,441	**278,493**	(c6)	317,862
c3	**Sub total**	**(c1+c2)**	102,825	118,050	**220,875**		**278,493**
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	**(c3+c4)**	**102,825**	**118,050**	**220,875**	(c8)	**278,493** (c6)

	SECTION D		
d	**FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)**	£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year	807	
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	1,494	1,947
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	2,301	1,140
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID** (d1+d2-d3)		**807**

Dorset Gardens 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 2024 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

	INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts		Payments		Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments		Opening balances		Closing balances	
e1												
e2												
e3												
e4												
e5												
e6												
e7												
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds									(e11)		(e12)
e9	**Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)**	141,309	(a7)	198,927	(b9)	(57,618)		(c7)	278,493	(c6)	220,875	(c8)
e10	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	141,309		198,927		(57,618)			278,493	(x)	220,875	(y)
	Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**TOTAL PAYMENTS**								

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024	OPENING BALANCES		CLOSING BALANCES	
f1	Cash in hand				
f2	Bank Current Account	15,041		11,871	
f3	Bank Deposit Account				
f4	Central Finance Board	17,743		19,369	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	200,327		155,135	
f6	Other funds	45,382		34,500	
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**278,493**	(c6)	**220,875**	(c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)
f9	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**278,493**	(x)	**220,875**	(y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5

Name of Church Dorset Gardens Methodist No 36/12

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 6-1-25

Name and address of treasurer Jennie Lamb

36 Chester Terrace Brighton Post Code BN1 6GB

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 27 April 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Andy Lowe Date 16/2/25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Dorset Dorset Gardens Methodist

Charity Number 1106211

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Dorset Gardens Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages 1 to 3. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church ..... Dorset Gardens Methodist

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 ..... S J Neate

Name of independent examiner ..... S J Neate

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... FMAAT retired

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

Address 23 Surrenden Lodge Surrenden Road Brighton

..... Post Code BN1 6QB

Date 6-1-25

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form Reviewed Aug-24

DORSET GARDENS METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1160211

Accounts

DORSET GARDENS METHODIST CHURCH
Registered Charity 1160211

www.dgmc.org.uk

Annual Report of the Trustees for Year ending 31st August 2023

The Trustees of Dorset Gardens Methodist Church welcome you to our Annual Report covering the Financial Year ended 31 August 2023.

1. **Mission statement and Aims**

Mission Statement : "We will share God's love with those around us"

Worship
Our worship is open and inclusive of all, celebrating God's saving love expressed through Jesus in ways that are relevant, collaborative and inspirational.
We do this by:-
- Providing a rich blend of words and music that embraces and reflects our diverse community.
- Offering worship that is relevant, encouraging and challenging.
- Creating an atmosphere which enables everyone to express worship in ways which are meaningful to them.
- Helping everyone to discern and develop their own gifts and talents within worship and the community.
- Offering wholeness through worship, prayer and a healing ministry.

Nurture
We offer opportunities for everyone to grow and learn as Christians within a supportive and accepting environment.
We do this by:
- Creating opportunities for everyone to study and pray together.
- Using arts and crafts, music and literature in ways which encourages spiritual growth.
- Creating opportunities for young people and children to deepen their faith and feel valued as active members of our community.

Pastoral Care
We are a loving church family where everyone is welcomed, loved, cared for and supported by each other.
We do this by:
- Looking after our church family through hospitality, fellowship and caring for each other.
- Extending that care into the community.
- Being a praying people who also embrace the needs of our community and the world.

Service
We express God's love by serving the community and the world, challenging injustice and being responsible stewards of God's creation.
We do this by:
- Providing an environment where everyone finds a loving welcome, a sense of worth and a listening ear.
- Offering our love, our energy and our prayers wherever they are needed
- Enabling and working in partnership with community groups
- Actively promoting awareness of injustice and helping everyone to respond appropriately.
- Being an eco-friendly church as far as possible.
- Being a place of welcome and support to students and meeting them where they are.

Equal Opportunities Statement
Dorset Gardens Methodist Church is an inclusive church.
All are welcomed regardless of age, gender, race or sexual orientation.

2. **Objectives and Activities**
In planning its activities, Dorset Gardens has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion together with the 'Our Calling' framework as defined by the Methodist Church of Great Britain. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament as we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of the wider community.

3. **Achievements and Performance**
   a) **Worship**
      1. In October 2022, we celebrated two of our longest standing members: Sybil Rogers and June Cooke, who have been members for 70 years.
      2. The Harvest All Age Service had a 'green' tree theme led by the Revd Deborah Cornish, followed by a simple harvest lunch. All donations of dry items were given to support the work of the City Mission food bank.
      3. The annual World Aids Day Service was held on 4th December and led by Revd Heather Leake Date & Revd Michael Hydes from the Village Metropolitan Community Church (VMCC).
      4. Our Carol service and Nativity was held on Christmas Eve in conjunction with VMCC and included readers from a number of our user groups. Again it was very well attended and a lovely way to start Christmas.
      5. We hosted the Circuit Ash Wednesday service and in March 2023 was honoured to host the Circuit Together Service celebrating our awarded status as Circuit and Churches of Sanctuary with the Revd Dr Indergit Bhogal, past President of Conference, and Founder and President of the City of Sanctuary movement.
      6. Another joy was congratulating Ken Smith as he received his certificate for 60 years as an accredited local preacher.
      7. During Holy Week, a Prayer & Praise service including communion was held on Maundy Thursday and on Good Friday Revd Deborah Cornish led a service of reflection and contemplation.
      8. At the beginning of May we celebrated twenty years in our new building with a special service of the theme 'past, present and future'. We were joined by the Revd Peter Shilling, whose vision for a new place of worship kickstarted the process, then Revd Cynthia Park shared her experiences of being the first presbyter to minister in this new place, followed by Deborah who covered the present and looking ahead. Whilst this was going on in the sanctuary, our young people were making golden orbs and our Tots had fun in the main hall. Afterwards all joined for a celebration lunch which also marked the King's coronation.
      9. For Refugee Sunday a group from the Ukrainian Ladies Choir contributed to the service with some beautiful and moving folk songs.
      10. July 23rd marked our church farewell to Deborah as she led her final service as Minister of Dorset Gardens. She concluded with the hymn 'God's spirit is in my heart.' It followed a tea the day before where our love and thanks were extended to Deborah and John.

   b) **Pastoral**
      1. Pastoral care is at the centre of the church's mission and ministry. Currently, there are 8 pastoral group leaders, along with the Minister, gladly giving their service. The Committee meets twice a year and is responsible for the provision of pastoral care.
      2. One way the pastoral leaders demonstrate their faithfulness as a Christian community is by offering help and care to a range of people both in the church and wider community. Care and friendship are offered by home visits, over coffee and/or through regular phone calls/emails. During a wide range of circumstances and in demanding situations, the

pastoral leaders seek to be a helpful presence, often listening attentively, sustaining others through prolonged difficulty or immediate needs, offering guidance about resources, bringing different perspectives or simply listening, helping people discover God's will and love and developing friendships.

3. The act of praying is at the heart of pastoral work. Besides being in touch through visits and/or phone conversations, pastoral care providers continue to support members through a prayerful ministry.
4. Pastoral care is available for all irrespective of whether anyone attends church regularly or not. Strict confidentiality is maintained when offering pastoral care unless someone is at risk of abuse or harm when the issue is discussed with the minister.

c) Mission and Evangelism

1. At our November 2022 Church Council we agreed to begin the process of becoming a Church of Sanctuary, building on the Circuit Refugee Project, by ensuring that our church is a place of welcome, where all can feel safe and loved.
   Fund raising and events followed culminating in our celebrating our awarded status as Circuit and Churches of Sanctuary. Now our task is for the church to do all in its powers to help challenge the injustices that refugees and asylum seekers encounter.
2. Revd Heather Leake Date continued her work as Sussex HIV Chaplain including overseeing the World Aids Day Candlelight Vigil and Names Reading, the World Aids Day service at Dorset Gardens, providing pastoral care including conducting funerals and promoting her work via social media and publications.
3. From the beginning of February the Warm Spaces was launched to assist folk struggling with the current fuel and cost of living crises. Promoted via The Brightonian magazine, we are opened for the remainder of winter on Thursday afternoons (with Open House) and Sunday mornings during Worship, whilst Lunch Positive open our premises on a Tuesday.
4. A close relationship is maintained with nearby Carlton Hill Junior School including supporting their 2023 Summer Fete which raised nearly £2,500. DG on behalf of our Circuit project was given a table at the fete, monies raised were donated to the school as it is a School of Sanctuary.
5. Our banners, incorporating descriptive words such as welcoming, loving and inclusive in a heart shape, all suggested by members of the church family, have been printed and are framed and hung in various locations around the building, including the Welcome area. We also now have an LGBTQ+ banner in the window and official confirmation that DG is authorised for the solemnization of same sex marriages; the first such event is already in the diary!

d) Young People

1. Our Young Church meets weekly and attracts an enthusiastic group, enjoying a range of activities and participating in the worship from time to time.
   At Christmas we made lots of star and heart decorations for the Action For Children Christmas tree as part of the Woodingdean Christmas Tree Festival and we made a stable to house our Nativity figures.
2. Tearaway Tots continues in popularity, sometimes up to 60 toddlers and babies attend the weekly sessions. Parents, carers, toddlers, and babies from across the globe are welcomed and enjoy the healthy toddler snacks and limitless cuppas, as well as a lively singsong, and fun craft sessions.
3. The Autumn the half-term holiday club had a harvest theme where our youngsters were helped to make pumpkin soda bread, followed by apple and cinnamon muffins. The children were able to take these home to share (or not), and the church was left with the wonderful aroma of apple and cinnamon. Everyone also created beautiful pop art leaf printing and there was even time for beany mosaics.
4. At the Christmas 2022 Holiday club there were crafts, which included making Mary and Jesus figures to hang on the Christmas tree, as well as a mini-wreath. Then everyone learnt to wrap up bars of chocolate to look like penguins, reindeers and snowmen. It wouldn't be a holiday club without a bit of baking, this time pizza wreaths. There were a

couple of games and, when the grown-ups arrived to collect their children, they were invited to listen to the children sing. The children went home with bags of goodies that they had made, and those who were involved in running the day went home for a lie down, exhausted but happy!

5. At Easter pancake making and eating was as popular as ever.
6. In May to mark the Coronation, our toddlers had a busy time making beautiful crafts; the egg box bouquets were painted a regal purple and gold, with some wonderful finger painting on blue crowns for the new king.
7. The Summer 2023 Holiday Club had a space theme this year and our children 'reached for the stars' as they made rocket pizzas, models of the solar system, crafted wool stars and told some funny astronaut-themed jokes. Our marshmallow and spaghetti constellations were awesome, and the chocolate moon crater cakes got five-star reviews.
8. Thanks to all our volunteers who worked incredibly hard to support such successful events and particularly to Liz Neale, our Children and Families Worker for her energetic leadership, preparation and creativity.

e) Service & Community

1. Open House @ DG continues to thrive, open for business from 2 pm to 4 pm every Thursday, come rain or shine and providing a warm welcome, good conversation, a chance to play a game or two or work on a craft, sometimes enjoy live music and always available delicious cake and a cuppa. It is a great afternoon, and everyone is always welcome.
2. Knit 'n' Natter meet on the first Friday of each month and apart from enjoying social time together the output from the groups goes towards various needs including hospitals, overseas aid and Christmas gift boxes.
3. Community Lunches are held on any 5th Sunday of the month with the volunteers led by Rosemary Cuthbert. A small, dedicated team cook and serve a hot meal to over 50 people who live on the margins of society. The meals are appreciated as indicated by return attendance and feedback received.
4. The 14th Brighton Scout Group continue to thrive with all sections of Scouts, Cubs and Beavers full and a range of indoor and outdoor activities including camps and overland hikes. Scouts are also able to complete additional badges in a range of activities such as Forestry, Sailing, Pioneering and Aviation. One of the Scouts, Dylan Andrews, went to the World Jamboree in August 2023 which was held in South Korea.
5. The 3rd Brighton Rainbows & Brownies also call Dorset Gardens home and 30 Rainbows and Brownies enjoy fun meetings which include: craft evenings, recipes, cooking, playing games working on the completion of badges throughout the year.
6. We are also pleased to provide a home for the following community groups:
    a) Lunch Positive reach, support and involve large numbers of people living with HIV, providing weekly a healthy and enjoyable meal, a range of complimentary services and a safe and supportive space for all.
    b) Regular worship space for the Village Metropolitan Community Church where all can truly be ourselves.
    c) The Clare Project supports hundreds of trans, non-binary and intersex adults across Sussex. They run popular weekly drop-in and neurodivergent group, alongside 1:1 support and psychotherapy services. Whilst the group is mainly attended by transgender, transsexual and gender dysphoric people, they aim to be all-inclusive as they recognise the complexities surrounding the issue of gender identity.
    d) Held in Mind is a partnership project that aims to offer and deliver counselling support to the parents and carers of children at Carlton Hill and Elm Grove Primary Schools and at Tarner Nursery. As well as proving a therapy room, which offers a safe and comfortable space for delivery, Dorset Gardens contributes to the funding of their adult counselling project.
    e) Dance for Parkinsons: A dance and fellowship group for people affected by Parkinsons disease.
    f) Sussex Defend the NHS: The group brings together NHS Workers, Campaigners and Communities. They are concerned with what is really happening to our NHS.

Their aim is to protect the NHS for Patients and Staff through campaigning and raising awareness.

g) As safe space for 12 Step Groups including Alcoholics Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and Co-Dependents Anonymous meetings.

4. **Financial Review**

The Standard Form of Accounts for year ending 31 August 2023 are attached and were signed off by the Church Council Meeting held on Sunday 18th February 2024.
Our Income comes from three sources: Individual giving, church lettings and rental income from the property at 12 Dorset Gardens.
As anticipated our Income did not cover expenses and the shortfall was taken from the reserves.
Expenses increased, particularly utility bills over the Winter period and will continue during the current cost of living crisis.
Ongoing thanks to all the worker of our Treasurer Jennie Lamb.

5. **Structure, Governance and Management**

a) **The Circuit Meeting**

The Circuit Meeting of Brighton & Hove is the body of Managing Trustees that is responsible for the affairs of the five Methodist churches: Dorset Gardens, Hove, Patcham, Stanford Avenue and Woodingdean. The Circuit Meeting acts as the focal point of the working fellowship of the churches in the Circuit, overseeing their pastoral, training and evangelistic work.

b) **The Church Council**

The Church Council of Dorset Gardens is the body of Managing Trustees that is responsible for the affairs of the Church and the development of Church Policy. The Church Council Meeting together with the Church Minister, the Church Stewards & Leadership team, and lay employees exercises that combination of spiritual leadership and administrative efficiency which enables the Church to fulfil its purposes as set out in the Standing Orders of the Methodist Church.

c) **Staffing**

Revd. Andrew Lowe, Circuit Superintendent.
Revd. Deborah Cornish, Dorset Gardens Minister.

b) **Safeguarding**

The Methodist Church is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its life and ministry. Safeguarding is about the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. We all of us need to do our best to ensure everyone who comes into our church building is safe, particularly children, young people and vulnerable adults. We are an all-inclusive church, so we need to try and take care of them all. We have people coming into our building who have mental health issues, addiction problems, homelessness, anxieties about their sexuality or immigration status.
Training sessions " Creating Safer Space" have continued for those with specific roles in the church. No Safeguarding issues were reported during this period.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Dorset Gardens Methodist	**Church**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

Brighton and Hove	**Circuit**	**Circuit no.**	**36/12**

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1160211
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 Andy Lowe

Church Stewards:

Susan Harrington

Elizabeth Whittaker

Brandford Osei

Ian lamb

Steven Preston

Graham Wall

Treasurer:

Jennie Lamb

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
			£	£	£		£
a1	**RECEIPTS**	**Note**					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		42,646	60	**42,706**		36,882
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		4,983	1,637	**6,620**		1,635
a4	Lettings		53,139		**53,139**		39,584
a5	Other receipts		31,195	241	**31,436**		114,622
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**131,963**	**1,938**	**133,901**	**(a7)**	**192,723**
	SECTION B						
b1	**PAYMENTS**						
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		49,528		**49,528**		45,272
b3	Donations		7,302	3,120	**10,422**		27,261
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		26,745		**26,745**		36,445
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		31,526		**31,526**		18,764
b6	Cleaning		10,207		**10,207**		8,409
b7	Other payments		42,336	2,506	**44,842**		27,252
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**167,644**	**5,626**	**173,270**	**(b9)**	**163,403**
	SECTION C						
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	**(a6-b8)**	(35,681)	(3,688)	**(39,369)**		29,320
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		200,808	117,054	**317,862**	**(c6)**	288,542
c3	**Sub total**	**(c1+c2)**	165,127	113,366	**278,493**		**317,862**
c4	Transfers and adjustments					**(c7)**	
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	**(c3+c4)**	**165,127**	**113,366**	**278,493**	**(c8)**	**317,862** **(c6)**

	SECTION D		
d	**FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures**	£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year		20
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	1,947	1,839
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	1,140	1,859
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID** (d1+d2-d3)	**807**	

Dorset Gardens 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 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												
e2												
e3												
e4												
e5												
e6												
e7												
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds									(e11)		(e12)
c9	**Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)**	133,901	(a7)	173,270	(b9)	(39,369)		(c7)	317,862	(c6)	278,493	(c8)
c10	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	133,901		173,270		(39,369)			317,862	(x)	278,493	(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				
f2	Bank Current Account	25,474		15,041	
f3	Bank Deposit Account				
f4	Central Finance Board	29,941		17,743	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	239,447		200,327	
f6	Other funds	23,000		45,382	
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**317,862**	(c6)	**278,493**	(c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)
f9	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**317,862**	(x)	**278,493**	(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)		
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5

Name of Church . **Dorset Gardens 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...12/2/24.....

Name and address of treasurer ..... Jennie Lamb 38 Chester Terrace Brighton BN1 6GB

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on .....17th February 2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting ..Rev Andy Lowe

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

.....Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

Charity Number .....

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Stanford Avenue Methodist+A17 Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages ... to .... 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 ..... Dorset Gardens ..... No .....

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 ..... FMAAT

Name of independent examiner ..... S J Neate FMAAT

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... FMAAT

Name of firm (where appropriate) .... n/a

Address 23 Surrenden Lodge Surrenden Road Brighton

..... Post Code BN1 7QB

Date .... 30th November 2023

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form Review May-23

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Dorset Gardens Methodist	**Church**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

Brighton and Hove	**Circuit**	**Circuit no.**	**36/12**

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1160211
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 Andy Lowe

Church Stewards:

Susan Harrington

Elizabeth Whittaker

Brandford Osei

Ian lamb

Steven Preston

Graham Wall

Treasurer:

Jennie Lamb

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
			£	£	£		£
a1	**RECEIPTS**	**Note**					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		42,646	60	**42,706**		36,882
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		4,983	1,637	**6,620**		1,635
a4	Lettings		53,139		**53,139**		39,584
a5	Other receipts		31,195	241	**31,436**		114,622
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**131,963**	**1,938**	**133,901**	**(a7)**	**192,723**
	SECTION B						
b1	**PAYMENTS**						
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		49,528		**49,528**		45,272
b3	Donations		7,302	3,120	**10,422**		27,261
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		26,745		**26,745**		36,445
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		31,526		**31,526**		18,764
b6	Cleaning		10,207		**10,207**		8,409
b7	Other payments		42,336	2,506	**44,842**		27,252
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**167,644**	**5,626**	**173,270**	**(b9)**	**163,403**
	SECTION C						
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	**(a6-b8)**	(35,681)	(3,688)	**(39,369)**		29,320
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		200,808	117,054	**317,862**	**(c6)**	288,542
c3	**Sub total**	**(c1+c2)**	165,127	113,366	**278,493**		**317,862**
c4	Transfers and adjustments					**(c7)**	
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	**(c3+c4)**	**165,127**	**113,366**	**278,493**	**(c8)**	**317,862** **(c6)**

	SECTION D		
d	**FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures**	£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year		20
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	1,947	1,839
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	1,140	1,859
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID** (d1+d2-d3)	**807**	

Dorset Gardens 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 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												
e2												
e3												
e4												
e5												
e6												
e7												
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds									(e11)		(e12)
c9	**Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)**	133,901	(a7)	173,270	(b9)	(39,369)		(c7)	317,862	(c6)	278,493	(c8)
c10	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	133,901		173,270		(39,369)			317,862	(x)	278,493	(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				
f2	Bank Current Account	25,474		15,041	
f3	Bank Deposit Account				
f4	Central Finance Board	29,941		17,743	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	239,447		200,327	
f6	Other funds	23,000		45,382	
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**317,862**	(c6)	**278,493**	(c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)
f9	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**317,862**	(x)	**278,493**	(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)		
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5

Name of Church . **Dorset Gardens 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...12/2/24.....

Name and address of treasurer ..... Jennie Lamb 38 Chester Terrace Brighton BN1 6GB

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on .....17th February 2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting ..Rev Andy Lowe

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

.....Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

Charity Number .....

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Stanford Avenue Methodist+A17 Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages ... to .... 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 ..... Dorset Gardens ..... No .....

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 ..... FMAAT

Name of independent examiner ..... S J Neate FMAAT

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... FMAAT

Name of firm (where appropriate) .... n/a

Address 23 Surrenden Lodge Surrenden Road Brighton

..... Post Code BN1 7QB

Date .... 30th November 2023

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form Review May-23

DORSET GARDENS METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1160211

Accounts

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

Brighton

Christmas Card designed for us by Sarah, Silva, Anna Maria and Hala. Children of a refugee family who attend DG.

Church of
SANCTUARY AWARD
Welcoming People Seeking Sanctuary

Annual Report ~ 2022-2023

Registered Charity No. 1160211 **www.dgmc.org.uk**

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The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

INTRODUCTION and MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Twelve months ago the folk at Dorset Gardens were looking forward to building on all the good things that were already in place and seeking ways to reach out into the community. With that in mind a Jubilee Celebration for Queen Elizabeth's 70 years was organised with a party in Dorset Gardens park. This was a wonderful opportunity to involve the various organisations that use the church premises as well as reaching out into the local community. Our resident artist, Shirley Veater, was able to capture the day on canvas, which now hangs on the wall in the foyer.

The church continues to hold to the ethos of being a place of welcome for all, holding to the values of the Inclusive Church Network. This included registering as a Warm Space for those who have struggled with the exponential rise in fuel costs, opening our doors on Sunday mornings and Thursday afternoons, alongside the events that are already taking place, such as worship on Sunday and Open House on Thursday.

Through the work of the City of Sanctuary movement, Dorset Gardens, along with the other churches in the Brighton & Hove Circuit, has worked hard to become recognised as a Church of Sanctuary. We have established links with Sanctuary on Sea (Brighton & Hove City of Sanctuary), Sussex University, Care4Calais, and other organisations who are striving to ensure the Gospel of Hospitality is extended to those who find themselves in need. All five churches in the Circuit have gained this recognition, and the Circuit has been named as the first Circuit of Sanctuary in the UK. The awards were given out during a Circuit Together Service at Dorset Gardens, now the task is for the church to do all in its powers to help challenge the injustices that refugees and asylum seekers encounter.

During the summer months I was fortunate enough to be able to take a sabbatical, a period of three months to explore Celtic spirituality in Cornwall. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who during that time stepped in to cover aspects of my role.

However, my thanks are offered not just for those three months, but for all the ways the people of Dorset Gardens Methodist Church pull together to the benefit of others, spiritually, physically, emotionally and practically. Evidence of all the hard work that goes on to make this happen can be found within the pages of this report.

Revd Deborah Cornish

The 'Big Sing' on Saturday 14 May 2022 was enjoyed by all.

SECTION 1: WORSHIP & EVANGELISM

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.

Over the course of the past twelve months it has been a joy to see new faces in so many places across the life of the church. Mid-week worship has seen our regulars return, as well as some new faces, as confidence post-Covid has restored. This service is supported by a group of four people who regularly provide time for reflection, prayer, meditation and an opportunity to sing hymns old and new.

The Christmas Carol Service was shared with The Village MCC, and an invitation to take part in the service was extended to other user groups. This meant we had different people taking part. On Christmas Day we had an infant baptism, which added to the excitement and joy of the day.

Baby Kevin's Baptism on Christmas Day!

In the last few months, during Sunday worship, we have had an adult baptism and brought six people into church membership. In addition, we have a small group of primary school-aged children that are regularly attending worship with their parents.

The fortnightly letter continues to be sent out to a wide range of people on our mailing list, helping them to stay connected even when they find it difficult to attend church or any of the other activities that take place on the premises. In addition to the letters, we also keep in touch with people through the quarterly newsletter, and through the hard work of our pastoral visitors.

Revd Deborah Cornish

SUNDAY CLUB

We have two families who attend regularly. Sometimes we stay in the Sanctuary throughout the service, sitting at a table at the back to do colouring, and sometimes we go downstairs and do our own thing, stories, puzzles, crafts, etc. The children enjoy dancing during some of the hymns and on a couple of occasions they have led the congregation singing a song and doing a dance.

At Christmas we made lots of star and heart decorations for the Action for Children Christmas Tree as part of the Woodingdean Christmas Tree Festival and we made a stable to house our Nativity figures.

At our March 2023 Circuit Service our numbers more than doubled as we were joined by children from other churches. We looked at a world map, drew flags and put stickers on the map on countries where we had connections and where there are troubles.

For Easter we plan to use our Sunday Club Cross and decorate cakes for the congregation.

Rosemary Cuthbert

THE VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

2022 was definitely a defining year for The Village MCC. Spring brought the illegal invasion of the Ukraine by Putin's forces. The church was able to liaise with MCC folk in the area to be able to provide 'on the ground support' to those LGBTQ+ refugees who would most certainly have been murdered had they stayed in the country. By the end of March we began to realise that the war might be a great deal more protracted than originally thought, and as I write this it is still in progress. March and April were challenging months as illness made the rounds. One of our board members, Simon, sadly lost his partner.

At the Maundy Thursday Seder we were still talking at 10.30 pm. It was a lovely evening, with a really genuine spirit at play amongst us. Our Easter service went well, and we continue to have visitors drop in now and then. Many are from out of town, or seeking the kind of reassurance and support that The Village offers, but my hope is that some of the locals will choose to make it a home.

I was asked by the Men Talk Health team to choose music and share some of my thoughts on their Monday Music Therapy show hosted by Davey Shields on Charitable Radio. After choosing music I recorded the programme with Davey on Zoom. It was broadcast on Monday 16 May. Chris and I met with Revd Cynthia Park to help plan the Dorset Gardens Street Party in honour of the Queen's platinum jubilee, and after a lot of hard work the party went well. We ran games and went through 30 coconuts, 30 jubilee keyrings, and a half a ton of Haribo!

In June we also celebrated our first lay led Third Sunday service, led by

Will and Mark, it was great. The spirit flowed, and we were each blessed. In truth nobody wanted to go home!

The international MCC conference was held online, and was a great success. Not being one to enjoy crowds I found that I really appreciated being able to connect with people and enjoy worship in my own space. I screened the conference using a projector onto the wall at home, and it was a fun experience for those who attended.

Access to St James's Street was limited during the Pride celebrations and so we held our 2022 Pride Service in the Ledward Centre Cafe. It was a wonderfully affirming experience for all of us. It was especially nice because it was a hot day, and the venue has great air conditioning.

In the summer we offered Switchboard staff and end-users a chaplaincy service, and our offer was gratefully accepted. It's an informal arrangement, and a free service given by The Village, a way of serving the community as a listening ear.

In September we experienced the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II. The country went into mourning, as did our congregation. However, October began with a meeting of LGBTQ+ groups and leaders to discuss the proposed queer youth shelter project to be trialled for ten weeks in the new year. It's going well and making a real difference to those community members who access the service.

At the close of the year we again planned a joint World Aids Day Service with Revd Heather Leake Date, which went well despite my booking the wrong date! The Christmas Eve Service was also a wonderful celebration with DGMC and it was lovely to join with our friends in such special worship.

Thank you to everyone at Dorset Gardens for helping us feel so at home, and providing a worship space where we can truly be ourselves.

Revd Michael Hydes

SECTION 2: LEARNING AND CARING

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.

STUDY GROUPS

The exigencies of age are diminishing our number, but we continue to meet once a month on a Thursday afternoon and are still studying Luke's Gospel, effectively a chapter each month, using notes that I write for the group. I send these notes to members who cannot attend, including our 'branch' in Sri Lanka (Avanka Fernando).

Mick Hickman

PASTORAL COMMITTEE

Pastoral care is at the centre of the church's mission and ministry. Currently, there are eight pastoral group leaders, along with the Minister, gladly giving their service. The Committee meets twice a year and is responsible for the provision of pastoral care.

One way the pastoral leaders demonstrate their faithfulness as a Christian community is by offering help and care to a range of people both in the church and wider community. Care and friendship are offered by home visits, over coffee and/or through regular phone calls or emails. During a wide range of circumstances and in demanding situations, the pastoral leaders seek to be a helpful presence, often listening attentively, sustaining others through prolonged difficulty or immediate needs, offering guidance about resources, bringing different perspectives or simply listening, helping people discover God's will and love and developing friendships.

The act of praying is at the heart of pastoral work. Besides being in touch through visits and/or phone conversations, pastoral care providers continue to support members through a prayerful ministry.

Pastoral care is available for all, irrespective of whether anyone attends church regularly or not. Strict confidentiality is maintained when offering pastoral care unless someone is at risk of abuse or harm when the issue is discussed with the minister.

Going forward our vision is to invite new members to become pastoral group leaders and expand the team and continue making our church a caring environment for everybody. The dynamics of our church is changing; we have several people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and from different age groups. We would like to explore ways of improving pastoral effectiveness that might be helpful in developing a fresh approach to pastoral work and then use it in the contemporary circumstances and according to distinct individual and collective needs.

On 18 March 2023 the church membership was 69 members and 28 adherents.

Please continue to pray for our pastoral team and the work and responsibility we have committed ourselves to.

Deeptima Massey, Pastoral Secretary

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone. We all of us need to do our best to ensure everyone who comes into our church building is safe. This includes not only children and young people but also vulnerable adults. Who is vulnerable? All of us are at some time in our lives: during illness, following bereavement, going through a bad time, stressed out due to housing or financial worries, or worries about family and friends; those with disabilities or special needs. We also have people coming into our building who have mental health issues, addiction problems, homelessness, anxieties about their sexuality or immigration status.

We are an inclusive church, so we need to try and take care of them all. We also need to take care of ourselves, and it is important that we do not

put ourselves at risk. We need to ask for help, and remember that we cannot sort out everybody's difficulties.

To this end Steve Preston and I have run a series of training sessions "Creating Safer Space" over the past year for all those with specific roles in the church which have been well attended.

If you do find you have concerns about someone in the church family, please speak, in confidence, to me, Steve Preston, our minister Deborah or your Pastoral Visitor. Do not keep it to yourself, you will be supported.

Rosemary Cuthbert

OPEN HOUSE @ DG

Over the last year Open House has continued to meet every Thursday, except for one in December. The Thursday after Christmas a number of people were going to be away, so we didn't meet then. But the following week we held an Epiphany Party and had a great time! The team game using "The Twelve Days of Christmas" proved a particularly uproarious challenge – and there were lots of other amusements including barbecued sausage rolls by yours truly who will try to learn how to use the oven before attempting that again! But it was a great way to celebrate the end of the Christmas season and prepare for 2023.

Throughout the year we've found every Thursday to be a bit different. Sometimes we have a birthday to celebrate; when Michael and Steven

come along we have live music; when Mary or Colin appear we'll have a piano recital; if Rosemary is with us we'll face the challenge of an excellent Connect4 player. And there are always crafts to enjoy, tasty cake to eat, much good conversation and a lot of laughs. It is a great afternoon, and everyone is always welcome: Every Thursday, 2 to 4 pm. Roll up, roll up!

And PS – a big thank you to all the helpers who make cake, biscuits, coffee, tea, set up and clear away. It is a great team!!

Revd Cynthia Park

KNIT 'N' NATTER: KNITTING GROUP

At our meeting on 3rd March, Dave Hunt, an ex-Scout Leader from Saltdean, came and gave a talk telling us what happens to our knitting. Dave collects our knitting twice a year, comprising blankets; children's cardigans, jumpers and toys; balaclavas, scarves and gloves for adults and children. He delivers our knitted goods to a warehouse near Worthing, from there it is despatched to Romania, Ukraine and wherever needed. Some of the items go into shoeboxes at Christmas time.

We also knit for the Trevor Mann Baby Unit and knit knee blankets for the dementia ward at the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

We are a very friendly group and enjoy each other's company and look forward to our monthly meetings on the first Friday of each month (except January).

June Cooke

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SUPPORT

We've had an action-packed year with children and families! Our biggest event was the Endangered Earth Summer Holiday Club, with almost 50 children taking part across four days of fun activities learning all about endangered species.

Special visitors from Sussex Wildlife Trust arrived to teach us all about nocturnal wildlife - they'd set the alarm for 5 am to capture some spectacular moths to show us all. Brighton & Hove City Council's

rewilding expert helped make wildflower seed bombs to encourage native species closer to home and told us all about helping wildlife habitats thrive. We created a real team rooting for nature with our stylish T shirt printing (see previous page).

Christmas Club was all about giving this year with the children wrapping chocolate bars in funky reindeer, penguin and snow people designs as gifts for their loved ones. Everyone went home with a paper-crafted Mary and baby Jesus ornament for their tree too.

As always our cookery segments proved the most popular, thanks to Jennie Lamb at Harvest Club and Rosemary Cuthbert across the year. Edible highlights included pastry snakes and snails, ladybird cakes, soda bread and delicious Christmas wreath pizzas.

Massive thanks to every volunteer who made our children's clubs an epic success. Now more than ever, feedback from families is that they really appreciate our great clubs because the children enjoy themselves and parents know we keep our doors open for families on any income.

Tearaway Tots has had some busy times too – sometimes up to 60 toddlers and babies in one morning. A huge thank you to our regular helpers, especially Vikki Kennedy and Ady Yeung, who are loved by all the

little ones. New families find us each week and we have welcomed parents, carers, toddlers, and babies from across the globe. Our healthy toddler snacks and limitless cuppas, as well as a lively sing-song, and fun craft sessions, cater to well over 150 to 200 families across the year.

Liz Neale

WARM SPACES

Methodist Churches have responded to the cost-of-living crisis by opening their doors to ensure that communities are not left out in the cold. Dorset Gardens was happy to offer somewhere for people to find warmth, comfort and companionship. Although we were late to launch (a few challenges with our heating) we were featured in the February Brightonian magazine (see next page) and welcomed some occasional friends when open. I'm sure we will resume this offering again in the autumn.

Jennie Lamb

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Our combined Dorset Gardens and Woodingdean Newsletter serves as a connection between the congregations, visitors and community. Four editions are published during the annual cycle: March, June, September and December. The email version allows members to receive church news wherever they are, and a printed version is made available to those who do not have an email along with spare copies in the church for visitors coming through the door.

Our newsletters help to keep an active and informed church community. They increase engagement between each other and inform readers about current events in and around the church. A personal message from the Minister serves as a means to nourish the faith of the congregation and offers encouragement, hope and love.

Our newsletters feature key announcements about worship, stories of celebration of life and special milestones, prayer requests, theological

News from Dorset Gardens Methodist Church..

A new warm space in Kemptown

Kemptown has a new warm space open to all, offering a friendly welcome twice a week. It's a space to enjoy free hot drinks and biscuits, as well as tea and toast every Sunday.

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church has thrown open the doors to provide a warm place to sit and chat every Sunday from 10am to 1pm and Thursdays from 2-4pm. Chairs and tables are set out on the ground floor, as well as space to be quiet if people prefer their own company. Morning worship takes place on Sundays on the second floor although there is no obligation to join in; volunteers at the church simply want to provide a warm welcome to the community when the heating is already on!

The church prides itself on being an inclusive church and is registered for same sex marriages. It's a safe space throughout the week and is home to a wide variety of diverse organisations. The one common denominator is a friendly face, a cup of tea and the opportunity to chat if you're feeling sociable. But it's also a place of quiet contemplation where visitors can happily keep themselves to themselves.

> ***"As a congregation we strive to use the church premises in ways that serve the local community. In the midst of a cost of living crisis, with spiralling utility bills, one of the ways we can do this is by offering a welcoming space to all."***

Reverend Deborah Cornish, minister at Dorset Gardens, explained: "As a congregation we strive to use the church premises in ways that serve the local community." She said: "In the midst of a cost of living crisis, with spiralling utility bills, one of the ways we can do this is by offering a welcoming space to all."

On Thursday afternoons board games are

available as part of the church Open House. Teas, coffees, cakes and biscuits are on offer and quite often homemade treats thanks to enthusiastic bakers. It's an informal and relaxed space so visitors can make themselves comfortable. Toys are provided for the youngest visitors and the building is pushchair and wheelchair friendly.

The church are looking for extra volunteers to help keep the warm space running, welcoming those who come to Dorset Gardens and letting people know what's on offer. Please contact the church office on office@dgmc.org.uk or call 01273 605502 for more information.

reflection on hymns and Bible passages, occasional quizzes and puzzles and congregational and community news.

We are always open to new suggestions and feedback and would like to continue increasing its readership.

I would like to express a huge thank you to Angela Millanzi, our Church Administrator, for organising the material and presenting it in an enticing way.

Deeptima Massey

CHURCH STEWARDS

The jubilee party in the park, celebrating the Queen's platinum jubilee, organised by Revd Cynthia Park was "a triumph!" The Scouts' leafleting really worked - large numbers attended. Working with others - The Village MCC and Lunch Positive - was excellent.

We have experienced many special Sunday services including Refugee Sunday in June where we welcomed Revd Andrew Jackson from Voices in Exile and Avanka Fernando delivered the sermon. The August Pride service was led by Revd Heather Leake Date; in October we celebrated Sybil Rogers and June Cooke's 70th anniversary of membership and the Harvest Parade service was well attended with a 'green' tree theme led by Revd Deborah Cornish. Thanks to those who prepared the lunch that followed and to those who decorated the church so beautifully. Food donations were given to the City Mission Food Bank. The March Circuit Together Service at Dorset Gardens, where Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal preached and Circuit of Sanctuary certificates were awarded was a wonderful occasion.

We sadly said farewell to Avanka who was returning to Sri Lanka. On 4th December, during morning service she was given gifts and we had a chance to say goodbye individually over cake, teas and coffees after the service.

In early February we held a Church of Sanctuary tabletop sale and coffee morning with Tombola in aid of the Circuit Refugee Project, including National Book Week costume sale. Monies raised were shared between the Project and Carlton Hill School (School of Sanctuary).

Operationally we have been looking at a range of different matters:

- Flyers for DG & events have been taken to the new flats (where Amex was): 168 new people to the area, important to raise our profile.
- School parking: we are exploring with the site manager the possibility of using the school car park at other times: evening meetings, events, special services, etc. Also considering transport help to DG for people with mobility issues.
- Our Dorset Gardens banners, incorporating descriptive words such as welcoming, loving and inclusive in a heart shape, all suggested by members of the church family, have been printed and are now hanging in various locations around the building. We also now have an LGBTQ+ banner in the window.
- With the help of our treasurer, we now have a QR code which links to a donation page that appears on our service sheets and elsewhere, e.g. new banners. We are looking at possibly getting a contactless terminal for card giving in addition to the current cash donations.
- We have met with NotJustPCs who will be upgrading our AV and computer systems, but in collaboration with Ashdown AV who did the original installation to avoid any incompatibility issues. We are delighted that we now have a fabulous team running the AV desk, Emmanuel, Vanessa, Richmond and Freda as well as the old hands! Many thanks to them all.

Things are definitely different since COVID although we are getting back to 'normal' now, but we still urge people to be safe. Together we can help each other, and we will make good things happen.

Sue Harrington,
on behalf of the Stewards/Leadership Team

FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

FINANCE

Our income comes from three sources: individual giving, church lettings and rental income from the property at 12 Dorset Gardens.

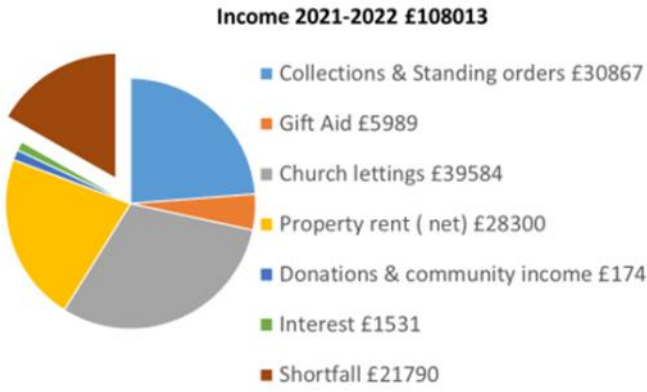
Thanks are again due to our regular givers, without whom our church would not be viable, around 35% of our income comes from personal giving. If you are a regular giver who pays UK income tax and you have not yet made a gift aid declaration please do request a form so that DGMC can claim back the tax paid on the monies you donate.

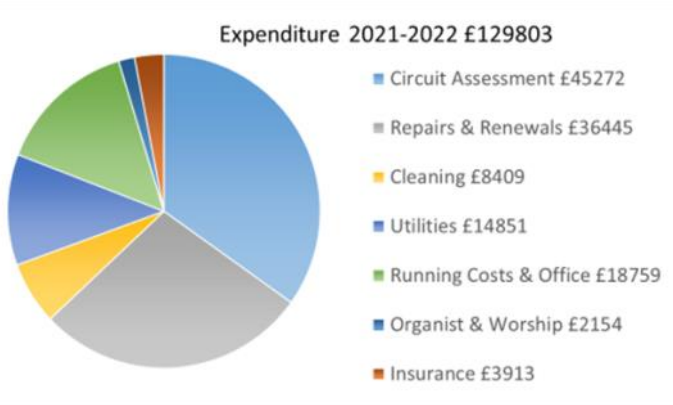
Church lettings are back to pre-Covid levels. In March 2022 we increased room hire fees to cover the general increase in costs and the predicted increases in the cost of energy. Room hire fees had not been increased for several years and it was decided that we could not continue with some hirers on agreements that were considerably less than the standard concessionary rate. For these organisations the increase was considerable, but was delayed until September to allow them more notice.

As expected our income did not cover expenses and a larger shortfall than expected (£21,790) was taken from reserves.

Our expenses have again increased: the Repairs and Renewals figure is a big increase, but includes the cost (£13K) of refurbishing the lift. The exception is the Circuit assessment; Brighton & Hove Methodist Circuit used its reserves to reduce the assessment in order to support all five Churches with their post-Covid recovery. This support continues for the current year and is much appreciated.

E King Legacy: This year donations have been made to The Clare Project, Held in Mind and the Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project. In January 2022 we received a legacy from the estate of NW Langridge Deceased and in August a donation from the estate of John Marchant Deceased.





A full copy of the accounts (September 2021 - August 2022) is available on request.

Jennie Lamb

PROPERTY

The Guinness Partnership have fitted a wooden gate to the fenced area that belongs to Purbeck House by our parking spaces. I have cleared the area and planted up Primulas and bulbs in five containers to improve this area. I am now able to regularly clear litter that accumulates there.

New padlocks have been fitted to the parking posts; PAT testing of electrical equipment is ongoing; a new electric piano has been purchased to replace the clavinova.

We have employed BHESCo (Brighton & Hove Energy Services Cooperative) to carry out an energy survey to see if we can reduce our energy costs. We are hoping to be able to install solar panels on our roof.

Southern Heating, the company that installed and maintained our boilers went into liquidation in October. We were fortunate in getting one of their ex-employees, Dave Reed, to take on the maintenance but he has since retired due to ill health and he has recommended someone else.

The fan in the kitchen broke down and we were unable to use the gas hobs for some weeks until a replacement was fitted by Heatcraft. Thirty-two new blue padded folding chairs have been purchased for use in the Main Hall.

The Church Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in January, and we have since received the report. There are no major issues and I am gradually planning for work to be carried out on the issues recommended by the report. We are working with Ashdown AV to improve the audio visuals in the Sanctuary.

Ian Lamb

BRIGHTON & HOVE METHODIST CIRCUIT

The Circuit continued with a combined Sunday morning worship called Circuit Together, held every quarter and now hosted in rotation at each church. The size of the attending congregation has grown steadily at each service. Other special Circuit services, as well as some Sunday morning online worship and two evening online services every month have been held.

As reported last year and acknowledging that the Circuit will reduce to two ministers from September 2023, an extensive consultation was held to examine the potential of re-organising to become 'One Society covering Multiple Sites'. The conclusion was that the benefits of the one society concept do not outweigh the complexities/difficulties identified and reservations/resistance expressed. It was felt that the process had

been useful in bringing folk together from across the Circuit, identifying a number of synergies and in the belief of the strength of our Circuit and the benefit of working together going forward.

Stella Goddard (Interim Circuit Treasurer) reported that only £36,000 had had to be used from the reserves (as opposed to an anticipated £50,000) to cover the Circuits' expenses for the year ending 31 August 2022. This included a contribution to support Barnstormers at Patcham with a new stage and £6,600 towards the Ministers' Retirement Fund. The Circuit would continue to need to use its reserves to cover its costs.

Circuit/Church of Sanctuary:
A new Circuit Project for 2022 to support refugees, was led by Sue Harrington and Deeptima Massey of Dorset Gardens, and with the following vision statement: "Our vision is to make our Circuit a Sanctuary for All, where all feel safe and welcomed, including those fleeing violence, conflict and persecution. We will live out God's purpose and mission and offer hospitality, kindness, love and sanctuary to all through witness and service. We seek to build a culture of outreach and service by identifying and responding to the needs of those experiencing relocation and displacement. Through this project we will share our commitment to support and advocate for student refugees and their families, working collaboratively in partnership with individuals and groups."

All five Circuit churches have pledged their commitment to support refugees, inviting them to church to share about their fears and their lives. Church members have collected clothing for the newly arrived asylum seekers living in hotels while church buildings have been opened to host refugee social events. Some church members have offered accommodation to Ukrainian families seeking safety from the war. Refugees with an urgent need for practical help, such as assistance with school uniform and equipment for children, have been supported and food banks were established in each of the churches to provide for those living with no immigration status or seeking asylum.

The churches have also been working to change the conversation around migrants. They participated in last June's Refugee Sunday as well as holding a joint service in November with speaker Angie Lynn from Sanctuary on Sea.

Lafa is from Kurdish Syria. She came to the UK in 2019 and moved to Brighton last year. She has one son called Azad who is 17 months old and together they attend the parent and toddler group at Dorset Gardens. She said: "I really like coming to this group because I have new friends, I can speak some English words, because I met friends who speak English, and my child enjoys his time a lot. I thank everyone who provides such opportunities for refugees."

The circuit churches were awarded Church of Sanctuary status at a special service that took place at Dorset Gardens on Sunday 12 March 2023. The founder of the City of Sanctuary movement, Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal, preached at the service to celebrate the awards and said: "This recognition of the support that these churches offer migrants comes at an important time when our government is making coming to the UK seeking sanctuary increasingly difficult."

Revd Andy Lowe, Superintendent Minister commented: "As individual churches and as a circuit we feel that there is a gospel call for us to be places where welcome, hospitality and inclusion are the norm. Loving our neighbour whoever they are, wherever they come from, is central to our faith and must be at the heart of all we do. Receiving these certificates and recognition is not an end in itself but just a mark in an ongoing journey to live out that command to love."

A big thank you to Deeptima and Sue for all their hard work towards such a successful launch.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The Revd Deborah Cornish, and others, have given me for deposit orders of service for funerals. I always welcome such items. It is better to be offered the same item three times than never to receive it.

On Saturday 15 October 2022 seventeen members of the Chapels Society visited a number of nonconformist places of worship in our city, including Dorset Gardens. Their visit here was unusual in that they usually go to old buildings, but on this occasion they wanted to see a new building as well. Deborah and I showed them around and explained the history and nature of the building and its architecture, and answered their questions.

One interesting question was what 'would we have done differently were we to plan it now?' One of our responses was that we would look far more carefully at our environmental impact and being eco-friendly. The chapel downstairs was especially appreciated, a number of them preferred the 'round' design to that of the more traditional 'rectangular'. The use of candles by members of the local community intrigued them. They bought a number of my books on Brighton & Hove Methodism, and on Dorset Gardens. The monies have been given to the Circuit and the Church. They had their packed lunches here and left us after an hour or so to go on to the Unitarian Church in New Road.

Deborah and I went through the 'register safe' at the Church. We have a number of completed baptismal and marriage registers. As part of my biennial deposit with the County Record Office as Circuit archivist, I shall be depositing those registers together with other material. There is nothing else to report at present.

Mick Hickman, Church Archival Officer

SECTION 3: SERVICE

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

TWELVE STEP GROUPS

The 12 Steps were originally developed in 1935 by the two co-founders of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Bill Wilson and Dr Bob Smith. Since then many other 12 step programmes were founded. The 12 steps are a group of principles, spiritual in their nature, which, if practised as a way of life, can expel whatever the obsession is and 'enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole.'

The church is happy to provide a safe space for several Alcoholics Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous groups and we were delighted to see some join us at our Christmas Carol Service.

BRIGHTON'S PASSION

In August 2022 Poppy Szkiler completed her payments to Dorset Gardens from her own resources for which we are very grateful. Our involvement with this project, and that of the two other churches, has now ended. We wish Poppy success as the project changes and moves on. As a consequence this is my last report and the position of 'Officer for Brighton's Passion' no longer exists.

Mick Hickman
Ex-Dorset Gardens Officer for Brighton's Passion

THE CLARE PROJECT

We have had one of our busiest years to date and continue to support hundreds of trans, non-binary and intersex adults across Sussex. Now in our 23rd year, we continue to run the increasingly popular weekly drop-in and neurodivergent group, alongside 1:1 support

and psychotherapy services. In the last four years, the staff team has grown from three employees to now ten, and continues to grow, offering support throughout East and West Sussex. To date, the Clare Project hosts approximately 12 regular group psychosocial support spaces every month, and envisions this to grow throughout the coming year.

Despite many successes, it has also been a challenging year for many of our users, and particularly for those from intersectional groups including People of Colour, Autistic and/or ADHD, survivors of violence and people over 50. Due to NHS delays exacerbated by the recent pandemic, and the on-going presence of the anti-trans agenda in our (national and local) media and political scape, it is a huge strain on our communities' mental health. The Clare Project continues to explore avenues for opportunity for providing more specialist support to our community facing violence and discrimination, and the on-going mental health impact this has had on so many in our community.

We continue to send our thanks and appreciation to both Dorset Gardens Methodist Church and allies throughout the network for your continued support of our essential work.

Gray Hutchins

COMMUNITY LUNCHES

Our community lunches recommenced last Spring, running when there is a fifth Sunday in the month.

We have a small, dedicated team who cook and serve a hot meal to between 35 and 50 people who live on the margins of society. The meals seem to be appreciated and we have quite a bit of positive response; some often stay on and help clear up by stacking tables and chairs which is a big help. Four times a year may not seem much, but it's something.

Rosemary Cuthbert

The Community Lunch Team

COUNSELLING: DORSET GARDENS ADULT COUNSELLING PROJECT

We were so thankful in 2022 to receive a further £2,500 grant from Dorset Gardens to help continue funding our adult counselling project. Together with funds donated from Dolphin House Charity and funds we managed to raise ourselves, the valuable work has continued throughout 2022 and into the current academic year. We have been able to offer support to a further 15 parents and carers delivering 174 sessions of therapy.

We gather feedback from everyone using the service and this continues to be unanimously positive. The additional comments, such as the one set out below, continue to motivate us to keep the service going:-

"It's helped me to build confidence in myself. Be kinder and more patient with myself. I find I can challenge situations/criticism more than I could before by challenging my beliefs about myself and not submitting instantly to blaming myself. I hope this will continue to grow with time and that I will model a stronger and more positive model to my children. Also being less hard on myself has made me less stressed/down so that has had a positive impact on my children."

We are also very grateful to Dorset Gardens for allowing us to continue using the Counselling Room, which offers a safe and comfortable space for delivery. We are in no doubt that the warm environment offered by the church and the security the room offers plays a major part in the success of this project.

We are currently in the process of seeking a large three-year grant to extend the adult therapy across all the schools with whom we work and very much hope we will be able to continue our long-standing relationship with Dorset Gardens to deliver this. Thank you to everyone for making this possible.

Alison Lucas & Ruth Lazarus

LUNCH POSITIVE

As a small grassroots charity, Lunch Positive has continued to reach, support and involve large numbers of people living with HIV. People who come along to Lunch Positive experience profoundly challenging life circumstances, poor health, and often have complex needs.

During the year we provided much needed additional space and extra days of service delivery. This has helped us to engage with and support growing numbers of people experiencing greater vulnerabilities.

Such vulnerabilities have included enduring food and fuel poverty, social isolation, mental health, substance misuse, caring responsibilities, and bereavement; people with complex health issues including ageing and frailty, cancer and dementia.

Our work at Dorset Gardens is provided almost wholly by a large team of amazing volunteers. The volunteer team have worked exceptionally hard throughout the year to respond to people's needs. Everyone was overjoyed to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2022. This prestigious and highly competitive award recognises the involvement and achievements of volunteers in supporting the community of people living with HIV. The citation also highlighted the uniqueness of our work, the positive impact on the lives of people we support and the community based volunteering ethos of the charity.

This year has been one of our most successful ever in reaching and providing community based support for people living with HIV. The levels of recently increased rent and hire at Dorset Gardens required of our charity have, however, put this work at very significant risk.

Gary Pargeter

OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS

A wide variety of community groups use our premises, and a number of our major users are already featured in this report.

Other groups that regularly use our premises include two performing arts groups: The Young Actors Group and Freckle Productions; as well as Buzz Club (running 'Crafty Art' on a Monday morning and 'Music Matters' on a Tuesday morning), Dance for Parkinson's, BeeZee Bodies and Sussex Defend the NHS.

STUDENT WORK

Our aim is to connect with and express to students and staff the love of God through our actions and interactions with them.

(UoB – University of Brighton UoS – University of Sussex)

I retired from my role as Circuit Student Development Worker - Lay Chaplain at UoB and UoS at the end of July 2022. I am maintaining contact, particularly at Sussex where there is a dedicated Chaplaincy Hub, and I have offered to help as a volunteer if required. I am also keeping in touch with a couple of people from UoB. There is currently no Methodist representation at UoB although I am still an admin on their Facebook group and feel sure the Faith and Spirituality Advisors who know me would refer any Methodist enquiries to me, Revd Cynthia Park or via the Circuit. Revd Dan Woodhouse continues as Methodist Chaplain at UoS. Both universities marked my retirement with gatherings of colleagues and generous gifts. This was followed by a wonderful surprise marking of my retirement at our Circuit Together Service at Stanford Avenue, for which many thanks to all involved.

Both universities continued to move to face-to-face meetings, but still used Teams for online meetings where necessary or to save time and travel. The Meeting House (UoS) remained quieter than before lockdown, but began to pick up. I understand that at Freshers this year it was much busier again. The food bank continues via Administrator, Janine. The Lead Chaplain, Revd Chris McDermott also retired at the end of the academic year, the university has now appointed a new Lead Chaplain, James Croft, a Humanist - the first such appointment in Britain. I have been to meet him, and he is interested to be involved, through his role, in our Refugee Project.

UoB end of year prize 2022 was given to the student pro-bono law clinic where law students practise, supervised by qualified lawyers, helping

people in the community. The prize acknowledges the student that gets the most from the clinic. We received this email of thanks: "I'm delighted to share the messages we received from the students who were awarded the Faith & Spirituality Prize for the final year LLB students who demonstrated strong academic achievement on the Justice and Practice module – working in the pro-bono clinic:

First place award of £100: Lauren Andrews, LLB Hons Law with Criminology: *Thank you so much!! This is amazing, I am so honoured to receive this award. This donation will help me so much with progressing my career after my degree. I am looking to use it fund a work experience/ volunteering trip. I can't thank you enough!*

Highly commended award of £50 each: Taylor Foster, LLB Law: *Thank you so much for this generous gift. It will be used this summer to go towards buying study material for my legal training contract which starts in September.*

Elena Adina Corcau, LLB Law: *Awards like this should have great impact in motivating students to get higher marks. Thank you so much for making these awards possible."*

The UoS Chaplaincy at The Meeting House had a book of Remembrance open to sign, and Chaplains were available there, following the announcement of the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

I continue as one of the Circuit Refugee Project Leads. Originally I took this on as part of the student work role, but I feel it is important and meaningful work and so I chose to continue, although it is now outside the student work remit. Four members of the Project Steering Group are at UoS and so there is still contact through the university and of course, the University of Sanctuary Team are also based there. The food bank at The Meeting House also supports refugee students and so my links continue there also.

Although no longer officially on the team I go in to help with events at UoS as required, most recently One World Week - a food event offering a taste of around 6-8 different cuisines.

I would like to seize this opportunity to thank everyone around the whole Circuit, but particularly at Dorset Gardens as that is where I have had most contact, for all your help and support be it with events, welcome packs, setting up and serving Christmas lunches, welcoming students, offering hospitality or any and all the other ways you have made this such an amazing place and way to serve.

Sue Harrington, Ex-Circuit Student Development Worker

SUSSEX HIV CHAPLAINCY

This year saw a return to many pre-pandemic activities, including the World AIDS Day (WAD) Vigil taking place in person at the Brighton & Hove AIDS Memorial in New Steine Gardens.

The online WAD activities which began in 2020 have also continued, which increased accessibility to those who are unable, or find it difficult, to attend an open air event on a December evening. Short videos were posted on the Brighton & Hove WAD Community Partnership Facebook page, contributed by a wide variety of local organisations (including the Chaplaincy), and local Councillors and MPs, on a range of issues, such as addressing stigma and supporting those living with HIV. The annual WAD service was again held jointly with The Village MCC at Dorset Gardens, led by me and Revd Michael Hydes.

I was invited to speak to the LGBTQ+ History Group about my work as Chaplain and HIV Pharmacist, and the history of HIV in the city. I also

contributed an article to the Connexion magazine (Issue 29, page 22) https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/28265/theconnexion29.pdf

Pastoral care remains an important aspect of my ministry, and I have conducted several funerals over the last year (not all directly connected with the Chaplaincy).

To contact the Sussex HIV Chaplaincy, including to submit any names to be read at the next WAD Candlelight Vigil, please email susshivchap@gmail.com or phone/text 07867 773360.

Revd Heather Leake Date

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: 14TH BRIGHTON SCOUT GROUP

All three sections are now full. There are 26 Scouts with four on the waiting list, 23 Cubs with two on the waiting list, and 13 Beavers with six on the waiting list.

On 9 May 2022 the Scouts assisted 'Care for Veterans' with a Bucket Collection at Brighton Station. They collected an amazing £431.48!

The Scouts ran a Summer Camp at Parkwood Camp Site, near Poynings and also an indoor weekend at Blackland Farm Activity Centre, near East Grinsted in February where they took part in a number of adventurous activities including zip wire, abseiling, archery and orienteering.

The Scout Troop entered two teams in the Overland Hike at the end of March, a competitive 25-mile hike over two days where they carry all their equipment and camp overnight. The hike is open to Scouts from both East and West Sussex and this year 36 teams participated. We were delighted that our team with three girls and a boy came third, and our all-male team came fifth. Everyone had fun, they really loved it – and especially when they heard the result! It rained when they camped and they lost an hour's sleep because of the clocks changing, so they had breakfast and packed up in the wet. But they enjoyed it all and we're hoping to enter a team in the summer hike when they weather gets warmer.

Max, Cai and Isobel gained their Cub Scout Silver Award, the highest award in Cubs!

The Cub Pack ran a successful weekend indoors at Parkwood in December.

One of our Scouts, Dylan Andrews, will be off to the World Jamboree which is to be held in South Korea in August 2023.

In our Leadership Team we have recruited Sam Gentles-Mann in the Scout Section and Aimee Butcher in the Beavers. John Cornish has resumed as Beaver Leader until he and Deborah leave in summer 2023. This means we will have to find a new Beaver Leader from July.

We have three young leaders (15-18 years old) working with us. Lucas Hillard in Scouts, Benjamin Waterer and Dylan Andrews in Cubs. We need to recruit some new members on our Executive Committee.

The Groups' big fund raising refreshment stop on Ditchling Beacon for the London to Brighton Bike Ride went ahead in June, but we have decided that we will no longer continue to take this on as no one has come forward to take over from John Cripps in co-ordinating it.

It is hoped to hold the Group's AGM outdoors at Parkwood alongside a family Fun Day probably in late June/early July.

The Scout Group is celebrating its Centenary this year. We have invited Revd Robin Selmes to lead a special worship service on Sunday 29 October and we will be holding other events to celebrate during the year.

Ian Lamb, Group Scout Leader

3RD BRIGHTON RAINBOWS AND BROWNIES

Girlguiding numbers have grown steadily this year with 30 Rainbows and Brownies now enjoying fun meetings each week and a team of eight dedicated volunteers. Our programme has been as varied as the girls who attend. We've done craft evenings, recipes, and cooking, played games and of course worked on badges throughout the year. One of our Brownies recently completed her 1000km walking challenge badge, possibly the first nine-year-old in the county to do this!

The Brownies have been on two holidays; first up was a summer pack holiday to the glorious Parkwood campsite where they worked on outdoor challenges and competed against each other on the challenging assault course. We had campfires and singing and of course s'mores. That's toasted marshmallows, chocolate, and biscuits, for the uninitiated!

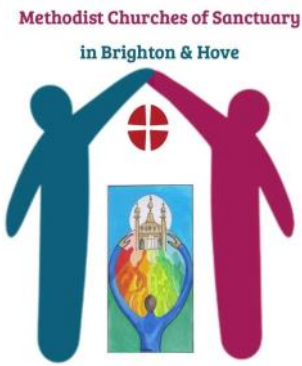
At Christmas we had a trip to the cinema to see Matilda, followed by a sleepover at Telscombe. Things felt very festive on the Sunday afternoon

with the South Coast's unexpected snowfall. The girls had a great time making snowmen in the flurries.

Leaders and girls enjoyed the wonderful platinum jubilee celebrations at Dorset Gardens, taking part in church activities and honouring our Queen, who of course was an important part of Girlguiding for so many years.

We look ahead to Coronation celebrations this summer with King Charles stepping up to the throne.

Dawn Crook, Leader, 3rd Brighton Brownies & Rainbows



THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church Brighton

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2022

Brighton & Hove	**Circuit**	**Circuit no.**	**36/12**

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number 1160211

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 Deborah Cornish

Church Stewards:

Susan Harrington

Elizabeth Whittaker

Brandford Osei

Ian Lamb

Steven Preston

Graham Wall

Treasurer:

Jennie Lamb

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church Brighton — **Church**

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
			£	£	£		£
a1	**RECEIPTS**	Note					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		36,856	26	**36,882**		36,436
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		1,531	104	**1,635**		514
a4	Lettings		39,584		**39,584**		27093
a5	Other receipts		114177	445	**114,622**		111,139
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		192148	575	**192,723**	(a7)	**175,182**

	SECTION B						
b1	**PAYMENTS**						
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		45272		45272		57772
b3	Donations		27261		27261		2960
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		36445		36445		16060
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		18764		18764		17220
b6	Cleaning		8409		9072		9072
b7	Other payments		20913	6339	27252		38638
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**157,064**	**6,339**	**163,403**	(b9)	**141,722**

	SECTION C						
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	(a6-b8)	35,084	(5,764)	**29,320**		33,460
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		165,724	122,818	**288,542**	(c6)	255,082
c3	**Sub total**	(c1+c2)	200,808	117,054	**317,862**		**288,542**
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	(c3+c4)	**200,808**	**117,054**	**317,862**	(c8)	**288,542** (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		20	168
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		1,839	754
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		1,859	902
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID**	(d1+d2-d3)		**20**

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														
e2														
e3														
e4														
e5														
e6														
e7														
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds									(e11)		(e12)	Check	TRUE
e9	**Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)**	192,723	(a7)	163,403	(b9)	29,320		(c7)	288,542	(c6)	317,862	(c8)	Check	TRUE
e10	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	192,723		163,403		29,320			288,542	(x)	317,862	(y)	Check	TRUE
	Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS		TOTAL PAYMENTS										

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2022	OPENING BALANCES		CLOSING BALANCES				
f1	Cash in hand							
f2	Bank Current Account	26,218		25,474				
f3	Bank Deposit Account							
f4	Central Finance Board	69,063		29,941				
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	193,281		262,447				
f6	Other funds	(20)						
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**288,542**	(c6)	**317,862**	(c8)			
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)		Opening	Closing
f9	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**288,542**	(x)	**317,862**	(y)	Check bals	TRUE	TRUE

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 1 September 2021	At 31 August 2022
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5

Name of Church Dorset Gardens Methodist No 36/12

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 22-1-23

Name and address of treasurer Jennie Lamb

38 Chester Terrace Brighton Post Code BN1 6GD

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 .....

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting D.A CORNISH Date 22/01/2023

DEBORAH A CORNISH

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Dorset Gardens Church

Charity Number 1160211

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Dorset Gardens Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 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

Name of Church ..... Dorset Gardens Methodist

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.

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Signature of independent examiner .....

Name of independent examiner ..... Mr S J Neate

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... FMATT retired

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

Address ..... 23 Surrenden Lodge Surrenden Road Brighton

..... Post Code BN1 6QB

Date .... 10th January 2023

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-22

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church Brighton

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2022

Brighton & Hove	**Circuit**	**Circuit no.**	**36/12**

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number 1160211

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 Deborah Cornish

Church Stewards:

Susan Harrington

Elizabeth Whittaker

Brandford Osei

Ian Lamb

Steven Preston

Graham Wall

Treasurer:

Jennie Lamb

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church Brighton — **Church**

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
			£	£	£		£
a1	**RECEIPTS**	Note					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		36,856	26	**36,882**		36,436
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		1,531	104	**1,635**		514
a4	Lettings		39,584		**39,584**		27093
a5	Other receipts		114177	445	**114,622**		111,139
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		192148	575	**192,723**	(a7)	**175,182**

	SECTION B						
b1	**PAYMENTS**						
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		45272		45272		57772
b3	Donations		27261		27261		2960
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		36445		36445		16060
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		18764		18764		17220
b6	Cleaning		8409		9072		9072
b7	Other payments		20913	6339	27252		38638
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**157,064**	**6,339**	**163,403**	(b9)	**141,722**

	SECTION C						
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	(a6-b8)	35,084	(5,764)	**29,320**		33,460
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		165,724	122,818	**288,542**	(c6)	255,082
c3	**Sub total**	(c1+c2)	200,808	117,054	**317,862**		**288,542**
c4	Transfers and adjustments					(c7)	
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	(c3+c4)	**200,808**	**117,054**	**317,862**	(c8)	**288,542** (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		20	168
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		1,839	754
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		1,859	902
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID**	(d1+d2-d3)		**20**

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														
e2														
e3														
e4														
e5														
e6														
e7														
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds									(e11)		(e12)	Check	TRUE
e9	**Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)**	192,723	(a7)	163,403	(b9)	29,320		(c7)	288,542	(c6)	317,862	(c8)	Check	TRUE
e10	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	192,723		163,403		29,320			288,542	(x)	317,862	(y)	Check	TRUE
	Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS		TOTAL PAYMENTS										

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2022	OPENING BALANCES		CLOSING BALANCES				
f1	Cash in hand							
f2	Bank Current Account	26,218		25,474				
f3	Bank Deposit Account							
f4	Central Finance Board	69,063		29,941				
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	193,281		262,447				
f6	Other funds	(20)						
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**288,542**	(c6)	**317,862**	(c8)			
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)		Opening	Closing
f9	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**288,542**	(x)	**317,862**	(y)	Check bals	TRUE	TRUE

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 1 September 2021	At 31 August 2022
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5

Name of Church Dorset Gardens Methodist No 36/12

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 22-1-23

Name and address of treasurer Jennie Lamb

38 Chester Terrace Brighton Post Code BN1 6GD

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 .....

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting D.A CORNISH Date 22/01/2023

DEBORAH A CORNISH

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Dorset Gardens Church

Charity Number 1160211

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Dorset Gardens Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 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

Name of Church ..... Dorset Gardens Methodist

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:

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Signature of independent examiner .....

Name of independent examiner ..... Mr S J Neate

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... FMATT retired

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

Address ..... 23 Surrenden Lodge Surrenden Road Brighton

..... Post Code BN1 6QB

Date .... 10th January 2023

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-22

DORSET GARDENS METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1160211

Accounts

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

Brighton

Annual Report ~ 2021-2022

Registered Charity No. 1160211 www.dgmc.org.uk

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The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

INTRODUCTION and MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

After the restrictions of last year due to Covid, it has been wonderful to see the church building being used again. For me the best day of the week is Thursday, the building is buzzing all day. It begins with the arrival of buggies and parent/carers bringing their little ones along for Tearaway Tots, the sound of children playing is such a joy. The mood then changes at lunchtime as people begin to arrive for lunchtime prayers and to set up the foyer for Open House@DG, then there is the chatter of Open House as people come together to play games, knit, and enjoy one another's company over tea and cake.

It has also been a delight to complete the sharing agreement with the Village Metropolitan Community Church, who use the worship space on Sunday evenings. We are looking forward to building on the blossoming relationship and working together collaboratively where we can.

The other major event this past year has been the God in Love Unites Us Report, passed at Methodist Conference in June 2021, giving permission for churches and ministers to be authorised to conduct Same Sex Marriage on our premises. Subsequently, this was taken to the Church Council where it was agreed that Dorset Gardens and its ministers seek authorisation.

The pastoral letters and worship at home material that went to everyone on the church mailing list during the Covid restrictions have continued fortnightly. This has helped keep people informed and even when people are unable to attend the church they know what is happening and continue to feel very much part of the church community.

It has also been a joy to see our various user groups return to the building for their meetings and activities; some of their work is highlighted within the report.

During this past year the church has been registered with the Inclusive Church Network, and we are looking at ways in which it can be a place of welcome for all. We have also received a bequest and have been considering carefully how best to use this for the benefit of our community.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to all those who make everything that is recorded within this report happen. In particular, I would like to mention Angela in the Office, Steve as Secretary to Church Council, Ian who looks after the fabric of the building, Jennie ensuring that our accounts balance, the stewards and musicians who help facilitate worship, the pastoral visitors who keep a watchful eye on all those who are part of the life of the church, Liz and her volunteers who imaginatively run Tearaway Tots and the various Holiday Clubs, and Cynthia, Graham and the team who run the newest adventure – Open House.

Revd Deborah Cornish

SECTION 1: WORSHIP & EVANGELISM

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.

Worship is a pivotal feature at Dorset Gardens. The return to worship started off slowly with windows and doors left open, seating arranged in compliance with the need for social distancing, the wearing of face coverings and no singing. As I write this report, it has been a joy to see more and more people return to worship, as restrictions have been lifted. In addition to the in-building worship, the Circuit is providing regular on-line worship, recognising the need for those who are unable to attend worship in a physical space. Weekly worship at home material is also distributed; this has been much appreciated by those who are house-bound and not connected to the internet.

Right: Anniversary Service, May 2021, led by Revd Geoffrey Farrar from Putney Methodist Church

The Thursday lunchtime Prayer and Praise Service is also a regular feature of the life of Dorset Gardens, and is much appreciated by those that come along. The Prayer Chapel itself is used by many people as a place for quiet reflection and the prayers they write are then used on Thursday and again in worship on Sunday morning.

Every month there are two Circuit-led online services on Sunday evening. The first is Thinking Allowed, which gives space for conversation and challenge; the other is a quieter more meditative service which might also include prayers for healing and wholeness.

Revd Deborah Cornish

SUNDAY CLUB

We have recently had a new young family start to attend our Sunday morning services sometimes. We are exploring different ways of helping them feel part of the service. As our congregations are smaller, there is room at the back of the church to put up a small table for them to do colouring, etc. We are hoping to take them downstairs for more active activities and our teens are quite keen to help with this. Meanwhile our teens are once a month or so having a "teen chat" downstairs during part of the service and, when they don't have to dash off straight after the service, are helping to serve teas and coffees.

Rosemary Cuthbert

VILLAGE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Although we began talking to Dorset Gardens Methodist Church (DGMC) about hiring worship space back in 2019, because of the pandemic it was 2021 before we were able to hold our first worship service in this beautiful space. Covid was the surprise that nobody wanted, but that we all continue to learn how to live with.

Time brought many changes. One member lost their partner, others have been battling cancer and other serious health changes – all made the more challenging because of Covid. Both of our deacons have been (and remain) seriously ill.

On a positive note, we did learn how to meet virtually, and going forward plan to include a regular online aspect to our worship. Like many others we have been warmly surprised at how many people like to worship with us virtually when they are not able to be with us in person.

Our first in-person worship service post-Covid was in August 2021. Because the lift at DGMC was out of order, access was limited for a while. However, it did give us a little time to get used to worshipping in a sanctuary rather than a day centre and work out the logistics.

We are currently meeting in person on the first Sunday of each month, adding in additional services to the calendar to mark special events. This year it was wonderful to be able to celebrate Easter both with the DGMC congregation in the morning, and with the Village MCC congregation in the evening. It was a truly blessed day.

World Aids Day Service, 5 Dec 2021. Revds Heather Leake Date & Michael Hydes

Thank you so much for making us feel truly welcome. We look forward to collaborating with DGMC as we move forward, especially looking forward to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Party in June.

Revd Michael Hydes

SECTION 2: LEARNING AND CARING

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.

STUDY GROUPS

Revd Deborah Cornish led a series of conversations during Advent, looking at the lectionary readings for each Sunday. After the enforced Covid closure, Mick Hickman's House Group restarted its study of Luke's Gospel in the autumn. For personal reasons this was paused in February, but it is hoped to recommence in June.

Revd Deborah Cornish

PASTORAL COMMITTEE

Pastoral care is at the centre of the church's mission and ministry. Currently, there are eight pastoral group leaders, along with the Minister, gladly giving their service. We are delighted that Freda Osei joined the team recently. The Committee meets twice a year and is responsible for the provision of pastoral care.

In and through pastoral care, the team ensures that everybody, whether a member or an adherent, has some kind of pastoral link. The pastoral leaders have been demonstrating their faithfulness as a Christian community by reaching out to a wide range of people both in the church and wider community through repeated visits, phone calls, letter writing, and social meetings, among other means. Both at Harvest and over Christmas, gifts were delivered to those who are housebound or in nursing/care homes.

During a wide range of circumstances and in demanding situations, the pastoral leaders seek to be a helpful presence, often listening attentively, supporting, encouraging, offering compassion and reconciliation, and helping people discover God's will and love. Over the last couple of years, the pastoral leaders along with the Minister have been helping

sustain individuals and groups through prolonged challenges experienced during the pandemic.

The act of praying is at the heart of pastoral work. Besides being in touch through visits and/or phone conversations, pastoral care providers continue to support members through a prayerful ministry. Pastoral care is available for all, irrespective of whether anyone attends church regularly or not.

Going forward our vision is to welcome new members to become pastoral group leaders and expand the team. We also hope to be part of the wider Circuit working group discussion, explore pastoral care collectively and prayerfully and look at how we can respond to distinct individual and collective needs.

Please continue to pray for our pastoral team and the work and responsibility we have committed ourselves to.

Deeptima Massey, Pastoral Secretary

Cynthia Tudor celebrating her 90th birthday; Celebrate & Remember Event, 4 December 2021.

Celebrate & Remember Event, 4 December 2021.

SAFEGUARDING

During the last two years I have attended several Webinars on various safeguarding issues: bullying within the church, supporting members of the congregation who have past experiences of abuse, and supporting people with dementia. This last one was extremely interesting. Many people with dementia report feeling lonely, isolated, and cut off from society so it is particularly important that we support them and help them to feel valued whilst at the same time being aware of their vulnerability.

Steve Preston and I are planning to do some safeguarding training sessions over the next few months. Training should now be updated every four years, so everyone who has a role in the church will be invited to attend.

Rosemary Cuthbert

OPEN HOUSE @ DG

Looking back at last year's annual report, I see Open House was still just a hope and a dream, having been stymied by yet another lockdown. The plan last April was to try to get it going as soon after 21 June as possible - and, wonderfully, on 1 July, the plan came to fruition!

Since then we have met every Thursday, come rain or shine, or Christmas or New Year or whatever. And it has never failed to be a happy meeting place for all and sundry.

There is a good team of regular helpers, headed by Graham Wall and aided by Beth Whittaker, Nick Firrell, Alan Cutting and myself and an equally good team of regular conversationalists and games players: Shirley and Selwyn Veater, Vikki Kennedy, Nancy Pollard, Mark Brogan.

We have lots of regular participants, some of our church family and some from around the community; but we also have some fascinating people who have just dropped in on their way to someplace else, and it has been a privilege to meet them. At Open House there is a warm welcome, good conversation, a chance to play a game or two or work on a craft (knitting, crochet, colouring, drawing, and at the moment paper chain making for the Jubilee), lovely cake and a cuppa – and plenty of laughter.

There is no charge for refreshments, but many people make a contribution, so Open House has made very little draw on church finances. The gatherings have raised money for Action for Children through sale of Alan's cards and for the 3rd Brighton Brownies – when they offered brownies for sale!

Our plan is to continue being a place to gather and enjoy fellowship every Thursday. Each week we know that as folk depart, they are glad they have had an afternoon together; they have been drawn closer to God because they have been with God's loving people. If you haven't popped in yet for a cuppa, do come along.

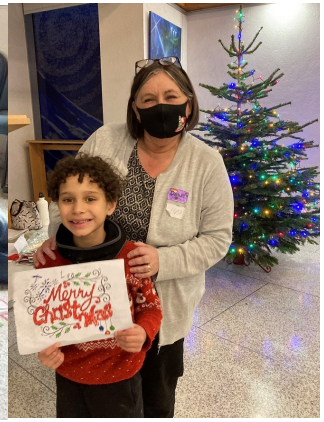
Cynthia Park, Graham Wall

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SUPPORT

It's been a joy to offer two sessions of Tearaway Tots each week for our youngest church members, providing stability and a friendly face for children under five and their families after two years of disruption. For part of the year, three church members have been regularly volunteering and this has been a huge help, not just logistically but also in meeting new parents and carers and really making everyone feel a part of the Dorset Gardens family. Toddler group continues to be a welcoming port of call, especially to several international families new to the UK.

Our primary-aged children had a full calendar of in-person events, with holiday clubs arranged to celebrate the start of summer 2021, a fabulous Christmas Club, and a brand-new Shrove Tuesday pop up. We had 48 children 'make a splash' in July, creating water-themed crafts, playing games and baking across all four days. Visits were arranged from

Southern Water to find out what really happens when you flush the loo (!) and the visit from the RNLI was another highlight.



Christmas Club was something a bit different - crafts and cooking for the children followed by a three-course meal for kids and grown-ups, all prepared by the children. The festive feast was a real celebration and felt a very special coming together at this most wonderful time of the year.

Shrove Tuesday provided flipping good fun with pancake activities, batter-making and some practice pancake tossing too. We ran this after school as a new event, and it proved popular with those taking part. The children enjoyed crafting some cute Easter lambs and Easter chicks, as well as solving a fiendishly tricky Easter wordsearch.

This year's holiday club will take place Monday 25th to Thursday 28th July and as ever I would very much appreciate the support that volunteers provide. I look forward to seeing some of you join in the fun and games to welcome local children and their families to our fabulous church.

Liz Neale

OUR SPACE: DROP-IN FOR 9 TO 13 YEAR OLDS

Reflecting on the mental health needs of young people in the neighbour-hood has prompted Jennie Lamb and I to start up a Youth Club designed to give youngsters aged 9-13 a place to hang out, play games, do some craft, make friends, ask questions about life, faith, the universe, etc.

Jennie's long experience with young people came to the fore and we took mental health advice from child psychologist Dr Sharie Coombes. We advertised at Carlton Hill School and with families connected to our Holiday Club launched "Our Space" at the end of February, planning to meet every other Sunday afternoon from 3 to 5pm. It was a fairly slow start - and has got slower; only two youngsters now attend. We have a very happy time, but to achieve its purpose, we need a larger and more diverse membership.

Our plan is to see out the present programme of activities and then to try to re-launch at the beginning of the school year. We may need to choose another meeting time; football on Sunday afternoons keeps lots of children busy. We also will need more helpers so we can meet weekly.

Avanka Fernando, who has experience with youth work, has proved an invaluable help, but we still need a wider team. The response from parents was very enthusiastic, so we feel sure there is a need for the club, but our efforts now are to find the right formula. If anyone would like to

offer to be part of the team, we would love to hear from you. And we would greatly value your prayer support.

Cynthia Park

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

In and through the combined Dorset Gardens & Woodingdean Newsletter, all friends are kept well informed about forthcoming services, events, fund raising projects, and new resources. Besides helping disseminate news, the newsletter helps everybody to stay connected and build a sense of community as we share thoughts and stories on a specific theme, tributes to those who have recently 'passed on', anecdotes, quizzes and puzzles, among other contributions.

Going forward, we wish to increase its readership and welcome suggestions and feedback.

I would like to express a huge thank you to Angela Millanzi for organising the material and presenting it in an enticing way.

Deeptima Massey

CHURCH STEWARDS

As COVID restrictions relaxed, we were able to meet at DG for worship services on Sunday mornings. The Stewards/Leadership Team met to put in place guidelines to make our meetings as safe as possible. As time has gone on these too have been relaxed, but we still urge people to be cautious and safe.

From these guidelines we have adopted some new ideas. For example, we no longer pass a collection plate during the service, but it is now placed by the doors at the back of the church so people can contribute privately. With the help of our treasurer, we are working on having either a QR code which links to a donation page or possibly a contactless terminal for card giving in addition to the current cash donations.

We are delighted that Avanka Fernando and Emmanuel Osei have volunteered and are now helping to run the AV desk. Vanessa and

Richmond Osei have indicated that they will be joining soon too, so we have a fabulous team going forward – many thanks to them all.

Now we are back on site on most Sunday mornings, we realise that we really need more stewards; in either worship or leadership role. If time permits and if you have an interest in the church, its running and future, do join the conversation by becoming a Leadership Steward and part of the DG Leadership Team - meetings are often held over a meal!

We would like to thank everyone who contributes to the worshipping life of Dorset Gardens; the preachers, organists, readers, tea and coffee makers, Sunday club leaders, AV desk operators, flower arrangers, welcomers, welcome desk, and hymn-book volunteers and to Angela who sets up the service to be projected on the computer each week.

At the time of writing, we very much look forward to the forthcoming Jubilee Party in the park on 2 June celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Revd Cynthia Park is organising it along with the Village MCC and Lunch Positive. Groups from the community will be involved as well as lots of volunteers and it will be a wonderful day of fun and celebration.

We also are preparing for Refugee Sunday, which is designated to be on 19 June across the Circuit reflecting our Circuit Refugee Project for which money, through sales of cards designed by Shirley Veater, and items are being collected.

From September 2021 Dorset Gardens was accepted as a member of the Inclusive Church Network which we are delighted about.

We are designing a printed 'banner' - copies of which will be hung on all floors of the church building as well as having one for the window and an outside option for events. It will start with 'we are a church …' as this was a criticism to which we wanted to respond. It will incorporate descriptive words such as welcoming, loving, and inclusive, all suggested by members of the church family.

Things are definitely different since COVID, but we are finding our way together in faith and love.

Sue Harrington

FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

FINANCE

Whilst some of our cost savings made a small difference the year (Sept 2020 to Aug 2021) included continuing COVID-19 restrictions which reduced our lettings income. Many of our members, particularly those who contribute by standing order, have been generous in increasing their giving, the income figure also includes some backdated Gift Aid. The year closed with a considerable deficit, which we hope to reduce in 2021/22.

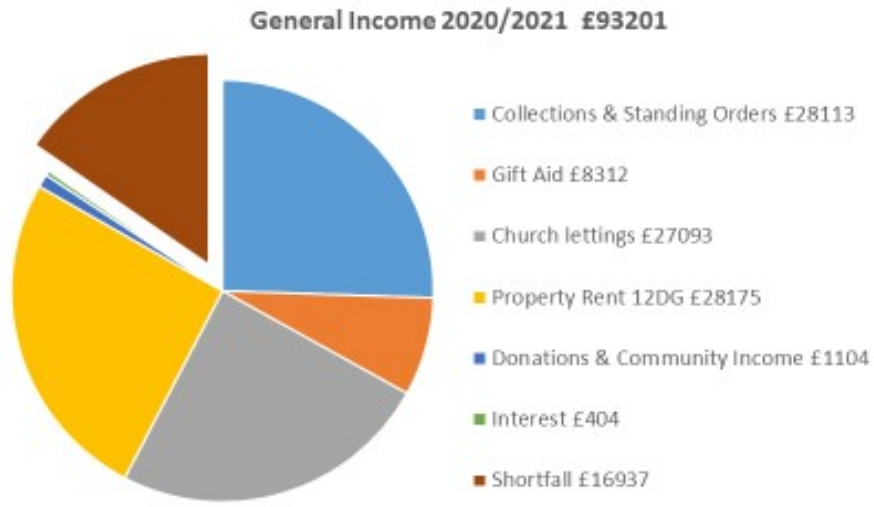
Our expenses increased across the board and these accounts don't include the cost of the lift refurbishment, which was started in August, the first instalment for the work was paid from reserves and further payments were made once work was completed in October 2021.

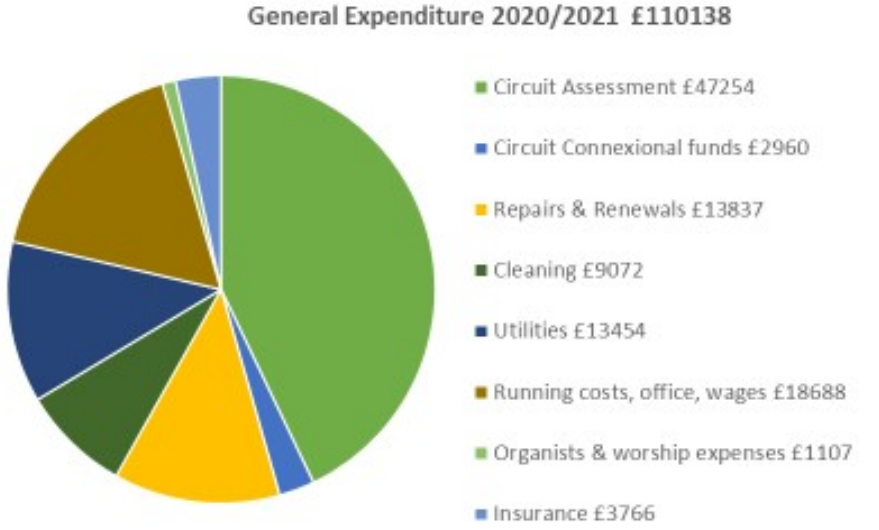
The diagrams on the next page show the general account income and expenses for the year ending August 2021, with the separated segment indicating the deficit. A full copy of the accounts is available on request.

August 2021 saw the completion of our five-year Counselling Grant, the programme which started in 2016/17 made grants to both The Clare Project and Dolphin House (now Held in Mind).

In October 2020 we were blessed with a large legacy from the estate of the late Eva King who was a member at DG for many years. Part of the legacy has been made available as a loan to the Brighton & Hove Methodist Circuit, it has also enabled further grants for both Held in Mind and The Clare Project, DG are grateful to be able to continue to support both these organisations.

Jennie Lamb





PROPERTY

We have had two major expensive issues to deal with this year:-

1) The lift broke down in July and a whole new circuit board was needed. Unfortunately, this came from abroad and due to various problems, there was a long delay before the new equipment arrived and was installed. The lift was finally working again by the second week of November.

2) No sooner had the lift been repaired than the underfloor heating throughout the building packed up in late November. The boiler that is linked to the underfloor heating was found to need a new heat exchanger unit. The whole of the system was drained and flushed and a new filter unit fitted as there was a large amount of sludge in the system. New actuator heads were also fitted on the manifolds. We were without underfloor heating for some weeks and hired some heaters for the sanctuary before buying two fan heaters to heat it. Following all the work the heating has been working well and the filters changed on a monthly basis to keep the system clear.

The other main property work has been new carpets fitted in the front area of the sanctuary, a new carpet in the small hall and a new doorbell system so that we now have a bell on each floor. The small hall was also redecorated.

We have regularly called in the electrician and plumber for various repairs and had a new sensor fitted to the single auto door. Various door handles and window handles have needed to be replaced and regular work is carried out to the many chairs to keep them serviceable.

Ian Lamb

BRIGHTON & HOVE METHODIST CIRCUIT

The Circuit continued with combined Sunday morning worship called Circuit Together, hosted at either Hove or Patcham, and now held every quarter. Online Sunday morning services have also continued to be offered as well as two evening online services every month.

There is a new Circuit Project for 2022 to support refugees, led by Sue Harrington and Deeptima Massey, and with the following vision statement: "Our vision is to make our Circuit a Sanctuary for All, where all feel safe and welcomed, including those fleeing violence, conflict and persecution. We will live out God's purpose and mission and offer hospitality, kindness, love and sanctuary to all through witness and service. We seek to build a culture of outreach and service by identifying

and responding to the needs of those experiencing relocation and displacement. Through this project we will share our commitment to support and advocate for student refugees and their families, working collaboratively in partnership with individuals and groups." There is more information on this under the Student Work report later.

CLT in consultation; Myth-Busting Community Breakfast at Hove; Project Card, designed by Shirley Veater

This project wants to link with City of Sanctuary, an initiative of the Revd Inderjit Bhogal, a former President of the Methodist Conference: https://cityofsanctuary.org It is a charity supporting a network of groups across the UK and Ireland working to build a culture of welcome and hospitality within our communities, mainly looks at the inclusion of asylum seekers and refugees.

Acknowledging that the Circuit will reduce to two ministers from September 2023, Revd Andy Lowe and the Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) launched a consultation process to plan ahead and think in some depth about how best the Circuit will fulfil its future role and mission. After a series of roadshow meetings which gathered considerable feedback, the Circuit is now examining potentially reorganising to become 'One Society covering Multiple Sites'. This feasibility work continues through 2022.

Following an extensive process, the Circuit Invitations' Committee recommended that Revd Andy Lowe be invited for an extension of four years from September 2022; and that Revd Deborah Cornish be invited for an extension of one year from September 2022. In other appointments Steve Preston commenced as Circuit Operations Manager with effect from 27 September 2021 and Jonathan Gravestock replaced him as Circuit Steward. Martyn Coblenz agreed to continue as interim Circuit Property Steward.

Restrictions from the covid pandemic negatively impacted income and reserves and so financial support via Circuit Reserves to individual churches continues through 2021/22. Following the Connexion appeal for additional pension funding, a contribution of £6,644 was approved to be made from the Circuit non-committed reserves fund.

Finally, Revd Cynthia Park retired from her chaplaincy role at the University of Brighton and thanks were expressed for all her dedication and work towards this role.

Stella Goddard, Circuit Steward

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Last year I referred to a donation by Mr Martin Robbins of the text of a sermon by Mr M. J. Cammish (Past President of the National Association of Headteachers [NAHT]) that Mr Cammish had preached at the Dome when the NAHT had held their conference in Brighton in 1979. Mr Robbins has now published many of the sermons of Mr Cammish.

Last year I also referred to the Covid-enforced deferral from 2020 of a deposit at the Record Office. I made my deposit of the Circuit archives, including those from Dorset Gardens, with Andrew Bennett of the Record Office, on Tuesday 28 September 2021. The next deposit will be in 2023.

Brenda Davies of Offington Park Methodist Church has deposited a record (33 1/3 LP) of the Revd. Dr. Leslie Newman's morning service at Dorset Gardens on Sunday 15 November 1959 with the Library of the Wesley

Historical Society at Oxford Brookes University. She had kindly offered it to us, but we already had a copy.

The Chapels Society will be coming to Dorset Gardens on Saturday 15 October 2022. They normally visit old buildings of architectural/historical interest. On this occasion they want to see a new building. The Revd Deborah Cornish and I will guide them around.

The Revd Deborah Cornish, and others, have given me for deposit orders of service for funerals. I always welcome such items. It is better to be offered the same item three times than never to receive it.

Mick Hickman, Church Archival Officer

SECTION 3: SERVICE

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice

TWELVE STEP GROUPS

The church continues to provide a safe space for specific twelve-step self-help groups based on a set of guiding principles for recovery from addictive, compulsive, or other behavioural problems and originally developed by Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). In addition to AA meetings, we also host Cocaine Anonymous (CA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meetings at Dorset Gardens, which reflect the ongoing needs within our local community.

BRIGHTON'S PASSION

There is now an entirely new format in the form of a 12-part television series. This is still in its formative stage. The new working title has not yet been made public and will remain so until the script is complete. The setting will still be contemporary, but the majority of the story encompasses several more city locations, a few scenes may still be in Brighton.

Tony Jordan has asked Poppy to write the script, with his oversight. Poppy has continued to repay Dorset Gardens from her own resources over the past year for which we are very grateful. The final repayment to Dorset Gardens will be complete in August 2022.

Mick Hickman, Church Council Officer for Brighton's Passion

THE CLARE PROJECT

Despite the on-going challenges of the pandemic, over the past year The Clare Project (TCP) has continued to go from strength to strength, providing essential psychosocial support for the trans, non-binary, intersex, and gender-variant community of Sussex. Alongside their core weekly drop-in that has been running at the church for 16 of their 21 years operation, the charity also makes use of the basement office space as a central and accessible base camp for the team to meet, co-work, and safely connect with service users.

Throughout the recent recovery period, we have seen an increase in demand and diversification of the support services and have recently began to run a monthly support-social space for our neurodivergent and/or autistic community members in the church, alongside outdoor activities such as walks and nature-inspired day trips. The ever-popular monthly Meet & Eat continues to switch up visits to local restaurants/pubs, and the long-standing 1:1 psychotherapy service is soon extending to pilot a new cooking-mental health discussion group 'Nourish'.

Having now grown to seven employees and several volunteers, TCP continues to pursue its core vision for inclusive healthcare for our community, supporting the running of the local Trans Health Hub, and providing essential training and support to Sussex's GP surgeries. Priding ourselves on being led 'for the community, by the community', The Clare Project is extremely proud to be seen as a unique and leading provider for trans/TNBI-specific community-led support in Sussex.

COMMUNITY LUNCHES

After a pause of two years we are planning to restart our Community Lunches on the 5th Sunday of the month (quarterly), starting at the end of May 2022. Some of our helpers are no longer available, but we have some new ones. We plan to run things a bit differently and will have a very simple meal as we have no idea how many will come.

Rosemary Cuthbert

COUNSELLING: DORSET GARDENS ADULT COUNSELLING PROJECT

It was 2014 when Revd Robin Selmes first approached us to run a counselling project at Dorset Gardens. As the funding now comes to an end we look back on a remarkable project that has enabled 95 adults to access 12 weeks of free therapy. This in turn has influenced the lives of over 150 children. The work with parents and carers has now become a significant part of our overall service to schools.

Twelve sessions of therapy is a sufficient time in which some difficult issues can be addressed and gives an opportunity for therapists to impart a range of tools to support mental wellbeing for years to come. Providing ways to help the parents and carers after their term of counselling has ended is really important to us and we now include a follow-up check-in service to further support this.

We have also started to diversify the types of therapy we are offering to meet a greater range of need in parents and carers. The impact of Covid has meant that many of our sessions over the last couple of years have been delivered online rather than in person. This option has also become a useful alternative for people unable to leave their homes or limited for time and for some it provides a more relaxed environment.

A most recent piece of feedback shown below epitomises the initial aims held by both us and the church when we first formed our collaboration to indirectly support the children in our community by helping the adults:

"The correlation between parent's mental health and children's is something I have observed and knowing I was under strain but not having the disposable income to budget for counselling I was very grateful for this service with my daughter's school. Access to this service has turned my mental health around and I feel I am a more competent, less distracted parent for my children. My daughter has benefitted from this service by having access to a primary carer who was able to be more patient and supportive to her needs as the sessions left me feeling more empowered, able to cope and with reduced stress levels."

Overall feedback from adults accessing the service has been wonderful and provided strong evidence of the benefits and support that has been provided. The feedback consistently indicates that most of our clients would not be able to afford other forms of therapy, which gives us yet more determination and commitment to find a way to continue this incredible and much needed service in the future.

Deborah & Ruth, taken in the Counselling Room used by Held in Mind.

The location at Dorset Gardens continues to provide an excellent confidential and comfortable place in which to carry out the therapy. The warmth and safety of the building and its community has significantly contributed to the success of this project.

We are indebted to the Dorset Gardens Community and the Methodist Church for supporting our work over the last seven years. On behalf of all

our clients thank you to everyone who has financially contributed and our grateful thanks go to all the staff at Dorset Gardens for making us feel so welcome. You have offered life-changing support to many and positively contributed to the mental well-being of the families in our city.

Alison Lucas & Ruth Lazarus

LUNCH POSITIVE

The last year at Lunch Positive has been exceptionally busy and highly impactful. With the return to face-to-face service delivery we have regularly supported around 60 people at each of our weekly lunch club sessions, including record numbers of people who are newly referred by HIV clinicians and nurses. Our cohort of almost 200 service users has included the return of many of those who had attended prior to the onset of the pandemic, now often seriously affected by social isolation and loneliness.

There have also been many more who have recently joined us expressing social anxieties, mental health issues, substance misuse, decline in physical health and other serious illness. Financial disadvantage and food insecurity are frequently difficult circumstances for many people.

The lunch club has continued to be an inclusive safe space of friendship, peer-support and assistance for the largest regular support gathering of people living with HIV in the city.

Weekly use of the sanctuary space to provide additional lunch seating and a well-resourced dedicated 'quiet space' for service users has been fundamental in engaging and supporting growing numbers with complex needs and high levels of vulnerability. Reflecting the consistently high level of need that we encounter, we have also employed a part-time worker to spend time with vulnerable people, help them settle in and make use of our projects. The volunteer team has worked exceptionally hard to adapt to new ways of working and to provide support for such large numbers.

We have recruited, trained and involved more volunteers than ever before over any 12-month period. In addition to the direct support we provide to people living with HIV, throughout the year we have also hosted a range of important community engagement lunches and events.

In September, we were privileged to provide a community lunch at Dorset Gardens which supported a visit to Brighton & Hove by Winnie Byanyima, the Executive Director of UNAIDS and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. This high profile visit focussed on Brighton & Hove as a Fast Track City and the community lunch enabled meaningful engagement with people living with HIV and a wide range of national and local service providers. One of Winnie's comments that resonates was *"Thank you and all the Lunch Positive volunteers. You have built and you sustain a community of people living with HIV, fighting stigma, partnering with researchers and the Council to spur prevention, testing and treatment that work for people. Awesome!"*

Gary Pargeter

OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS

A wide variety of community groups use our premises and they were the subject of a feature in the November 2021 Brightonian magazine, which is distributed to 12,000 homes and venues in the locality. A number of our major users are featured in this article.

Other groups using the premises on a regular basis include two performing arts groups: The Young Actors Group and Freckle Productions. Also Dance for Parkinson's and BeeZee Bodies (healthy lifestyle and weight management courses)

Dorset Gardens...a community hub

There's a hustle and bustle along St James's Street where people from all walks of life go by. So it's only right the neighbourhood has a space where everyone can feel at home.

Tucked away on a side street is Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, a four-storey tardis and shared community hub for this diverse part of Brighton. People are back in the building and keen to spread the word about what's going on.

John Cornish runs the Beaver Scout Group with children aged six to eight, constantly dreaming up new challenges. "We did milk bottle car racing this term and the Beavers raced them across the floor - everybody won a prize. We even sprayed fizzy water over the winners, Formula One style."

Lynn Staff is the Dance For Parkinson's co-ordinator. She said: "It's an opportunity to get creative, and using the imagery and choreography that dance offers, we can enable dancers to bypass the part of the brain that no longer functions well. We love being part of a community at Dorset Gardens."

It's not just Sunday morning hymns floating through the building – local theatre group Freckle Productions rehearse their magical shows based on books by Julia Donaldson. Right now they're working on Zog and the Flying Doctors with its energetic musical score and intricately designed puppets.

Food and friendship is an integral part of life at the Methodist church. HIV charity Lunch Positive provides grassroots support with weekly lunch clubs. Gary Pargeter explained: "Lunch Positive is led and delivered by people with HIV, and our work includes outreach to people at home, peer support and befriending, mental health support, and engagement with specialist services."

photo by Liz Neale

Children enjoy a healthy snack at the ever-popular Tearaway Tots group

Cake and a cuppa features strongly at Dorset Gardens, with the promise of a chat thrown in too. The Clare Project meet for their transgender support and social group, offering a safe space for advice and a friendly welcome to anyone wishing to explore issues around gender identity.

Children's worker Liz Neale runs Tearaway Tots playgroup for over a hundred families and their little ones, and retired minister Cynthia Park is part of the Thursday Open House sessions. She said: "It delights me that Dorset Gardens Methodist Church has been serving the community of St James's for over 100 years. The community has many very diverse people living within it and it is wonderful to become part of their lives and gain from their different perspectives and experiences." Cake is sure to be guaranteed.

Liz Neale

KEMPTOWN

STUDENT WORK

Our aim is to connect with and express to students and staff the love of God through our actions and interactions with them.

UoB – University of Brighton UoS – University of Sussex

The Revd Cynthia Park stepped down as UoB Lead Faith and Spirituality Advisor at the end of December 2021. The UoB team held a 'farewell and thank you' tea at One Garden in Stanmer Park during February 2022 (there was too much going on around Christmas to find a date we could all manage). She has done so much for our team, fighting our corner, and keeping our profile up in management circles; it is down to her, for example, that we got our (temporary) accommodation. I continue to represent the Methodist and Free Churches alongside representatives from other faiths and Christian denominations.

At the UoS I work with the Revd Dan Woodhouse alongside Chaplains from various other traditions and faiths. Our regular activities include:

- Tuesday and Thursday Drop-ins (UoS)
- Online Crafty Drop-in (UoB) weekly on a Friday for students and staff, now blended online and onsite.
- Regular Chaplaincy/F&S team meetings (UoS and UoB) via Teams and Zoom, now also on-site blended with online.
- The 'foodbank' at UoS continues with Meeting House Administrator, Janine, overseeing it.
- UoS monthly pop-up food events, sometimes using over-stocked or very short-date items from foodbank.
- Regular Facebook postings, tweets, and posts to Instagram (less so) updating DG website student webpage.

In addition to the above are these regular but less frequent events:

- Our funding to extend the UoB Arts prize has been reallocated; it proved too difficult to put together a structure for the prize to be extended across the whole University. Last year (May/June 2021) it proved impossible to award an arts prize at all and so we gave it to the Wellbeing Champions programme, which supports the training of students to become Wellbeing Champions, acknowledging the donors to be The Methodist Churches in Brighton & Hove. This year our prize fund has been given to the student pro bono law clinic where law students practise, supervised by qualified lawyers, helping people in the community. The prize acknowledges the student that gets the most from the clinic.
- Our "Green Wellbeing" day in the countryside at Saddlescombe Farm in October 2021 (UoB) went really well. We all found it an immensely enriching experience and the students were so invigorated they rolled downhill in exuberant delight!
- For Interfaith Week, (November 2021) we offered a light lunch in the UoB Mithras House restaurant. We had a small number of students join us, but the event was very much appreciated.
- Remembrance Day (UoS)
- At Christmas, we offered an online carol service jointly across both universities, but led by UoS this year.
- At UoB we offered 20 places at the Grand Parade restaurant's Christmas lunch. As ever, it was really appreciated by the students, and by one in particular who really needed the opportunity to talk. While there I found out that one of the members of the catering staff, who has always been so helpful when I've done events there, was leaving and she invited me to her farewell.
- At UoS we offered a buffet-style meal for students on campus at Christmas, although at the last minute, because Omicron numbers were escalating, we made it more of a take-away style – lunches were pre-packed by the catering team. Students were invited to eat at the Meeting House or take the food with them. There were also drinks on offer as well as a take-away goodie bag each and a little treat. It wasn't quite as festive as usual, but it was still appreciated. Several of

the Chaplains came along to help and to chat to the students.

- I kept in touch, online, with a few students over the Christmas period.
- FairTrade Fortnight/Shrove Tuesday (UoS); One World Week (UoS) & Mental Health Awareness week (UoB/UoS)
- We continue in our quest to have a dedicated space allocated to us (UoB) which will allow us to extend our offering (kitchenette, private meeting space etc). We appreciate the temporary use of a room, but it is less than ideal on many counts.

The Circuit meeting agreed that the project supporting refugee students and their families and working with UoS and other appropriate charities, would be the Circuit Project for at least the next two years. Hove Church held a Myth-Busting Breakfast on 5th March to help us understand the plight of refugees and asylum-seekers. The project was launched at the event. On 29th March we had an evening online talk "Sanctuary: working with refugees" with Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal OBE, founder and President of the City of Sanctuary movement and former President of the Methodist Conference. There is a recording of the talk available on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-itqHMTJ18. The Big Sing held at Dorset Gardens on 14th May raised over £100 for the project. We are also selling cards, designed by Shirley Veater, to raise funds for the project.

We have taken several bags of donated items (toiletries and household) collected by the local Methodist churches to UoS University of Sanctuary Team to be distributed. They are very grateful for our generosity. Subsequently the Circuit Project has been expanded to include any/all refugees in Brighton & Hove, we will therefore be working with other charities and local groups in the field. I met with the Revd Hazel Forecast who is the District's officer for responses around our District to people who have been displaced, are refugees or recently migrated to the UK. Our project is on her list, so the Methodist Church has an overview of its response to refugees.

After much careful and prayerful consideration, I will be retiring from this post as of the end of July 2022. Thank you, as ever, for all your help and support.

Sue Harrington, Circuit Student Development Worker
[N.B. This is a Circuit appointment]

SUSSEX HIV CHAPLAINCY

The last year saw a little progress in terms of resuming "normal" service for the Chaplaincy. We were able to have the World Aids Day Candlelight Vigil and Names Reading in person again, though we also retained the previous year's innovation of video messages shared via the Brighton & Hove World Aids Day Community Partnership Facebook page and YouTube channel, which made it possible for more people to mark World Aids Day with us. The World Aids Day service was held at Dorset Gardens, shared with Revd Michael Hydes and The Village Metropolitan Community Church. I continued to provide pastoral support as required, and also conducted a couple of funerals.

Towards the end of 2021 I stepped down as Trustee of The Martin Fisher Foundation, having served in that capacity (and as Company Secretary) for six years. I remain a Trustee of Lunch Positive and was pleased to be able to share in some of the Friday lunch club gatherings.

Revd Heather Leake Date

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: 14TH BRIGHTON SCOUT GROUP

As the restrictions regarding the Covid pandemic eased all three sections resumed weekly meetings outdoors for the Summer at different locations, the Beavers meeting at Queens Park, the Cubs at the Race Hill, and the Scouts at Parkwood. As soon as we were able to meet again indoors all sections returned to Dorset Gardens for their weekly meetings although the Scouts have also continued to meet at Parkwood once a month.

Since returning indoors numbers in Cubs and Scouts have improved and both are running at full capacity. The Beaver numbers have stayed low

despite many on the waiting list as we have insufficient adult help to increase numbers. There are 22 Scouts, 24 Cubs with 4 on the waiting list. There are 8 Beavers with 8 on the waiting list.

The Scouts have managed to run two camps at Parkwood Camp Site, near Poynings and also an indoor weekend at Blackland Farm Activity Centre, near East Grinstead, where the Scouts took part in a number of adventurous activities including zip wire, abseiling, archery, and orienteering.

The Scout Troop also entered a team in the Overland Hike at the end of March, which is a competition 25-mile hike over two days where they carry all their equipment and camp overnight. The hike is open to Scouts from both East and West Sussex and the 14th Brighton won the Scout trophy for only the second time in their history!

One of our Scouts, Dylan Andrews, has been chosen to go to the next World Jamboree which is to be held in South Korea in August 2023. We will be arranging some fund raising to help cover the cost.

In our Leadership Team we have recruited Darren Coulton in the Scout Section and Alistair Brazier in the Beavers. John Cornish has stepped down as Beaver Leader although he will continue to help following Deborah's sabbatical until he and Deborah leave next year. This leaves us very short in the Beaver Colony and Cubs could also do with at least one extra adult. Despite actively trying to recruit new leaders/helpers, so far we have been unsuccessful.

We have one new member on our Executive Committee, Richard Andrews, a Scout parent.

The Groups big Fund Raising refreshment stop on Ditchling Beacon for the London to Brighton Bike Ride is due to go ahead in June so hopefully will help us raise plenty of funds.

It is hoped to hold the Group's AGM outdoors at Parkwood alongside a family Fun Day probably in late June/early July. The Scout Group will be celebrating its centenary in 2023.

Ian Lamb, Group Scout Leader

THE OVERLAND HIKE

Hi members of Dorset Gardens Methodist Church. This is Gus from the 14th Brighton Scout Troop, who use the hall on a Monday. I have been asked to write this to inform you of our recent success in the Overland Hiking Challenge. The winners being Izzy Langridge, Dylan Andrews, Milo Dexter and myself, Gus Freeman. For those who are wondering what that is, it is a 25-mile hike spread over two days (15 miles on the first day and 10 miles on the second) plus an overnight camp.

For the competition, we had some training sessions, one of which was in the middle of the storm in April. This was a tremendous effort from everyone and a great team building exercise. Sadly, during the training period, we had to decide who would be the reserve for our team because the maximum in a team was four. It was a decision which came with a lot of sadness but at the end of it the decision was that Leo Johnston was the

14th Brighton's team reserve. Even though no one dropped out of our team, he could still fill in for a barbarian team who did complete the overland in a very respectable 24th place.

The Overland was on 26th and 27th March, the whole team had to get up very early because our check out time was 8:45. We had to be there 30 minutes earlier so that we could judge all our weight because there was weight limit of 10Kg each. The first day went very well for our team with us picking full hiking points at each checkpoint. At checkpoints we had challenges, these got progressively harder during the day. When we got into camp, the two tent pitchers – Dylan and Milo – were brilliant and efficient at putting up the tent and getting everything laid out. Izzy and I were the chefs, and we made a Quorn chicken, noodles and green been dish, then chocolate cake bars and custard for dessert. The reason why it was Quorn chicken and not regular chicken was because Milo was vegetarian (it didn't make a difference; it was still lovely).

Early in the morning, Izzy and I had to get up and put on some boiling water on our Trangia stove. Whilst we made chocolate porridge, the other two packed our tent up and put everything in our bags. During the making process an adult helper tried to help us keep the food hot, she put a saucepan on one of our pots. Sadly, this didn't end well because the ground was uneven but luckily, she helped us clear it up. The second day was much tougher than the first, with us going wrong in the first stage and struggling on challenges, we knew we were going to have to work hard. At one point they made us walk down a steep hill and then turn around and walk back up it. After that it was smooth sailing. With difficult challenges, we still had to be mentally active whilst still being tired.

We made it to the end with only three teams ahead of us, we knew we had done well. At the finish they provided a lovely meal and a great dessert. Then we waited. Our parents arrived and it was great to be reunited again. We all gathered round a truck where the leader of the Overland announced the places. It got to around third place and we

thought we had misheard him and we'd come 15th, but as he got to first place, we heard him call '14th Brighton' - it took a couple of seconds to sink in, but then it hit us - we had won!

Gus Freeman

3RD BRIGHTON RAINBOWS AND BROWNIES

The 3rd Brighton Brownies came to Dorset Gardens in September in their hour of need, when a previous venue remained closed post-COVID. Since then the girls have been meeting each week, enjoying a huge range of activities including crafts, games, singing, badges and more. Around 20 girls aged 7-10 are currently enrolled, with numbers climbing steadily, as well as a new intake of leaders who are keen to make DG their Girlguiding base. The 3rd Brighton Rainbow unit restarted in January, offering Girlguiding fun to children aged 5-7, some of whom remember coming to DG as a Tearaway Tot and others who have enjoyed church holiday clubs.

A highlight of the term was our chocolate brownie and rainbow cookie baking session. The Rainbows took their goodies home, but the Brownies donated all their wares to a cake sale. Church members and parents at toddler group helped the girls fund raise more than £70. Thank you for making us feel so welcome!

Dawn Crook, Leader, 3rd Brighton Brownies & Rainbows

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Dorset Gardens Methodist	Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2021

Brighton And Hove	Circuit	Circuit no	36/12

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1160211
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 D Cornish

Church Stewards:

Susan Harrington	
Elizabeth Whittaker	
Brandford Osei	
Derek Clark	
Ian Lamb	
Steven Preston	
Graham Wall	

Treasurer:

Jennifer Lamb

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Dorset Gardens Methodist — Church

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
			£	£	£		£
a1	**RECEIPTS**	Note					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		36,425	11	**36,436**		36,584
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		90	424	**514**		1,778
a4	Lettings		27,093		**27,093**		25,342
a5	Other receipts		102,540	8,599	**111,139**		20,035
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**166,148**	**9,034**	**175,182**	(a7)	**83,739**
	SECTION B						
b1	**PAYMENTS**						
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		47,254	10,518	**57,772**		57,771
b3	Donations		2,960		**2,960**		2,960
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		16,060		**16,060**		14,226
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		17,220		**17,220**		15,155
b6	Cleaning		9,072		**9,072**		2,615
b7	Other payments		20,320	18,318	**38,638**		30,801
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**112,886**	**28,836**	**141,722**	(b9)	**123,528**
	SECTION C						
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	(a6-b8)	53,262	(19,802)	**33,460**		(39,789)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		112,199	142,883	255,082	(c6)	294,871
c3	**Sub total**	(c1+c2)	165,461	123,081	**288,542**		**255,082**
c4	Transfers and adjustments		263	(263)		(c7)	
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	(c3+c4)	**165,724**	**122,818**	**288,542**	(c8)	255,082 (c6)

	SECTION D		
d	**FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS** (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)	£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year	168	1,202
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	754	2,159
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	902	3,193
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID** (d1+d2-d3)	**20**	168

Dorset Gardens 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 2021 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												
e2												
e3												
e4												
e5												
e6												
e7												
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds									(e11)		(e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	175,182	(a7)	141,722	(b9)	33,460		(c7)	255,082	(c6)	288,542	(c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	175,182		141,722		33,460			255,082	(x)	288,542	(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 2021		OPENING BALANCES £		CLOSING BALANCES	
f1	Cash in hand	28,964		26,218	
f2	Bank Current Account				
f3	Bank Deposit Account				
f4	Central Finance Board	61,056		69,063	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	128,447		193,281	
f6	Other funds	36,615		(20)	
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**255,082**	(c6)	**288,542**	(c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)
f9	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	255,082	(x)	288,542	(y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	4,710,817	4,710,817
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5

Name of Church .. **Dorset Gardens Methodist**

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 have prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the trustees.

Signature of treasurer ..... Date..... 06/01/2022

Name and address of treasurer ..... Jennie Lamb 38 Chester Terrace Brighton

..... Post Code.. BN1 6GB

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on .....

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting .... Rev D Cornish

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

..... Dorset Gardens Methodist

Charity Number . 1160211

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Dorset Gardens Methodist Chu the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages 1 to 5. As the Church's trustees, you are resp for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 201 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Ch Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Name of Church ..... Dorset Gardens Methodist Brighton

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 ..... FMAAT .....

Name of independent examiner ..... Mr S J Neate

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner .....FMATT Retired

Name of firm (where appropriate) .... N/A

Address ..... 23 Surrenden Lodge Surrenden Road Brighton

..... Post Code BN1 6QB

Date .... 7th December 2021

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-20

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Dorset Gardens Methodist	Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2021

Brighton And Hove	Circuit	Circuit no	36/12

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1160211
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 D Cornish

Church Stewards:

Susan Harrington	
Elizabeth Whittaker	
Brandford Osei	
Derek Clark	
Ian Lamb	
Steven Preston	
Graham Wall	

Treasurer:

Jennifer Lamb

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Dorset Gardens Methodist — Church

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
			£	£	£		£
a1	**RECEIPTS**	Note					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		36,425	11	**36,436**		36,584
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		90	424	**514**		1,778
a4	Lettings		27,093		**27,093**		25,342
a5	Other receipts		102,540	8,599	**111,139**		20,035
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**166,148**	**9,034**	**175,182**	(a7)	**83,739**
	SECTION B						
b1	**PAYMENTS**						
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		47,254	10,518	**57,772**		57,771
b3	Donations		2,960		**2,960**		2,960
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		16,060		**16,060**		14,226
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		17,220		**17,220**		15,155
b6	Cleaning		9,072		**9,072**		2,615
b7	Other payments		20,320	18,318	**38,638**		30,801
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**112,886**	**28,836**	**141,722**	(b9)	**123,528**
	SECTION C						
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	(a6-b8)	53,262	(19,802)	**33,460**		(39,789)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		112,199	142,883	255,082	(c6)	294,871
c3	**Sub total**	(c1+c2)	165,461	123,081	**288,542**		**255,082**
c4	Transfers and adjustments		263	(263)		(c7)	
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	(c3+c4)	**165,724**	**122,818**	**288,542**	(c8)	255,082 (c6)

	SECTION D		
d	**FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS** (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)	£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year	168	1,202
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	754	2,159
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	902	3,193
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID** (d1+d2-d3)	**20**	168

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

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Name of independent examiner ..... Mr S J Neate

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner .....FMATT Retired

Name of firm (where appropriate) .... N/A

Address ..... 23 Surrenden Lodge Surrenden Road Brighton

..... Post Code BN1 6QB

Date .... 7th December 2021

* delete or circle as appropriate

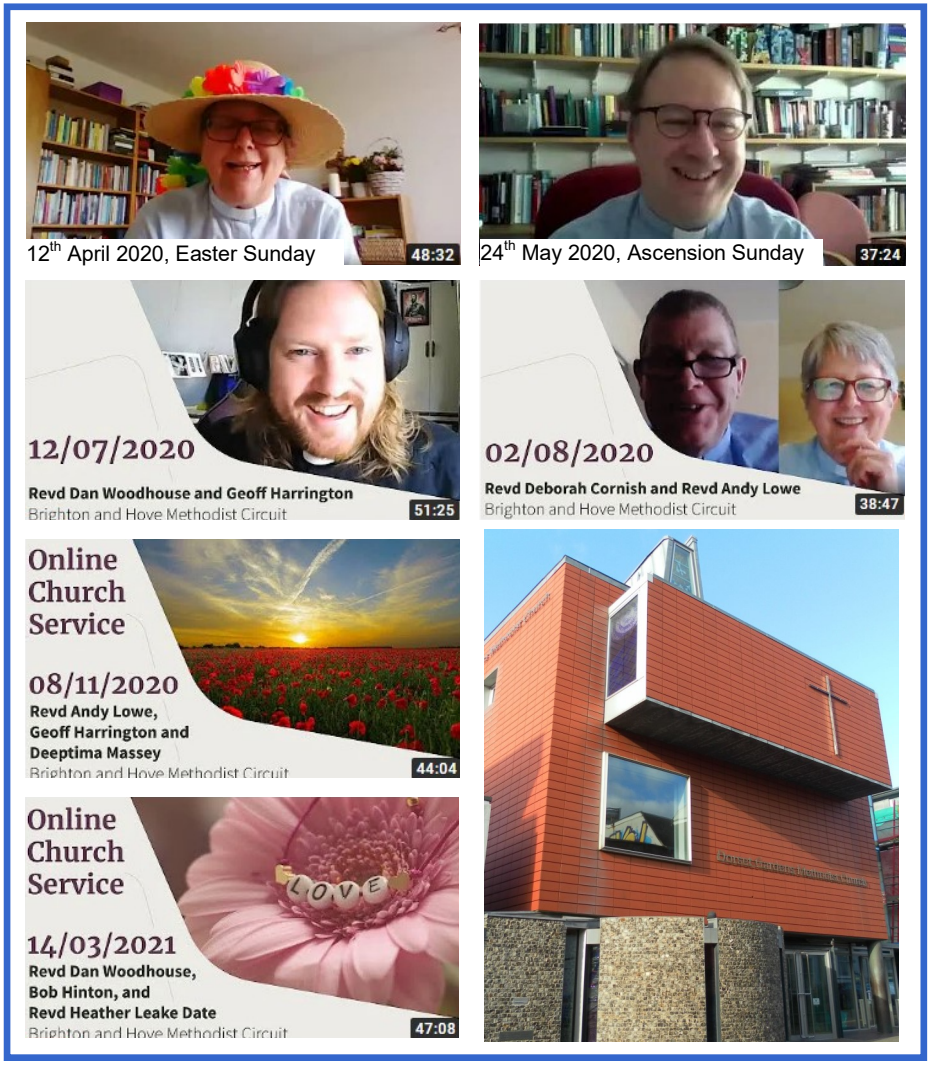
Sep-20

DORSET GARDENS METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1160211

Accounts

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church
Brighton



Annual Report
2020 - 2021

Registered Charity No. 1160211 **www.dgmc.org.uk**

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The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

INTRODUCTION AND MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

This, our ninth, report is written against the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic, which has brought immense challenges, not just to Dorset Gardens Methodist Church and the Brighton & Hove Methodist Circuit, but to the world. Many of the activities that would usually take place in the building have either been cancelled or moved to an online mode of delivery.

However, although the doors to the building have been closed to all but a few activities, the church (which is the people – the ekklesia) continued to worship and offer opportunities for learning and caring, together with service and evangelism; albeit in different ways. Lunch Positive has been the one constant onsite activity throughout this very strange and challenging year.

As you read through the reports, I hope you get a glimpse of the amazing people who have risen to the challenge of being church in a new way. I am grateful to those who have made online worship possible; the pastoral team for their valiant efforts in keeping in touch; to Angela who worked from home ensuring that people received weekly letters and worship material; to those who ensured that when the building was being used it was as COVID-secure as humanly possible. The children's holiday clubs have been offered with @home packs, and on site when permissible – Liz has been very creative in making sure that our children and families have been supported.

Throughout the course of this year, there have been a few personnel changes, several of which are named within the reports. I would like to add my personal thanks to Vikki, Alan, and Mikala who have stepped down from their respective roles as Treasurer, Pastoral Secretary and Church Steward. Also, Brandford, Derek and Paul who have redefined their roles.

As a church, there are many people that we need to thank for their continuing support and the work they have done to maintain the worshipping and missional life of the congregation and those with whom we are connected. Over the coming months we will together seek the future direction of travel in God's name, constantly bearing in mind the Government advice to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Revd Deborah Cornish

SECTION 1: WORSHIP AND EVANGELISM

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.

In March 2020, the world changed and we as a church had to do likewise. We began by sending out 'worship@home' material together with a weekly letter to everyone on our pastoral list. This has proved very popular as it helped people feel connected. This practice will continue for those who are unable to connect online or onsite after we return to regular worship in the building.

By the beginning of April 2020, it was agreed that we would hold worship online across the Circuit. We are very grateful to those who have facilitated this. It has meant that we have been able to broaden the scope of music used, along with interactive prayer using the chat option. We have also seen people return to church, who prior to lockdown were unable to attend onsite worship. These services have included an 'intergenerational' section as there are a couple of young families that take part.

In addition to the morning worship, there are two evening services each month, one is a meditative style and the other giving space for conversations about faith. Following morning worship there is also an invitation for people to join 'Coffee-Time' for a chat – bringing their own drink.

During the summer months a couple of Communion services were held in gardens and, in the autumn, we returned to the church building for an

act of worship. In preparation for the online Love Feast at Pentecost everyone received a piece of cake, and at Christmas everyone received a candle and mince pie for the online carol service.

Apart from Sunday worship, online services were also offered for Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, and the World Day of Prayer, together with twice daily acts of reflection during Holy Week.

The Worship Consultation Group met in October, taking advantage of the fact we could meet on the church premises. This was an opportunity to reflect on what had been offered during the time that the doors to the church were closed. The group postponed its meeting in March, as several members are unable to access online technology. There is a meeting planned during the summer months, when we will consider both Sunday and midweek worship going forward.

Revd Deborah Cornish

SUNDAY CLUB

I have endeavoured to keep in contact with our teenage family by email. The family have been tuning into the online services.

They did quite a lot of cutting out of letters for Christmas and Easter last year and this year. Although the Church has not been open for worship, these were put up in the front window of the Church to send a simple seasonal message to the people who come into the building and those who pass by.

Rosemary Cuthbert

SECTION 2: LEARNING AND CARING

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.

STUDY GROUPS

Revd Deborah Cornish led four sessions of Advent Conversations, using material adapted from *Making Room for Jesus*, by Liz Babbs; Published: CWR, 2014.

The Lenten material was produced by Revd Cornish based on parables and the hymn by Brian Rees '*The Kingdom of God*'. Both study groups were held online, with written material provided for those unable to connect to online groups.

Cynthia Tudor has also continued to provide material for folk to study and when permissible they have met up in a park to talk these through. The studies have included: "Problems in the early church according to 1 Corinthians" and some of the shorter books of the bible e.g. Jonah, Ruth and Esther. There is a post-Easter series "The Return from Exile" (See Cynthia Tudor's report).

Revd Deborah Cornish

PASTORAL COMMITTEE

Pastoral care is at the centre of the church's mission and ministry. Currently, there are seven pastoral group leaders, along with the Minister, gladly giving their service. The Committee meets twice a year and is responsible for the provision of pastoral care.

Deeptima Massey, as the new Pastoral Secretary, commenced her role in November 2020. She will be working closely with the Minister, the Pastoral Team and the Church Administrator, and also with the stewards in nurturing the life of the church. She is also responsible for maintaining an up-to-date record of members and adherents ensuring that everybody has some kind of pastoral link.

One way the pastoral leaders demonstrate their faithfulness as a Christian community is by offering help and care to a range of people both in the church and wider community. Care and friendship are offered by home visits, over coffee and/or through regular phone calls or emails. During a wide range of circumstances and in demanding situations, the pastoral leaders seek to be a helpful presence, often listening attentively, supporting, encouraging, offering compassion, celebrating joys and helping people discover God's will and love.

The act of praying is at the heart of pastoral work. Besides being in touch through visits and/or phone conversations, pastoral care providers continue to support members through a prayerful ministry.

Pastoral care is available for all, irrespective of whether anyone attends church regularly or not.

Going forward our vision is to invite new members to become pastoral group leaders and expand the team. We will be exploring ways of improving pastoral effectiveness that might be helpful in developing a fresh approach to pastoral work and then use it in the contemporary circumstances and according to distinct individual and collective needs.

Please continue to pray for our pastoral team and the work and responsibility we have committed ourselves to.

Deeptima Massey, Pastoral Secretary

SAFEGUARDING

There has been no Circuit Safeguarding Officer for eighteen months. It is anticipated that this will be part of the role of the Circuit Operations Manager (COM) when that person is appointed. However, it will take some time for the person to get into the full role and it was agreed at the Circuit Meeting in March 2021 that Mr Andy Willis be appointed on a short-term basis. Andy has some experience of safeguarding and is currently living with Revd Dan Woodhouse in his community at the Patcham Manse.

Rosemary Cuthbert

FAREWELL TO ART & CRAFT CLUB AND CAMEO

Sadly, due to the long shutdown, declining numbers and Shirley's health we have decided to close Art & Craft Club. We are very sorry to have come to this decision and we thank everyone who helped for their support.

Cameo has also closed and we wish to send enormous thanks to all those who helped with set-up, tea, music, clearing away and to all the

speakers. But do not be disconsolate, it is being replaced by a shiny new version where we can all meet and share some lovely times together…

INTRODUCING OPENHOUSE@DG

This isn't quite a report of something that has happened over the past year; but something that almost happened – and will happen (please, God) in June.

OpenHouse@DG is the brainchild of Graham Wall who met a while back with the Chichester Diocesan community worker, Diane Watts, to learn about Mental Health Cafés. Diane was hoping to establish these cafés in churches around Brighton & Hove as a way to support people with mental health issues and to signpost them to professional services. Although starting one up at Dorset Gardens was a great idea, finding a time to do so proved difficult. The formalities of joining up in a scheme which would be overseen by the Diocese and mental health services presented further hurdles. The idea was put aside.

However, as the pandemic began to take hold last spring and it became clear that many people were suffering loneliness and anxiety during lockdown, the idea was reviewed. It was decided to establish a less formalised gathering that could offer friendship, a listening ear and a cuppa to all comers. We decided to call it Open House and invite anybody and everybody from the church, the neighbourhood and beyond to come along. Tea, coffee and cake would be served (free), games would be on offer, and craft activities would take place. Helpers would be good listeners and there would be information available if people needed further support. We did our risk assessment and were at the starting line, ready for the opening shot – when the second lockdown was declared. When it was lifted, with Christmas imminent, it was decided to wait until the new year. And then the third lockdown was declared.

But wonderfully we are now looking forward to the easing of all restrictions in June and we can begin again to plan our grand opening.

The hope is to meet every week on a Thursday from 2 to 4 pm. A little team of helpers has come forward; some folk have offered to make cakes; but more helpers and cake makers are always welcomed. We hope to start as soon after 21st June as we can. More information will be available in due course.

Graham Wall, Cynthia Park

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SUPPORT

Tearaway Tots welcomed families back into church in the autumn term, providing much needed fun for the little ones. We saw new babies in church, and caught up with toddlers who have grown so much since the spring! Two sessions ran per week and parents and carers enjoyed a cuppa and a natter with friends. We continue to post themed craft ideas on our Facebook page, *Tearaway Tots at Dorset Gardens*, with ideas and inspiration for 100+ members each week. We are hopeful about our reopening in the summer… and we continue to encourage new volunteers from the congregation to join us, please!

Virtual activities took on a life of their own through the lockdowns. July saw an action-packed three days of fun with our HOLIDAY@home CLUB, providing awesome activities for more than 50 children. Our theme was 'close together or far apart, you are always in our hearts', and we proved we are so much more than just a building by moving all the fun and games @home instead. Children were sent a free craft pack with all materials provided, as well as instructions and top tips on how to have maximum fun. Deborah, Liz, Rosemary and Sue recorded a few how-to videos offering some tips and advice and a bit of comedy too. These were posted on our Facebook page: *Tearaway Tots at Dorset Gardens*, as well as on our website: dgmc.org.uk and are still available to view. Harvest@home Club proved just as popular and the packs were filled with free ingredients so everyone could participate. Many families sent in fantastic photos, contributing to a wonderful festival atmosphere! Shrove Tuesday Club was a new pop-up for 2021, with tongue-in-cheek posters reminding us 'We're flipping at home!' And more than 30

children joined us at home for our first Easter Club. The Easter Garden biscuit decorating proved particularly poignant on Easter Sunday.

Our Christmas Club was very special: a lovely group of 16 children spending the day in the Sanctuary. We played Christmas carols and made 'Baby Jesus in a candy cane manger.' Chocolate Yule logs were absolutely first class, looking good enough to sell in a cake shop. We're looking ahead to another real-life holiday club this July.

Huge thanks as ever to the volunteers who support the wonderful work we do with children and young people at DG. I couldn't manage this on my own and I really appreciate your involvement as we bring fun and laughter to families near and far.

Liz Neale

CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Over the last 12 months three editions of the Newsletter were published; each issue in partnership with our friends at Woodingdean

Methodist Church as well as Dorset Gardens. The Newsletter includes a letter from the Minister and Pastoral page. Special themes were adopted including a focus on *Good News* last winter and the most recent was *Hope Springs Eternal* which contained news from some of our members, sharing stories of hope during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The newsletter remains free of charge and is issued to members and "Friends of Dorset Gardens"; the majority now receive an electronic copy and it is posted on our website. Contributions to the newsletter are always welcomed and my continued thanks to those who have done so in the past.

Alan Cutting, Editor

CHURCH STEWARDS

As reported last year the plan to differentiate the role of stewards between dedicated Worship/Vestry stewards and Church/Leadership stewards was carried out and confirmed at the June 2020 Annual Church Meeting. Brandford Osei and Derek Clark opted to be Worship stewards while Beth Whittaker, Steve Preston, Ian Lamb and Sue Harrington stood for Church/Leadership stewards with Graham Wall joining this team. A big thank you to Mikala Benson, who has stepped down, for all her hard work and dedication over the years.

Video conferencing platforms such as Zoom enabled the team to regularly connect online and ensure the business of the church continued and at such an uncertain time there is much to discuss and react to. The focus of our September 2020 online meeting was on arrangements for the service to be held at Dorset Gardens on 11th October, our first service since lockdown. A great deal of time and effort went into ensuring the premises were COVID-secure and we were so appreciative of the various volunteers for providing music, flowers, AV and stewarding the service. Although all wore masks, and there was no singing, no refreshments or socialising allowed, it felt good to be back and Revd Deborah Cornish led an impactful service.

For our January meeting we were delighted to be joined by Deeptima Massey, our new Pastoral Secretary, and Jennie Lamb, our new

Treasurer and to hear about and support their plans. Going forward both Deeptima and Jennie will be invited and included in our leadership meetings. We know the future will be different and challenging, but we are optimistic and look forward with faith.

Steve Preston

FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

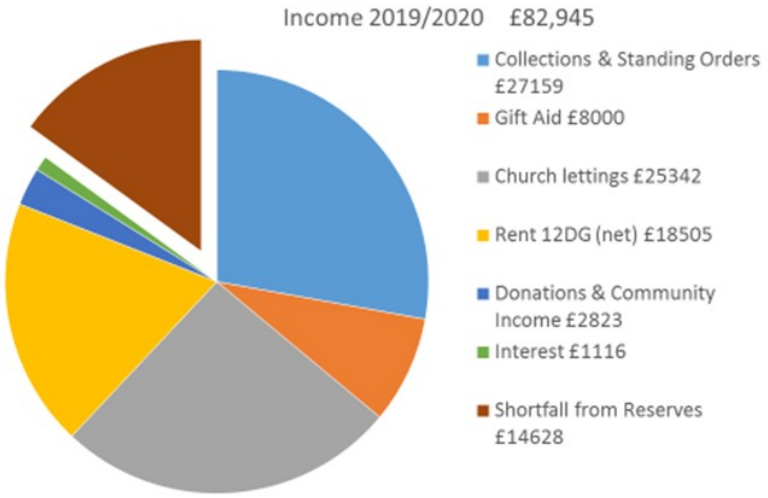
Finance: Last year we recognised the need to reduce an ongoing and growing deficit. Whilst many of our members have been generous in increasing their giving our income is much reduced this year due to the loss of lettings with Covid-19 closing our church building in March. Work is ongoing to reduce our costs and some of these savings will begin to show in the 2020/2021 accounts. However, Covid-19 restrictions continue and this will also be a year with much reduced lettings income. The diagrams on the next page show the income and expenses for the September 2019 to August 2020 year, with the separate segment indicating the deficit. A full copy of the accounts is available on request.

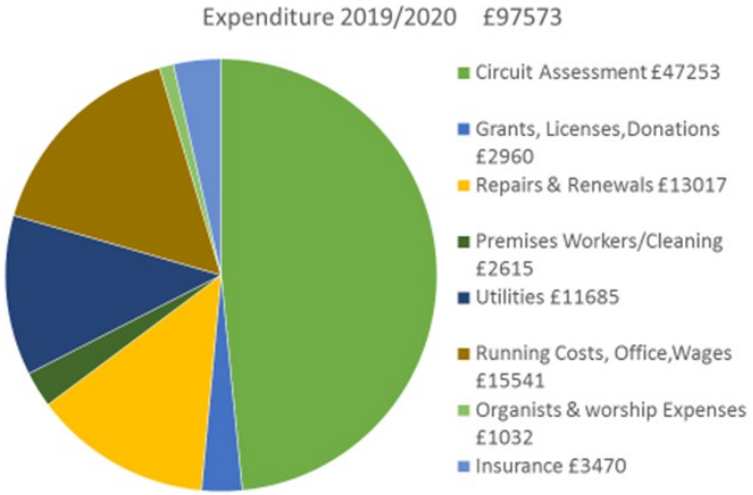
Since the financial year end, we have been blessed with a large legacy from the estate of the late Eva King who was a member at DG for many years. In the short term the legacy has been made available as a loan to the Brighton & Hove Methodist Circuit, looking forward we need to explore how we will use this money to remember Eva King and to further God's work in our City.

Thanks are due to Vikki Kennedy who has stood down after seven years as our treasurer and to Stuart Neate for preparing the accounts.

Jennie Lamb, Treasurer

Property: Although the church building has operated under many opening restrictions over the last year, maintenance and security continued to require attention and we are very grateful to Ian Lamb who has taken over as Property Steward looking after Dorset Gardens Church. He has focused on a variety of maintenance jobs as well as regularly checking the building during lockdown.





As a consequence of COVID-19 considerable work was undertaken to create a risk assessment template for the church building and a re-opening of building checklist, utilising material and guidance prepared by the Methodist Church to meet UK government regulations and ensure our duty of care. Physical changes included addition of comprehensive safety signage, furniture and material removal and enhanced cleaning regime. Whilst there was a major reduction of user

groups able to use the premises, for those that were allowed to return, individual meetings were held by F&P reps to ensure all safety and security protocols would be observed plus provide support and advice. These risk assessments needed to be monitored and updated, particularly as national rules and guidance changed throughout the year.

As reported last year cleaning had been outsourced to an external contract cleaning company, however, many time-consuming issues including unsatisfactory standard of cleaning, unreliable staff and poor customer service led to a termination of this contract and a replacement provider sought. A new firm commenced before Christmas 2020, with an experienced and dedicated cleaner, and results and feedback so far indicate an improvement of service and reliability.

We are indebted to Paul Harrington who retired after many years as Property Steward for the church, however, we are pleased to benefit from his knowledge and experience as he will continue to support as Property Steward covering the flats at 12 Dorset Gardens. In this role he has coordinated external painting of the building as well as a quinquennial survey as required by the Methodist Church. Although a number of issues were identified and quickly addressed, considering the building dates from about 1830, the report was generally good. In a challenging property market, we have continued to benefit from consistent rentals.

Steve Preston, Secretary, Finance & Property Committee

BRIGHTON & HOVE METHODIST CIRCUIT

The Circuit churches have continued to meet through interactive services and meetings throughout the year. The tech team have developed a wide range of Zoom skills as a result and we have been very grateful for their time and talent in enabling our 'virtual reality'. The circuit leadership team have met with church stewards to explore the shape and function of the Circuit as we navigate our exit from Covid restrictions. There is an expectation that the online services will continue. The ability to connect with those unable to travel to church or

living at a distance from Brighton and Hove has been a revelation. The real question is how each church uses its experiences during lockdown positively to inform its future focus, a question that will be explored over the coming months through prayer and consultation.

The impact of the restrictions on the Circuit Finances has been severe, with both income and reserves reduced by approximately 25% across the Circuit. The Church Treasurers have met together to produce a financial recovery plan using the Circuit Reserves to provide stability and support for the individual churches through to August 2022. As a Circuit we are very fortunate to be in this position. Our ability to weather this storm is thanks to the generosity of our membership and the prudence of those charged with managing our resources.

From 2022 the shape of ministry across all the churches will change as Andy, Deborah and the Circuit consider future plans. The generosity of Eva King and the thoughtfulness of Dorset Gardens has enabled us to proceed with our plan to appoint a Circuit Operations Manager. We are indeed looking forward to exciting times ahead.

Stella Goddard, Circuit Steward

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The intended deposit last year had to be deferred. I am contacted by people doing historical research, including family and local, several times during the year, and people also kindly give me material to deposit.

Mr Martin Robbins was left over 60 years of sermons preached by his old Headmaster Mr M. J. Cammish, a Methodist Local Preacher. Mr Cammish had been President of the National Association of Headteachers (NAHT). When the NAHT held their Conference in Brighton in 1979 he preached at the Dome (18 March 1979). Mr Robbins has kindly sent us the text of this sermon.

In the space of a few days, I had two different requests from the USA regarding the Revd Frank Thewlis, Superintendent of the Brighton

(Dome Mission) circuit, 1967-1975. There is now a biographical entry on the Revd Frank Thewlis on Wikipedia.

Cynthia Tudor has given me for deposit a number of items connected with the Revd Dr John Tudor's ministry here (1975-1981). Amongst these items is a manuscript report from a Class Leader on the members of their class. When this is deposited it will be placed under the usual 30-year closure. The Revd Deborah Cornish has given me for deposit orders of service for funerals.

The obituary of the Revd John Horner appears in the Minutes of Conference, 2020. He was the oldest surviving minister to have served in Brighton and Hove and was in the Dome Mission circuit, 1954-1955.

Mick Hickman, Church Archival Officer

SECTION 3: SERVICE

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

A year of lockdown has much reduced the income of our Methodist Children's Charity at the same time as increasing the need for their services. It is unclear at the time of writing if we will be able to meet on 11th July, official Action for Children Sunday, but hopefully there will be an effort to donate a monetary gift either in person to myself or via the church.

We are hopeful of reinstating the circuit concert with the Brighton Male Voice Choir in September or October 2021 at Stanford Avenue Methodist Church. This concert was cancelled in May 2020. More information will be circulated as soon as it is known.

Jean Morley

TWELVE STEP GROUPS

The church continues to provide a safe space for specific twelve-step self-help groups based on a set of guiding principles for recovery from

addictive, compulsive, or other behavioural problems and originally developed by Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). In addition to AA, we also host Cocaine Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and Co-Dependents Anonymous meetings at Dorset Gardens, which reflect the growing needs within our local community. All have worked within Government COVID guidelines resulting in online alternatives or socially distanced onsite meetings where possible.

Steve Preston

BRIGHTON'S PASSION

Dorset Gardens started its involvement with 'Brighton's Passion' in 2010, and last year I was able to report that matters were still 'very much in hand'.

In February this year we had a report from Poppy Szkiler that both Tony Jordan, who is writing the script, and his wife have had COVID-19. I am pleased to be able to say that both have recovered. Taking this news into account, together with further inevitable delays and changes, the Church Council decided to withdraw from the Project and to ask for the return of our investment of £15,000.

Poppy fully understands and accepts our position. She has already made the first repayment, which are from her own funds. The last re-payment will be made in August 2022. The Church Council has written to Tony and his wife to wish them well in their recovery, and also to Poppy with our very best wishes for the eventual success of this Project. We look forward to seeing it come to fruition.

I have also written to the Revd Cynthia Park and the Revd Robin Selmes, the ministers who have also been involved, to explain what has happened. They have each replied with full understanding and support.

Mick Hickman, Church Council Officer for Brighton's Passion

THE CLARE PROJECT

The Clare Project (TCP) offers support and social activities for transgender, non-binary, intersex and gender-variant adults. Having

been meeting at Dorset Gardens for fifteen years, they set up an office in the basement community room at Dorset Gardens at the beginning of last year. Since April 2020 the key officers have been working from their homes, however they have continued to offer amazing support via various online platforms, with occasional one to one meet-ups when absolutely necessary. This support has included 1-2-1 psychosexual therapy sessions to ten of their members, alongside continuing weekly drop-ins and monthly workshops.

Further to this they have also taken on three additional contracted team members, to encourage their sustainable growth as demand for their services continues to increase. Despite the challenges the last year has brought to TCP, their overall engagement has continued to grow and diversify, and they look forward to re-engaging with the community as opportunities arise.

Revd Deborah Cornish

COUNSELLING: DORSET GARDENS ADULT COUNSELLING PROJECT

Held in Mind

It is incredible to think that it was seven years ago when Revd Robin Selmes first approached us to run a counselling project at Dorset Gardens.

At the time we were part of Dolphin House Charity and working in an outreach project at seven city centre primary schools. We met with Robin via our mutual work at Carlton Hill School to discuss a service that could provide much needed therapeutic support to parents and carers. We all recognised the considerable strains experienced by some adults in the course of their parenting, particularly when they themselves had struggles. We also all recognised the knock-on positive impact that support of the adults could have for their children.

In the Summer term of 2014, we began to see our first clients. Since that time the generous funding from Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

has enabled over 84 adults to access 12 weeks of free therapy. This in turn has influenced the lives of over 140 children.

The feedback from adults accessing the service has been wonderful and provided strong evidence of the benefits and support that has been provided. Over 74% of the cases seen reported significant improvements in their well-being after just 12 sessions.

Here are a few of the feedback comments we have received:-

- *I really appreciate the help I have received; it has helped me to become stronger and more able to move forward in my life with more positivity*
- *I am hugely grateful for this service. My life with my children is improved, I am happier, they are happier – thank you, thank you.*
- *Thank you so much. I will be eternally grateful for this counselling – it has been so very helpful in terms of me living a better life.*

We are indebted to the Dorset Gardens Community and the Methodist Church for supporting this project over the last seven years.

Much has changed during our time working together, not least of which occurring from the challenges of the last 12 months during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The location at Dorset Gardens has provided us with an excellent confidential and comfortable place in which to carry out the therapy, and the warmth and safety of the building and its community has significantly contributed to its success.

We would wish to pay particular thanks to Robin Selmes and Deborah Cornish for their unwavering support of the work and to Angela and all the team at Dorset Gardens in making us feel so welcome.

On behalf of all our clients thank you to everyone who has financially supported this project. It has offered life-changing support to many and positively contributed to the mental well-being of the families in our city.

Alison Lucas & Ruth Lazarus

LUNCH POSITIVE

The year started with the pausing of the HIV lunch club and supper group to comply with Covid-19 measures. The team at Lunch Positive immediately adapted and scaled up their services to provide weekly deliveries of cooked food and groceries to people at home who were unable to afford food, to cook or shop for themselves, self-isolating or shielding. This support reached existing service users and many new people, particularly those with complex health issues. Still continuing at this time, the food outreach service has so far provided over 30,000 meals to over 260 people in Brighton & Hove and West Sussex. Alongside this the charity introduced and has continued to develop regular 'companion phone calls' to people who are socially isolated or lonely. This is now a permanent service and has also led Lunch Positive to form a new community HIV befriending service in partnership with loneliness charity Together Co. As opening opportunities have allowed, Lunch Positive has provided a much-needed drop-in community food stall and takeaway food to people, and occasional shared meal sessions, including a Christmas lunch.

This year the volunteer team has given over 11,000 hours of time, all directed towards improving the health and wellbeing of people with HIV, especially those for whom Covid has exacerbated loneliness, anxiety and poor health. Lunch Positive has appeared as a case study in the Sussex-wide report on the impact of the voluntary sector in supporting people's health during the Covid-19 pandemic. They want to thank everyone at DGMC for their support in enabling these important frontline activities over the last year.

Gary Pargeter

OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS

During the course of this past twelve months, we have kept in touch with the various groups that use the premises. Some of those groups have written a report and you can read for yourself what they have been doing. Other groups have used the premises when COVID-restrictions

have permitted, this includes the two performing art groups: Young Actors and Freckle Productions. Others, such as Dance for Parkinsons and Art & Friends are looking forward to returning. Sadly, Slimming World and Gentle Exercise have ceased meeting and will not be returning to the premises.

Members of the Finance and Property Group have assisted many of these groups with their Covid-secure risk assessments in order to facilitate their return to the premises.

Revd Deborah Cornish

STUDENT WORK

Our aim is to connect with and express to students and staff the love of God through our actions and interactions with them.

I work with the Revd Cynthia Park (Lead Faith & Spirituality Adviser) at University of Brighton (UoB) and the Revd Dan Woodhouse at University of Sussex (US) alongside teams from other traditions and faiths.

Our regular activities include:

- Online Crafty Drop-in (UoB) weekly on a Thursday for students and staff [New]
- Regular Chaplaincy/F&S team meetings (US and UoB) via Teams and Zoom.
- Regular Race and Faith team meetings (UoB) via Zoom
- The 'foodbank' at US continues via Meeting House Administrator, Janine, going in to receive food and distribute to students, I continue to support her and check in with her regularly.
- Regular Facebook postings, Tweets and posts to Instagram (less so)

In addition to the above are these regular but less frequent events, all held online over the past year. These included a Carol Service (joint UoB/US), Holocaust Memorial Day (joint UoB/US), FairTrade Fortnight, One World Week & Mental Health Awareness week, Graduate Show & prize-giving (UoB) and Remembrance Day (joint UoB/US). A Mindfulness course was offered by the Buddhist Faith & Spirituality adviser (UoB).

New initiatives this last year included:

- In association with the Race & Faith Team, we put out a series of blog posts through Holy Week which were then shared to Twitter and Facebook. We are continuing this for Muslims during Ramadan.
- We hope to help with food distribution (delivery socially distanced) for meals to break the fast to Muslim students during Ramadan.
- As the Crafty Drop-in is proving popular, it is being extended to US on Fridays.
- When we are permitted back on campus both drop-ins will become in person meetings.

Our funding to extend the Arts prize has been reallocated; it proved too difficult to put together a structure for the prize to be extended across the whole University (UoB). In the meantime, we have been contacted by SSGTs (Student Support and Guidance Tutors) and a student support manager, asking if we can help students in need who fall outside University emergency funding criteria, but who are in immediate short-term need. We have therefore created our 'Crisis Fund' from the prize money and have already helped two students. It is something like a benevolent fund and we make it clear it is coming from the Methodist Church and not the University. We also offer advice on where else to get further help e.g., food banks. We feel this is, in many ways, a better use of the money and sits comfortably with our Methodist commitment to social responsibility.

We are really looking forward to getting back on campus, although this may be a little while yet.

We hope to have a dedicated space allocated to us (UoB) soon which will allow us to extend our offering (kitchenette, private meeting space etc). Also, we plan to offer a day in the countryside "Green Wellbeing" at Saddlescombe Farm which will be open to students and staff, but because of current restrictions will probably have to be in October. There is indoor space available if the weather is bad and if we are permitted.

Thank you, as ever, for all your help and support.

Sue Harrington, Circuit Student Development Worker
(N.B. A Circuit appointment)

SUSSEX HIV CHAPLAINCY

This year's Chaplaincy activities have inevitably been more limited, mainly because of the reduction in community gatherings. The World Aids Day Vigil was held online, with the reading of names and speeches recorded in advance and edited and broadcast on behalf of the Brighton and Hove World Aids Day Community Partnership by David Fray from 'More to me than HIV'. Do check out their online exhibition at http://moretomethanhiv.life/

I remain a Trustee of the Martin Fisher Foundation and of Lunch Positive, and continue to provide pastoral and spiritual care to people living with, or affected by, HIV.

Revd Heather Leake Date

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: 14TH BRIGHTON SCOUT GROUP

The restrictions regarding the Covid pandemic have meant that all sections were rarely able to meet face-to-face this year. When restrictions were eased, we were able to hold some outdoor meetings at the District Camp Site at Parkwood near Poynings in September/October which were very successful.

The Scout Troop have held regular Zoom meetings via the internet on Monday evenings throughout that have been well attended. The Cub Pack did hold some Zoom meetings but as attendances were poor, they did not continue. The Beaver Colony were invited to join the Cub Zoom meetings but no one joined in. It is difficult to assess numbers in each of the sections. We believe that the Scout numbers have probably stayed stable, but think we may have lost around 30% of the children in Cubs and Beavers.

In our Leadership Team Sophie Stamoulis has now left for University and Ava Donnelly completed her three months Service for D of E. Teresa

Russell has also stood down due to starting a new job. This leaves us a bit thin on the ground for leaders particularly in Beavers. Peter Mooring has stood down as Chair of our Executive Committee and is no longer a member. Euan Freeman, a Scout parent, has now taken over as Chair and Nick Cochrane, a Beaver parent, has joined the committee.

The Group's big fund raising refreshment stop on Ditchling Beacon for the London to Brighton Bike Ride in June has again been cancelled due to Covid so we have no fund raising in the pipeline. Fortunately, we did receive a grant from the Scout Association which has alleviated our financial deficits. The Group's AGM was eventually held via Zoom.

Ian Lamb, Group Scout Leader

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Living with Lockdown: (How Long, O Lord, How Long?)

Not long after the pandemic really started to bite in March 2020, I received a text from my GP's surgery followed by a letter from the Royal Sussex County Hospital. Because of my age and a pre-existing medical condition, I was classified by the NHS as very vulnerable to the virus. The letter informed me that, should I contract Covid 19, I was likely to become extremely ill and would probably be hospitalised. I was advised to remain at home, to avoid mixing socially and to maintain a scrupulously strict regime of personal hygiene, hand washing, etc. Although pleased that the NHS was monitoring my personal health so assiduously, it wasn't exactly good news.

My next series of contacts cheered me up greatly. The first was a note through the door from a young woman in our street, whom we did not know, informing us that she was starting a residents' Covid-19 support group. She gave her email address and phone number and asked us to contact her with any needs we may have, such as shopping, phone calls for company, etc, during lockdown. Her note was followed by three others from our immediate neighbours, giving their contact details and

also offering to shop for us or meet any other needs we may have. All of these neighbours are much younger than us with families and responsibilities of their own.

Our own children then engaged in role reversal, becoming parents to us, telling us to keep safe by staying at home and that they would care for us. We had to email them with a weekly shopping list which they then delivered, ringing the doorbell, placing the shopping in the porch and retreating several metres so we could hold a distanced conversation. It was so frustrating not being able to thank them with a hug and a kiss as we normally would.

Fortunately, we have a garden, so were not confined to the house itself, which made us think of those trapped in the upper stories of blocks of flats without even a balcony. The telephone and laptop became real lifelines; we spoke to our children every other day and called and emailed other family members and friends regularly. As the weather improved, we started to take regular walks for fresh air and exercise, at first just around the streets near us, then to the open spaces of Coney Wood, Windmill Ridge, Green Ridge and Withdean Park. Following the seasons in those green spaces was so rewarding; watching buds bursting forth into leaf, blossom arriving, the new fruit growing in its place and finally everything changing colour, dying and dropping. Birdsong was a special treat as it was so prolific and unusually audible because of the reduction in traffic noise. We did the same walk only last week and it was just as if we had returned to last March; bare branches with only the slightest hint of new buds arriving. It felt like a re-run of Groundhog Day.

Ten years ago, I started to write my life story for our children and grandchildren but never got far with it, so I began again and this time brought it right up to date. It took me almost nine months and has now been published under the title “From Chapel to Chief Constable; Principles, Politics and Public Service” and is available via Amazon and in Kindle version. The process itself caused me to think carefully about what really is important in life. The pandemic seems to have brought out

both the best and the worst in humankind. Thankfully our personal experience has been of the best, with the worst restricted to the TV news. One incredibly good piece of news was the rapid regulatory approval of a series of new vaccines and the successful roll-out of an inoculation programme for the most vulnerable members of the population. Fortunately for us our GP’s surgery was one of the first in Brighton to offer the vaccine and we received our first dose before Christmas with the second three weeks later at the beginning of January.

In normal times I’m a member of a variety of social groups, none of which can now meet face to face. Some have discovered the merits of Zoom, although it’s hard to imagine an online replacement for ballroom dancing. I used to get through a couple of books a week from the local library but that’s no longer available and E-books, although better than nothing, are not a satisfactory alternative for me. I enjoy having a real book in my hands, turning the pages back and forth. I would be lost without my daily newspaper and BBC Radio 4. Regrettably, time with other people has had to be replaced by solitary pursuits such as crosswords, Sudoku, 1000-piece jigsaws and watching Netflix.

Kathleen and I are grateful for the regular Methodist Church worship sheet and join the weekly Circuit service via Google, but do miss worshipping at DG each week as part of a physical congregation. Social distancing for worship in church seems to be a contradiction in terms and what is ‘born in song’ Methodism without Charles Wesley hymns? An old ‘Wayside Pulpit’ poster I remember from many years ago read, “You may worship God in solitude, but you can only serve Him in the multitude.” That may or may not be true, but I sorely miss communal worship.

Given so much time to think, I am more than ever convinced that faith centred on belief alone is both insufficient and inadequate. That is my stance and I don’t expect everyone to agree with me. My faith does not depend on dogma, doctrine or belief. I do not need a creed. What I do with my life is the important thing, not what I claim to believe. It’s how

I relate to my fellow human beings; how I try to live my life as a follower of Jesus. He didn't call us to worship him, he called us to follow him. I take inspiration from John Wesley's instruction to his followers all those years ago, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

Dr Tony Leonard, March 2021

A Different Perspective on Lockdown

Worship: As my daughter provided me with a tablet programmed to receive YouTube, I have been able to access a variety of worship experiences as well as the Circuit one. They have been remarkably uplifting and encouraging either as live broadcasts or pre-videoed ones and connected me with some of my previous churches including the one where I grew up and received my initial note to preach! These have made Sunday very special and compensated in part for the absence of live worship at DG.

Bible Conversations: We have attempted to keep these going through-out by circulating some suggestions for study and reflection at home or when it was possible for two or three to gather together and the weather was suitable to meet for this in the park. These included "Problems in the early church according to 1 Corinthians" and some of the shorter books of the bible, e.g. Jonah, Ruth and Esther. There is a post-Easter series entitled "The Return from Exile".

Pastoral Care: Having time on my hands has been one of the benefits of lockdown as it has meant having plenty of opportunities to keep in touch with my pastoral care group as well as other members and friends, either by phone or email. This has made up in part for not seeing them at church or visiting them in their homes and in many cases given the opportunity for longer conversations rather than fleeting greetings we offer each other when we meet at church. At Christmas and Easter, thanks to those who organized it, I was also able to take gifts to some of our more vulnerable friends.

Fellowship: Not being able to gather for worship, prayer or just social events is the feature of church life that we have missed most in this last year perhaps despite all the other ways we have created of keeping in touch.

As a journalist wrote the other day in a different context, "Nothing can replicate the warmth of being together in silence". This is just what I feel we experience in corporate worship and our Thursday prayer and praise service as well as our after-worship chatter or fellowship group. It will be good to be able to be there again and feel that warmth of being together.

Another gap in our togetherness has been not sharing in communion. When last Easter the Archbishop broadcast a communion service from his kitchen, I provided myself with some bread and juice and shared in it following the liturgy and all the responses and felt perfectly connected only later discovering that this sadly was not allowed! However, I have to admit that whenever the opportunity has arisen, I have done so again. Sharing in the love feast has been good but it isn't the same so it will be a blessing indeed when that live communion service can be resumed.

Cynthia Tudor

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Dorset Gardens Brighton	Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2020

Brighton and Hove	Circuit	Circuit no	36/12

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1160211
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 Deborah Cornish

Church Stewards:

Mrs Susan Harrington	Miss Elizabeth Whittaker
Mr Brandford Osei	Ms Mikala Benson
Mr Ian Lamb	Mr Derek Clark
Mr Steven Preston	

Treasurer:

Mrs Vikki Kennedy

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Dorset Gardens Brighton — **Church**

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year	
			£	£	£		£	
a1	**RECEIPTS**	**Note**						
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		36,528	56	**36,584**		44,972	
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		1,116	662	**1,778**		3,175	
a4	Lettings		25,342		**25,342**		37,075	
a5	Other receipts		19,959	76	**20,035**		25,883	
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**82,945**	**794**	**83,739**	**(a7)**	**111,105**	
	SECTION B							
b1	**PAYMENTS**							
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		47,253	10,518	**57,771**		65,751	
b3	Donations		2,960		**2,960**		3,357	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		14,226		**14,226**		93,525	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		15,155		**15,155**		14,372	
b6	Cleaning		2,615		**2,615**		7,108	
b7	Other payments		16,943	13,858	**30,801**		30,467	
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**99,152**	**24,376**	**123,528**	**(b9)**	**214,580**	
	SECTION C							
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	**(a6-b8)**	(16,207)	(23,582)	**(39,789)**		(103,475)	
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		127,751	167,120	**294,871**	**(c6)**	398,346	
c3	**Sub total**	**(c1+c2)**	111,544	143,538	**255,082**		**294,871**	
c4	Transfers and adjustments		655	(655)		**(c7)**		
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	**(c3+c4)**	**112,199**	**142,883**	**255,082**	**(c8)**	**294,871**	**(c6)**

	SECTION D			
d	**FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)**	£		£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year	1,202		851
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	2,159		1,260
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	3,193		909
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID** (d1+d2-d3)	**168**		**1,202**

Dorset Gardens Brighton 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 2020 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

	INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts		Payments		Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments		Opening balances		Closing balances	
e1												
e2												
e3												
e4												
e5												
e6												
e7												
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds									(e11)		(e12)
e9	**Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)**	83,739	(a7)	123,528	(b9)	(39,789)		(c7)	294,871	(c6)	255,082	(c8)
e10	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	83,739		123,528		(39,789)			294,871	(x)	255,082	(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 2020	OPENING BALANCES		CLOSING BALANCES	
f1	Cash in hand	45,559		28,964	
f2	Bank Current Account				
f3	Bank Deposit Account				
f4	Central Finance Board	69,150		61,056	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	152,569		128,447	
f6	Other funds	27,593		36,615	
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**294,871**	(c6)	**255,082**	(c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)
f9	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**294,871**	(x)	**255,082**	(y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 1 September 2019	At 31 August 2020
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		4,710,817
g3	Other Assets		
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes
g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5

Name of Church .. **Dorset Gardens Methodist** 36/12

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm i have recorded all the income and expenditure from the records of the Church and passed them to the external examiner who has prepared the accounts for the year ended 31st August 2020 and that they include all the funds under the control of the Church Council

Signature of treasurer ..V.N. Kennedy..... Date..2/3/2021

Name and address of treasurer ..... Mrs V Kennedy 13 the e Van Alen 24-30 Marine Parade Brighton BN2 1WP

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on .18th September 2020

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting .... Rev Deborah Cornish

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

Charity Number . 1160211

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Dorset Gardens Methodist ..... Church for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages ... to .... As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Church's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Name of Church .. Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

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.

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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 ..... Stuart Neate

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner .....FMAAT retired

Name of firm (where appropriate) .... N/A

Address 23 Surrenden Lodge Surrenden Road Brighton

..... Post Code BN1 7QB

Date 29-Oct-20

Sep-20

Name of Church .. Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

Independent Examiner's Statement

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Name of independent examiner ..... Stuart Neate

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... FMAAT retired

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..... Post Code BN1 7QB

Date 29-Oct-20

Sep-20

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Dorset Gardens Brighton	Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2020

Brighton and Hove	Circuit	Circuit no	36/12

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1160211
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 Deborah Cornish

Church Stewards:

Mrs Susan Harrington	Miss Elizabeth Whittaker
Mr Brandford Osei	Ms Mikala Benson
Mr Ian Lamb	Mr Derek Clark
Mr Steven Preston	

Treasurer:

Mrs Vikki Kennedy

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Dorset Gardens Brighton — **Church**

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year	
			£	£	£		£	
a1	**RECEIPTS**	**Note**						
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		36,528	56	**36,584**		44,972	
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		1,116	662	**1,778**		3,175	
a4	Lettings		25,342		**25,342**		37,075	
a5	Other receipts		19,959	76	**20,035**		25,883	
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**82,945**	**794**	**83,739**	**(a7)**	**111,105**	
	SECTION B							
b1	**PAYMENTS**							
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		47,253	10,518	**57,771**		65,751	
b3	Donations		2,960		**2,960**		3,357	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		14,226		**14,226**		93,525	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		15,155		**15,155**		14,372	
b6	Cleaning		2,615		**2,615**		7,108	
b7	Other payments		16,943	13,858	**30,801**		30,467	
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**99,152**	**24,376**	**123,528**	**(b9)**	**214,580**	
	SECTION C							
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	**(a6-b8)**	(16,207)	(23,582)	**(39,789)**		(103,475)	
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		127,751	167,120	**294,871**	**(c6)**	398,346	
c3	**Sub total**	**(c1+c2)**	111,544	143,538	**255,082**		**294,871**	
c4	Transfers and adjustments		655	(655)		**(c7)**		
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	**(c3+c4)**	**112,199**	**142,883**	**255,082**	**(c8)**	**294,871**	**(c6)**

	SECTION D			
d	**FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)**	£		£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year	1,202		851
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	2,159		1,260
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	3,193		909
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID** (d1+d2-d3)	**168**		**1,202**

Dorset Gardens Brighton 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 2020 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

	INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts		Payments		Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments		Opening balances		Closing balances	
e1												
e2												
e3												
e4												
e5												
e6												
e7												
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds									(e11)		(e12)
e9	**Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)**	83,739	(a7)	123,528	(b9)	(39,789)		(c7)	294,871	(c6)	255,082	(c8)
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