

Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church (HHMC)

Registered Charity Number 1164741

Trustees Annual Report for the year 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024

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 or appointed to a specific role by the Church Council. The Trustees are listed elsewhere on the Charity Commission website.

Accounts for the year 2023-24 are attached. The church accounts show a surplus of just under £15,000. However, this includes the Gift Aid repayment for the previous year (c£8,000) which was received from HMRC in September 2023. There was an increase in income from giving from members and congregation attenders but it had not reached pre-pandemic levels. The income from lettings has decreased slightly. Expenditure on repairs was significantly reduced compared with the previous year.

The church has raised funds for other charities through regular Saturday Coffee mornings and special appeals for people in need due to natural and human disasters and warfare, and members have been very generous in donating to these charities, raising over £4000.

HHMC had 76 members at end of the year (31st August 2024) plus a considerably larger 'pastoral list' of people associated with the church but not formally members. The number of members has continued to decrease slightly each year mainly to the death of older members, but HHMC has continued to welcome new members each 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. Additional services are held in the afternoons and are mostly face to face in church only. Messy Church is held on a Sunday afternoon once a month, is aimed particularly at families with children and is our main focus for work with children. A new type of service, a service of healing and wholeness was started this year and is held about once a quarter on a Saturday afternoon. Other Sunday 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.

Services on special themes have been held during the year including an introduction to Eco Church in January 2024, what it means to be a Mental Health Friendly Church in April 2024, and themed services on the charities we support including Action For Children and Christian Aid.

Weekly mailing of the notices to everyone in the church have continued by email where possible and by post to those not on email. These mailings also include the church newsletter every 6 weeks and a written version of the service every week to those who have requested it.

Community Coffee, which was started in 2022-3 has now been renamed Warm Welcome Space and has developed into a place for people to come and feel welcome, and enjoy the company of others and an opportunity to meet with the Minister. It is held in a room which has been converted into a lounge with comfortable seating and soft lighting.

A new venture this year was the starting of a Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Group. Four members have undertaken the training as Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Group Leaders and have delivered a 12-session course produced by Kintsugi Hope to explore how to maintain positive mental and emotional wellbeing in the midst of busy and sometimes traumatic lives. Three courses have been run so far, from September 2023, from July 2024 and from October 2024.

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.
- Saturday Coffee Mornings held once a month in the church hall. Funds are raised for charities chosen by the members organising the event.
- Dinner Church is a relaxed social gathering aimed at those who feel they 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.
- Occasional meetings on a Saturday morning in which people gather to discuss ideas for the future mission of the church.
- Lent Lectures were a series of lectures from different speakers held weekly during Lent. In Lent 2024 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.
- Wednesday Fellowship and Reflection meets twice a month to share, care discuss and reflect upon experiences, faith and anything thought interesting to explore. This group has moved its meeting place from members' homes to the church.

Two fellowship groups continue to meet in members' homes on Wednesdays, one monthly and one meeting 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, including Weight Watchers, an NHS diabetes

prevention course and the Stroke Support Club. The Hearing Advisory Service also comes to the Warm Welcome Space once a month. The building is also hired by various choirs as a venue for concerts and by the local council for use as a Polling Station.

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 in a neighbouring town as the local Street Pastor group has ceased to operate
- 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.

Lyndsay Campbell

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Hemel Hempstead Methodist	Church
---------------------------	--------

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2024

West Herts & Borders	Circuit	Circuit no	34/14
---------------------------------	----------------	-------------------	--------------

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	Graham Burton
Margaret Thorn	Shalini Parke
Jill Walker	Sheila Daly

Treasurer:

Jackie de Bourcier

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	65,379		65,379	44,321
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	3,290		3,290	2,354
a4	Lettings	6,919		6,919	6,039
a5	Other receipts	6,787		6,787	6,887
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	82,374		82,374 (a7)	59,601

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	41,712		41,712	41,635
b3	Donations	2,032		2,032	1,813
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	2,765		2,765	11,357
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	12,903		12,903	9,373
b6					
b7	Other payments	8,155		8,155	11,417
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	67,566		67,566 (b9)	75,595

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR (a6-b8)	14,807		14,807	(15,994)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	82,912		82,912 (c6)	98,906
c3	Sub total (c1+c2)	97,719		97,719	82,912
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c3+c4)	97,719		97,719 (c8)	82,912 (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		267		282
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		4,643		4,527
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		4,215		4,542
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (d1+d2-d3)		695		267

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	1,796	1,933	(137)		849	712
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	1,796	1,933	(137)		849 (e11)	712 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	82,374 (a7)	67,566 (b9)	14,807	(c7)	82,912 (c6)	97,719 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	84,170	69,499	14,671		83,761 (x)	98,431 (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 2024**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	24,635	37,112
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	40,427	41,843
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	17,850	18,764
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	82,912 (c6)	97,719 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	849 (e11)	712 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	83,761 (x)	98,431 (y)

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)	3,305,972	3,630,403
g3 Other Assets	109,954	118,439
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

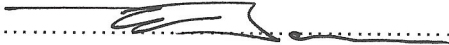
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of ChurchHemel Hempstead Methodist..... No...34/14.....

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.

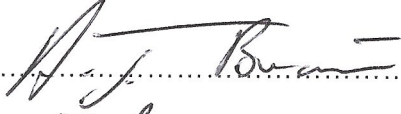
Signature of treasurer  Date... 8/4/25

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 2024 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 18/5/2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Andrew J. Brazier Date 18/5/2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church

Charity Number1164741.....

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 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 ChurchHemel Hempstead Methodist..... No...34/14.....

Independent Examiner's Statement

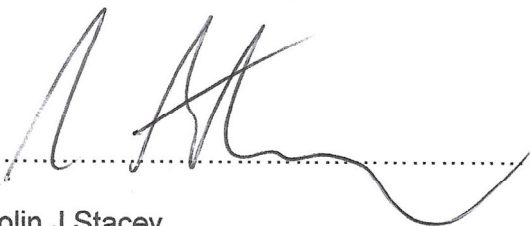
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- 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 examinerColin J Stacey.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examinerBFP FCA.....

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

Address ...Rivers Lodge, West Common,

.....Harpenden, Herts Post Code ...AL5 2JD

Date3 April 2025.....

* delete or circle as appropriate

Aug-24