

**DORSET GARDENS METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Registered Charity 1160211**

[www.dgmc.org.uk](http://www.dgmc.org.uk)

**Annual Report of the Trustees for Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

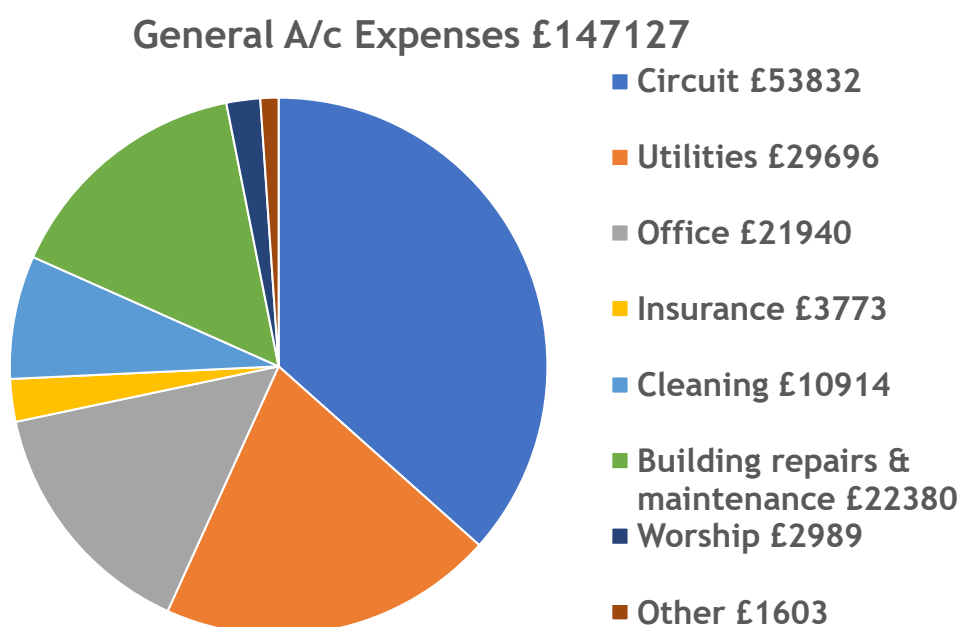
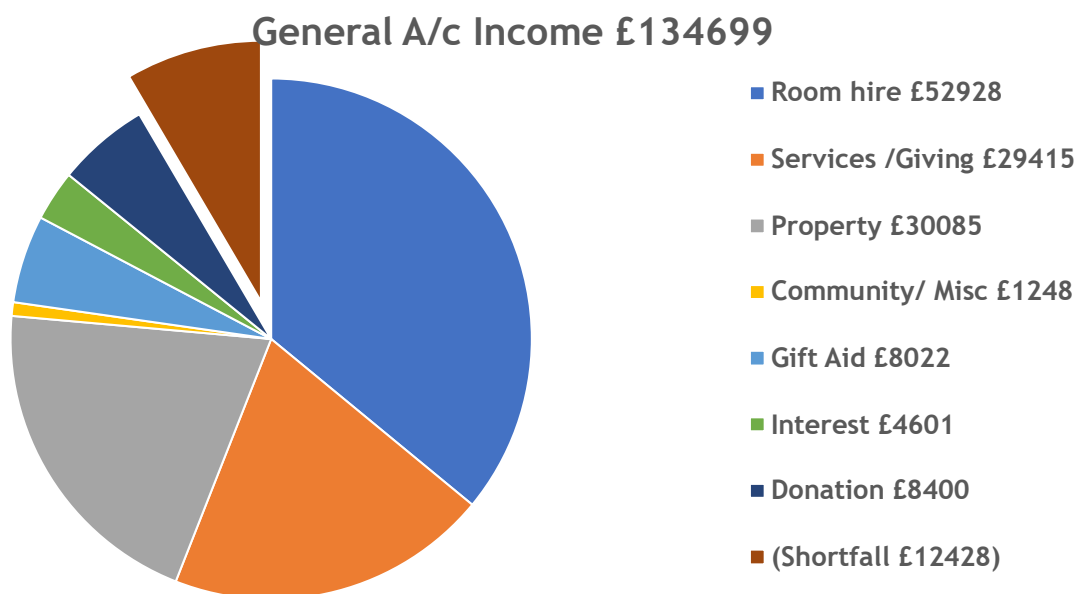
#### e) Service & Community

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
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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

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		Note	£	£	£	£
a1	<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
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	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>134,700</b>	<b>6,609</b>	<b>141,309 (a7)</b>	<b>133,901</b>

SECTION B						
b1	<b>PAYMENTS</b>					
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	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>198,927</b>		<b>198,927 (b9)</b>	<b>173,270</b>

SECTION C						
c1	<b>NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(a6-b8)</b>	<b>(64,227)</b>	<b>6,609</b>	<b>(57,618)</b>	<b>(39,369)</b>
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		167,052	111,441	278,493 (c6)	317,862
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>(c1+c2)</b>	<b>102,825</b>	<b>118,050</b>	<b>220,875</b>	<b>278,493</b>
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)	
c5	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>(c3+c4)</b>	<b>102,825</b>	<b>118,050</b>	<b>220,875 (c8)</b>	<b>278,493 (c6)</b>

SECTION D					
<b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b>					
d	<b>(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)</b>				
			£		£
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	<b>BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID</b>	<b>(d1+d2-d3)</b>			<b>807</b>

**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	<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH</b>	<b>141,309</b>	<b>198,927</b>	<b>(57,618)</b>		<b>278,493 (x)</b>	<b>220,875 (y)</b>
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward		<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>				

**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	<b>SUB TOTAL - Church accounts</b>	<b>278,493 (c6)</b>	<b>220,875 (c8)</b>
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9	<b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH</b>	<b>278,493 (x)</b>	<b>220,875 (y)</b>

**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 [Signature] Date 6-1-25

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 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

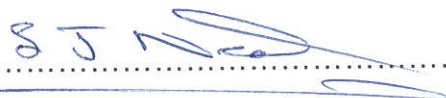
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below\*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- 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 .....



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

**THE METHODIST CHURCH**  
**STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

ChurchDorset Gardens Methodist

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

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Brighton & Hove	Circuit	Circuit no.	36/12
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## SECTION E

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## SECTION F

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

## CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024

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## SECTION G

## OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

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### Independent Examiner's Statement

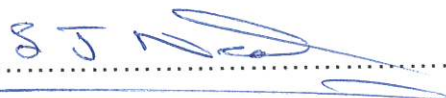
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below\*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- 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 ..... 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