

Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church (HHMC)

Registered Charity Number 1164741

Trustees Annual Report for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023

Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church (HHMC) exists to worship God, as we grow in faith, fellowship and love for one another, to seek to serve God and the community, and through our lives and witness, help people to come to a deeper knowledge of Jesus Christ.

HHMC is a member of the West Hertfordshire and Borders Methodist Circuit and therefore part of the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The Trustees are Managing Trustees of the church building at 270 Northridge Way, Hemel Hempstead HP1 2AU which was completed and opened in 2015. All Trustees are members of HHMC and are either elected by the Annual General Meeting in April or May of each year or appointed to a specific role by the Church Council. The Trustees are listed elsewhere on the Charity Commission website.

Accounts for the year 2022-23 *will be attached to the report when it is submitted to the Charity Commission*. The accounts show a deficit of just under £16,000. This is because income from the Gift Aid claim for the year 2022-3 was not received until September 2023 and also because there were major repairs in the church building to the church lift and to the rainwater gathering system. Giving to the church was also lower than before the pandemic and church members have been asked to prayerfully consider this.

HHMC had 77 members at end of the year (31st August 2023) plus a considerably larger 'pastoral list' of people associated with the church but not formally members. The number of members was lower compared to the previous year due mainly to the death of older members, but HHMC has welcomed new members during the year.

A service of worship is held in the church building every Sunday morning and is live streamed online on Facebook and a recording is uploaded to YouTube after the service each week. Additional services are held in the afternoons and the majority of these are not live streamed or recorded. Messy Church is held in the afternoon once a month, is aimed particularly at families with children and is our main focus for work with children. Other afternoon services include a Songs of Praise service approximately once a quarter, the Christmas Carol Service, and the annual Memorial Service for those who have lost loved ones.

Weekly mailings to everyone in the church have continued by email where possible and by post to those not on email. The mailings include a weekly notices sheet, an HHMC newsletter once every 6 weeks, plus an occasional newsletter from the local Methodist Circuit. A written version of the service is sent every week to those who have requested it, to enable the housebound without online access to share in the worship.

Following on from a Church Mission Day in March 2022, there have been occasional meetings on a Saturday morning, open to all, in which people gather to discuss ideas for the future mission of the church.

A new venture during this year was Community Coffee which was started in November 2022 and set up to be a 'Warm Space' for use by the Church and local communities. The venue is one of the meeting rooms, which has been converted to

a lounge with comfortable seating and soft lighting. In each 2½ hour session, hot and cold drinks and biscuits are offered to all visitors together with conversation, and other activities, including jigsaw puzzles which are popular. Community Coffee started with 3 sessions per week and changed to 2 sessions per week during the summer.

Coffee mornings in the church hall restarted in September 2022 and are now held monthly on Saturday mornings. Funds are raised for charities chosen by the members organising the event and attendees have been very generous in donating to these charities and also to special appeals held from time to time often in response to world events.

HHMC organises various other activities in the building, open to members and others alike, as follows:

- Community Lunch is held once a fortnight and provides a good home cooked meal and company in a warm building. There is no fixed cost, attendees are told they can pay what they can or nothing at all.
- Dinner Church is a relaxed social gathering aimed at those who might not fit into traditional church and attracts younger adults. It meets approximately once a month on Sunday evenings and undertakes a range of activities all of them including food.
- Lent Lectures were a series of lectures from different speakers held weekly during Lent. This year the theme was prayer
- Oyster Club is a Christian social club for adults held on Thursday mornings, providing talks, services of worship and other activities.
- Thursday Fellowship meets weekly for fellowship, Bible study and prayer.

There were three fellowship groups which met offsite. Wednesday Fellowship and Reflection meets twice a month and were meeting in members' homes during 2022-3. A Wednesday house group meets once a month. A Wednesday Bible Study group meets jointly on Zoom with another local Methodist Church

HHMC also sponsors a Guide Company, Brownie Pack and Rainbows, who meet in the building during school term time.

When not required for HHMC activities, the building is made available for local community groups and others to use in return for a fee designed to cover a due proportion of related costs. Several organisations related to health and wellbeing have used the building in this way.

Members of HHMC have volunteered in various activities in the local community.

- A team from HHMC provided a Christian assembly at a local primary school approximately once per month in term time using the Open the Book materials supplied by the Bible Society.
- One member from HHMC serves as a Street Pastor and is supported by prayer partners from HHMC.
- Members from HHMC volunteer at the Liberty Tea Rooms and Community Hub, which provide a meeting place and services for anyone in the local community needing help in a time of need.
- HHMC supports DENS, the local charity for the homeless, through donations to their Foodbank, and other activities.

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Hemel Hempstead Methodist

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

West Herts & Borders	Circuit	Circuit no	34/14
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1164741

If not a registered charity **Her Majesty's Revenue and
Customs Gift Aid number**

XR93992

(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:

Andrew Brazier

Church Stewards:

Sue Whyte	Shalini Parke
Jill Walker	Graham Burton
Sheila Daly	Margaret Thorn

Treasurer:

Jackie de Bourcier

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	44,321		44,321	53,557
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	2,354		2,354	233
a4	Lettings	6,039		6,039	1,929
a5	Other receipts	6,887		6,887	24,679
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	59,601		59,601 (a7)	80,398

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	41,628	7	41,635	43,668
b3	Donations	1,813		1,813	3,447
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	11,357		11,357	3,445
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	9,373		9,373	8,478
b6					
b7	Other payments	11,417		11,417	9,068
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	75,588	7	75,595 (b9)	68,106

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(15,987)	(7)	(15,994)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year				(c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	(15,987)	(7)	(15,994)
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	(15,987)	(7)	(15,994) (c8)
					98,899 (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)			£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			282	85
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			4,527	3,175
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			4,542	2,978
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)		267	282

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 The Oyster Club	2,331	2,227	104		745	849
e2 Friday Fellowship		118	(118)		118	
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	2,331	2,345	(14)		863 (e11)	849 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	59,601 (a7)	75,595 (b9)	(15,994)	(c7)	98,899 (c6)	82,905 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	61,931	77,940	(16,008)		99,762 (x)	83,753 (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 2023**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	35,558	24,902
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	62,955	40,427
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	386	17,850
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	98,899 (c6)	83,179 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	863 (e11)	849 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	99,762 (x)	84,028 (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)	3,209,684	3,305,972
g3 Other Assets	106,752	109,954
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 Hemel Hempstead Methodist..... No...34/14.....

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.

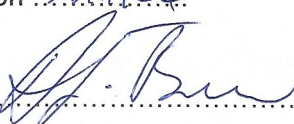
Signature of treasurer  Date... 19/4/24.....

Name and address of treasurer Jackie de Bourcier.....

88 Dunlin Road Hemel Hempstead..... Post Code... HP2 6LX.....

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 .. 28/4/24 ..

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev. Andrew J. Beazley Date .. 28/4/24

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church

Charity Number 1164741.....

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 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 Hemel Hempstead Methodist..... 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 

Name of independent examiner Colin J Stacey.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner BFP FCA.....

Name of firm (where appropriate) ... Staceys Chartered Accountants

Address Rivers Lodge, West Common,

..... HARPENDEN, HERTS Post Code AL5 2JD

Date 17 APRIL 2024

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-22