

Hall Green United Community Church annual report 2025

To Worship God, To Know Jesus, To Serve Others

Rev Mark Meatcher, Chair of Trustees

Hall Green United Community Church (HGUCC) has the responsibility to promote the work of the 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 Lane, 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 financial year we have been blessed by the ministry of Rev. Ping Ting Chen, a Methodist minister appointed by the Circuit. Rev Chen looked after the church well while the church considered the process of 'calling' a minister from the URC tradition. Rev Mark Meatcher answered the call and began to serve the church as its minister, alongside being minister of Solihull URC and Digbeth-in-the-Field URC, as part of the East Birmingham and Solihull Pastorate, on 1st November 2024. On those occasions when Rev Meatcher is leading worship elsewhere or away for other reasons we continue to be well served by a succession of preachers, both lay and ordained, leading our worship from all three of our parent denominations and other Christian denominations as well as guest speakers from other charitable organisations.

Numerically, our membership numbers have dropped slightly over the year, to 109, due to the death of six members over the period, but we have been

delighted to have received four new members over the same period including two United Reformed Church ministers (one of whom has recently retired).

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 online Prayer Group on a Wednesday morning also makes use of our Zoom account, and we also find it helpful to use for some of our meetings occasionally.

During the year we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the church building. Featured events continued through to March 2025 and the church has been encouraged through welcoming back preachers who have had a prior connection with the church to lead worship or share in the events with us. This has been a great success.

The church has continued to be represented at both URC and Moravian synods and at meetings of the Birmingham Methodist Circuit, which became part of the West Midlands District, immediately after our year end, on 1st September 2025.

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 40 - 60 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 part of the Christian Christmas Story.

The church buildings continue to host a range of activities, including another Stay and Play group, run by a local Children's Centre, two martial arts group, a musical theatre group, an exercise class, Tuition sessions, individual support for neuro-divergent children 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. A pre and post school group use our premises during term time.

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. During the year our property officer, Mrs Jenny Darby, who has served in this role for many years, stepped down and our cleaning supervisor, Mrs Barbara Dennis, also stood down from her role. Both of these women have left a significant hole in our structures but we are gradually working out different ways to re-organise the work that needs to be done.

This has, in part, been helped by the recruitment of an Administrator, Mrs Samantha Beckett, on a part-time basis, who has proved to be a valuable addition to the Hall Green UCC team. She began working for the church in May 2025 and is already taking pressure off some of the volunteers who have worked so hard for the church over the years and bringing some of her many skills to support our work.

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 15 full trustees with Rev Mark Meatcher becoming Chair of Trustees shortly after his appointment as minister of the church in late 2024. 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.

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 and, during the year we

have begun to explore with our minister how we might grow both numerically and spiritually as a Christian community moving forward. We have celebrated 100 years as such a community and are keen to plan for the next stage of our journey.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2025

(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)

Brian Dickens

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Desig/Rest Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	72,944		72,944	85,749
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	4,140		4,140	3,077
a4	Lettings	49,496		49,496	45,712
a5	Other receipts	13,528	1,494	15,022	25,254
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	140,108	1,494	141,602 (a7)	159,792

SECTION B		Unrestricted Funds	Desig/Rest Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	62,996		62,996	49,088
b3	Donations	4,449		4,449	4,273
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	13,437		13,437	18,682
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	13,877		13,877	13,718
b6					
b7	Other payments	28,052	2,724	30,776	22,760
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	122,811	2,724	125,535 (b9)	108,521

SECTION C		Unrestricted Funds	Desig/Rest Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	17,297 (1,230)	16,067	51,271
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	74,181	13,982	88,163 (c6)	36,863
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	91,478 12,752	104,230	88,134
c4	Transfers and adjustments	(4,999)	4,940	(56) (c7)	29
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	86,479 17,692	104,174 (c8)	88,163 (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	59	30
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	3,070	3,151
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	3,126	3,122
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	3	59

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	Baby & Co	363	489	(126)		448	322
e2	Friendly Corner	7,611	7,392	219		632	851
e3							
e4							
e5							
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	7,974	7,881	93		1,080 (e11)	1,173 (e1)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	141,602 (a7)	125,535 (b9)	16,067	(56) (c7)	88,163 (c6)	104,174 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	149,576	133,416	16,160	(56)	89,243 (x)	105,347 (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	1,936	2,129
f3	Bank Deposit Account	3,218	1,526
f4	Central Finance Board	83,009	100,519
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	88,163 (c6)	104,174 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	1,080 (e11)	1,173 (e1)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	89,243 (x)	105,347 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 31 August 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	4,303,633
g3	Other Assets	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 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

18.11.25


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 2025 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

GRAHAM SWEENEY

Date

23/2/2026

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 2025 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 17/11/2025

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-25

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2025

Keith Dennis	Brian Dickens	Val Dickens	
Persis Franklin	Barbara Kessler	Blair Kessler	
Norma Maynard	Rev Mark Meatcher	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			
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Name of the Chair of the meeting GRAHAM SWEENEY Date 23/2/2026

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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 17/11/2025

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-25