

Hall Green United Community Church annual report 2024

To Worship God, To Know Jesus, To Serve Others

Hall Green United Community Church (HGUCC) has the responsibility to promote the work of church in worship, in pastoral care, in service to the local community and, with our three parent denominations, in ecumenical work.

HGUCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the church buildings in Reddings Road, Hall Green, the property of the Methodist Church.

Objectives and activities.

HGUCC is committed to making worship attractive to as many people as possible both in the church buildings and online via Zoom. Our services and worship aim to put faith into practice through prayer and Scripture, music and sacrament. It is always our intention to help enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our community.

Achievements and performance.

Over the year we have offered a range of services with Holy Communion taking place on the first Sunday in each month. During this year we have been blessed by the ministry of Rev. Ping Ting Chen, a Methodist minister appointed by the Circuit. We also began the process of 'calling' a minister from the URC tradition and meetings were held with the URC Synod, with a decision to try and call a minister to serve the three congregations of Solihull URC, Digbeth-in-the-Field URC and ourselves. We continue to have been served by a succession of preachers, both lay and ordained, leading our worship.

Numerically, our membership numbers have dropped over the year, due to the death of some members, relocation of others and a sensible "pruning" of the membership list.

Our Sunday services continue to attract a congregation numbering between 60 and 75 physically in church with another 7 to 12 joining online. We continue to try and improve our Zoom services with new volunteers being trained on the equipment.

Our usage of Zoom continues with our online Prayer Group on Wednesday mornings and for occasional meetings.

This year saw the beginning of the year of celebration for the 100th anniversary of the church building. We have invited preachers who have a connection with the church to come back and this has been a great success. It will continue through to March 2025. There have been numerous events including Poetry afternoon, a concert by Marty Elliott, games afternoons and more.

The church has continued to be represented at both URC and Moravian synods and at meetings of the Birmingham Methodist Circuit.

We pride ourselves on being a Community Church and, during the year, our services to the community have continued. Friendly Corner Cafe, our weekly community café, has continued to welcome more than 50 people who regularly attend for food and fellowship. Though some of the customers are church members and attendees, many are not, and we thank God for this outreach.

Baby & Co., the church run Stay and Play group for parents and toddlers has also continued to serve the local community with many of the families being from the local Asian community. In December we welcomed Year 1 children from Yorkmead school into the church where they heard the Christian Christmas Story.

The church buildings continue to host a range of activities, including another Stay and Play group, run by local Children's Centre, two martial arts group, a musical theatre group, tai chi and others. We also have one or two bookings most weekends for private functions including birthdays and other family celebrations. These, as well as supporting our local communities, help to bring income into the church and indirectly to the denominations. In the second half of the year a pre and post school group began to use our premises during term time, which will hopefully be a long-term let.

The use of our buildings is, of course, dependent on the condition of those buildings. Maintenance continues to be a major item in our accounts.

None of this would be possible without the small army of volunteers who continue to work untiringly for HGUCC.

Structure, governance and management.

Hall Green United Community Church is managed by Board of Trustees elected by the members. At the end of the year, we had 13 full trustees. Blair Kessler resigned as Chair in April and was succeeded by Rev. Ping Ting Chen. The trustees are responsible for making decisions on all matter of general concern and importance to the church including deciding on how the funds of HGUCC are to be spent.

The Annual Congregational Meeting is held in November where reports are considered and matters of concern voted upon. This meeting usually happens following a Sunday service.

Much work has been done by the Trustees and a sub-group to organise the calling of a URC minister in co-operation with the two other churches previously mentioned. We have every confidence that this will bear fruit.

As with many churches, an ageing congregation and the lack of young people are concerning. However, we have a thriving, enthusiastic membership who continue to look forward to the future with optimism as we continue celebrate 100 years of Christian worship in the building through to March 2025.

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

HALL GREEN UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

BIRMINGHAM	Circuit	Circuit no	5/1
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1162079

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:

Vacancy until January 2024, then Rev Ping Ting Chen

Trustees:

Rev Ping Ting Chen (from 1.1.24)	Keith Dennis	Brian Dickens
Val Dickens	Barbara Kessler	Blair Kessler
Norma Maynard	Becky Parkes	Julia Parkes
Alan Perkins	Linda Ramdharry	Pam Smith
Hyacinth Sutton	Neil Walker	
Treasurer:		
Brian Dickens		

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Desig/Rest Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	85,749		85,749	65,450
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	3,077		3,077	1,767
a4	Lettings	45,712		45,712	29,982
a5	Other receipts	24,289	965	25,254	13,287
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	158,827	965	159,792 (a7)	110,486

SECTION B		Unrestricted Funds	Desig/Rest Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	49,088		49,088	52,232
b3	Donations	4,273		4,273	4,378
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	18,682		18,682	36,222
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	13,718		13,718	12,134
b6					
b7	Other payments	22,378	382	22,760	34,206
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	108,139	382	108,521 (b9)	139,172

SECTION C							
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	50,688	583	51,271		(28,686)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		33,368	3,495	36,863	(c6)	66,518
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	84,056	4,078	88,134		37,832
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(9,875)	29	29	(c7)	(969)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	74,181	4,107	88,163	(c8)	36,863 (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	30	999
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	3,151	4,064
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	3,122	5,033
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	59	30
	(d1+d2-d3)		

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

SECTION E Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 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	Baby & Co	536	358	178		270	448
e2	Friendly Corner	6,763	6,600	163		469	632
e3							
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	7,299	6,958	341		739 (e11)	1,080 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	159,792 (a7)	108,521 (b9)	51,271	29 (c7)	36,863 (c6)	88,163 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	167,091	115,479	51,612	29	37,602 (x)	89,243 (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	781	1,936
f3 Bank Deposit Account	2,241	3,218
f4 Central Finance Board	33,841	83,009
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	36,863 (c6)	88,163 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	739 (e11)	1,080 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	37,602 (x)	89,243 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 31 August 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	4,106,527	4,303,633
g3 Other Assets	162,313	170,104
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:

Hall Green United Community Church

CC No: 1162079

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 14.10.24

Name and address of treasurer: Brian Dickens 3 Sandy Croft Birmingham
..... Post Code: B13 0EP

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 6th January 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting MAM MEATH Date 6th January 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Hall Green United Community Church

Charity Number: 1162079

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hall Green United Community 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.

Name of Church: Hall Green United Community Church

CC No: 1162079

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 MRS ELIZABETH A MANDER

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACCOUNTANT

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 84 GRANGE ROAD, KINGS HEATH

BIRMINGHAM

Post Code B14 7RJ

Date 02/11/2024

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-24

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

HALL GREEN UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

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Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner MRS ELIZABETH A MANDER

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACCOUNTANT

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 84 GRANGE ROAD, KINGS HEATH

BIRMINGHAM

Post Code B14 7RJ

Date 02/11/2024

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-24