

ST.ANDREW'S METHODIST CHURCH BUSHEY HEATH

Registered Charity Number 1163054

Registered Address

69, High Road, Bushey Heath,
Bushey, Hertfordshire, WD23 1EE

Managing Trustees who served during the year under review and at the date this Report was approved

Rev'd Donna Fowler-Marchant (Minister) Matthew Tattersall (Church Steward)

Hugh Markham-Jones Lesley Markham-Jones

David Whitehead (Church Steward and Church Treasurer)

John Wood (Church and Property Steward)

Suzanne Wood (Church Steward) Ann Wright (Church Steward)

Hazel Appleton (Secretary to the Church Council)

All the above were Trustees for the whole of the year under review.

Custodian Trustees

The Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

Central Buildings, Oldham Street,

Manchester, M1 1JQ

Banks

Barclays

62-64 High Street, Watford

Hertfordshire, WD17 2BT

Central Finance board of the Methodist Church

9, Bonhill Street, London, EC2A 4PE

Independent Examiner

Mrs Anne Canavan,

26, Ivinghoe Road, Bushey,

Hertfordshire, WD23 4SW

Charitable Object and Status

The principal object of the Charity is the furtherance of the religious and other charitable work of the Church together with the maintenance of the Church premises in order to facilitate this object.

The Church is part of the Methodist Connexion in Great Britain whose constitution is governed by an Act of Parliament.

Since 7th August 2015 the Church has been registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. Previously it had been excepted from registration under Statutory Instruments 1734 of 2012 and 242 of 2014.

Organisational Structure

Members of the Church are accepted either upon confirmation of their Baptismal vows by profession of faith in Jesus Christ, or by transfer of their membership from another Methodist Church. At 31st August 2025 there were 22 members of the Church.

The members for the time being of the Church Council act collectively as local Managing Trustees of the Church and have responsibility for the overall policy of the Church. The Church Council comprises the Minister, as Chairman, the Church Stewards, other elected officers and representatives of the Church members. Apart from the Minister, all the above together with the Independent Examiner are appointed or re-appointed at the Annual Meeting of the Church which is open to all members and also to non-members although they do not have a vote.

Church Stewards are normally appointed for a period of six years although this may be extended on an annual basis and together with the Minister they are responsible for the day to day running of the Church's work and witness. They meet regularly and report to each Church Council (which normally meets two or three times a year) as do the Treasurer and Property Steward. Other reports may be required by the Church Council for their consideration and approval, and all their decisions are recorded in The Minutes Book. Copies of The Minutes are available for inspection by Church members.

The Church is part of the West Hertfordshire and Borders Methodist Circuit which at 31st August 2025 comprised twenty Churches (including two Local Ecumenical Projects) and is in the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire Methodist District. The Church is entitled to appoint two representatives to Circuit Meetings

Objectives and Activities

In order to achieve the principal object as stated above, the Church provided activities for its members and for the local community. Services of worship were held on Sundays usually at 9.30am. Once a month the service was preceded by breakfast in the Church commencing at 9.00am. These services were open and accessible to all. Any special services, e.g. the annual Carol Service, were advertised on the Church notice board and website (www.samcbh.org.uk). The Church was available for weddings, funerals and baptisms.

Other activities included House-groups for study, discussion and fellowship and twice-monthly coffee mornings. As part of the ministry to the local community the premises were available at reasonable charges for community, educational, cultural and physical activity groups and for children's birthday parties. In all its activities the Church has always had due regard to the requirements for equality and diversity.

The Trustees have complied with the duty imposed by section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission in respect of public benefit and are of the opinion that during the year under review, this was met by the Church's objectives and activities outlined above.

Review of the Year

During the period under review Church services continued each week with the exception of the second Sunday each month. This was due to the shortage of preachers within the circuit.

In September 2024 we welcomed Rev'd Donna Fowler-Marchant as the Minister. Rev'd Fowler-Marchant is also the Minister for Croxley Green, Berry Lane and The Scroll Methodist Churches.

In line with many other Churches the average attendances at services of worship showed a significant decline when services resumed after the Covid-19 pandemic. This is reflected in the reduction of Church members from 40 on 31st August 2021 to 22 on 31st August 2025. In the year under review average attendances on a Sunday morning showed a slight decline reflecting the aging congregation although some new attendees were welcomed into the congregation. Breakfast Church services continued to be the best attended services.

Community activities on the premises continue to represent an important source of income for the Church as well as representing a contribution to community life. Despite a modest decrease in the number of children's parties this remained our largest source of lettings income. This Church has continued to play a part in the life of the wider Church by supporting financially, and by the involvement of members of the congregation, such organisations as Macmillan Cancer; Christian Aid; the Watford Peace Hospice; the Methodist World Mission Fund; Connexional Funds and a local food bank.

No public appeals for funds have been made by the Church.

Financial Review

The Church's Accounts for the year were prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis and show a surplus of £2,161 as against a surplus of £5,488 in the previous year. This does not take account of the increase of £1,105 in the value of the Church's investments. A number of factors contributed to this result. The key items were as follows:

- Normal offerings decreased to £9,320 (2024: £11,415) as some regular contributors left the Church at the start of the year. Gift Aid of £2,836 (2024: £2,736) was recovered in the year. The gift day raised £3,300 compared to £3,445 the previous year.
- Reported lettings income decreased to £13,594 in 2025 from £14,681 in 2024. However last year's figure was flattered by a late payment which related to the previous year so the underlying picture was an increase of about £900. There was another good contribution of £4,300 from parties, although this was down from £4,840 last year. The Church premises were used as an election polling station once this year generating £450. We gained a new stream of letting income from Dacorum Council for hosting language lessons for refugees.
- The Church received a payment of £4,342 from the Ministers Pension Fund. This was the return of a £4,000 donation plus interest previously made following an appeal to bolster the reserves of the pension fund. Without this item we would have recorded a deficit.
- Utilities fell to £7,624 (2023: £10,628) reflecting a cheaper gas contract and the installation of energy efficient led lighting. The Circuit once again generously offered Churches support payments to limit the annual costs increases to 5% above the prices in place before the sudden inflation which occurred in 2022. St. Andrew's received a support payment of £4,339 (2024: £7,620). Without this support the financial results would have been much worse.
- No significant property items were undertaken during the year. Some exterior decorating which had been planned for the summer had not been started by the end of the year under review. Once again if these works had been done our results would have been worse.
- The three items above (the Pension fund rebate, the Circuit energy support and the deferred property expenditure) all have contributed to the surplus we made this year. The underlying picture suggests such surpluses are unlikely in future years.
- At the end of the year the Reserves of the Church, being Unrestricted Funds, amounted to £56,066 (2023 : £52,800) including Designated Funds of £28,895 (2024: £27,790) in the form of a Contingency Reserve. There was also a Restricted Benevolence Fund of £50.

The following Reserves Policies were approved by the Trustees:-

Unrestricted Funds:

Reserves are maintained, so far as is practical, at a level sufficient to cover foreseeable requirements, having regard to the Church's stated aims and objectives. The General Reserve, which

is held in bank balances and a Central Finance Board deposit, is maintained over a period at a level equivalent to around 50% of normal annual expenditure. The Contingency Fund Reserve, which is held in equity investments, is to meet any significant expenditure on the property.

Restricted Funds:

The Church's Benevolence Fund is to be maintained at a minimum of £50.

The Charity holds no Endowment Funds.

Investments in managed funds to the value of £28,895 (2024: £27,790) at the end of the year are held on behalf of the Church by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes who also hold the title to the Church's property. At the end of the year this property was valued on an insured value basis, at £2,435,004 (2024: £2,373,290).

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Accounts in line with Methodist custom and practice and the applicable law. The actual writing of this report was delegated to the Church Treasurer on their behalf.

The law applicable to Charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare Accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of those resources for that period. In doing so, they are required to:

- (a) Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- (b) Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- (c) Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- (d) State whether the applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures being both disclosed and explained;
- (e) Prepare the Accounts on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to assume that the Charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any given time, the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the Accounts comply with the Charities Act 2011 and with the Charity's constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or other irregularities.

The Trustees have continued to conduct an ongoing risk assessment and management programme for activities held on Church premises as well as a financial risk assessment.

No Trustee has received any remuneration, benefits or expenses in their capacity as a Trustee.

Approved by the Trustees on the 20th November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:-

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

ST ANDREW'S BUSHEY HEATH, METHODIST

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2025

WEST HERTFORDSHIRE AND BORDERS

Circuit

Circuit no.

34/14

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1163054

**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. DONNA FOWLER-MARCHANT

Church Stewards:

MATTHEW TATTERSALL

DAVID WHITEHEAD

JOHN WOOD

SUZANNE WOOD

ANN WRIGHT

Treasurer:

DAVID WHITEHEAD

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	4	12,156	12,156	14,151
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		1,453	1,453	1,026
a4	Lettings		13,594	13,594	14,681
a5	Other receipts		14,269	14,269	23,271
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		41,472	41,472 (a7)	53,129

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		20,436	20,436	20,425
b3	Donations		1,175	1,175	1,055
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		4,733	4,733	11,100
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		10,020	10,020	12,961
b6					
b7	Other payments		2,947	2,947	2,100
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		39,311	39,311 (b9)	47,641

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	2,161	2,161	5,488
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		25,009	50	25,059 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	27,170	50	27,220
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	27,170	50	27,220 (c8)
					25,059 (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	10	10
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		141
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		141
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	10	10
	(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 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)	41,472 (a7)	39,311 (b9)	2,161	(c7)	25,059 (c6)	27,220 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	41,472	39,311	2,161		25,059 (x)	27,220 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2025**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	84	63
f2 Bank Current Account	11,874	7,039
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	13,101	20,118
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	25,059 (c6)	27,220 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	25,059 (x)	27,220 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	27,790	28,895
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	2,373,290	2,435,004
g3 Other Assets	57,326	58,817
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)

Notes to the Accounts for the Year ended 31st August 2025

1. The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Methodist Connexion using the receipts and payments basis.
2. Investments are stated at their market value at 31st August 2025.
3. Land and buildings and other assets, comprising Church furnishings and equipment, are shown at their current insured value.

	2024/2025	2023/2024
	£	£
<u>4. Offerings and Tax Recovered</u>		
Offerings	9,320	11,415
Gift aid tax recovered (offerings and Gift Day)	2,836	2,736
	<u>12,156</u>	<u>14,151</u>
<u>5. Lettings</u>		
Dancing Classes	812	504
Zumba	1,428	1,155
Baby Sing & Sign	0	2,040
Swan Ballet	294	0
Residents' Meetings	320	254
French Circle	434	420
Election Polling Station	450	900
Heath Hill Women's Club	1,211	1,246
Bushey Ladies	504	504
Parties	4,300	4,840
Pilates	1,242	1,082
Dacorum Council Refugees	760	0
Ukelele group	635	528
U3A Artists	994	1,008
Miscellaneous	210	200
	<u>13,594</u>	<u>14,681</u>
<u>6. Other Receipts</u>		
Gift Day	3,300	3,445
Donations	450	2,900
Coffee mornings	1,370	1,275
Passion Play ticket sales and Circuit Grant	810	0
Legacy	0	5,000
Circuit and District grants for energy costs, LED lighting and pothole repairs	4,339	10,492
Ministers Pension Fund contribution refund	4,000	0
Council grants for Warm Spaces and Coronation	0	300
	<u>14,269</u>	<u>23,412</u>
<u>7. Donations</u>		
World Mission Fund	400	440
Property Division	50	50
Ministers Housing Fund	70	70
Auxiliary Fund	30	30
Macmillan Cancer	200	0
Red Trust	125	0
Peace Hospice	150	175
Christian Aid	150	125
All We Can	0	165
	<u>1,175</u>	<u>1,055</u>
<u>8. Repairs and Maintenance</u>		
Repairs and renewals	1,155	7,600
Cleaning	3,578	3,500
	<u>4,733</u>	<u>11,100</u>
<u>9. Utilities</u>		
Gas	5,338	7,928
Electricity	1,922	2,475
Water	364	225
Insurance	2,396	2,333
	<u>10,020</u>	<u>12,961</u>

The above notes form part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st August 2025.

Name of Church . **St. Andrew's Bushey Heath Methodist Church**

No 34/14

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

M A Canavan

Name of independent examiner Margaret Anne Canavan

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 26 Ivinghoe Road, Bushey Heath

..... Herts

WD23 4SW

Date

20/10/25

* delete or circle as appropriate