



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1st September 2023 Period start date  
To 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 Period end date

Charity name: Nantwich with Broad Lane Methodist Church

Charity registration number: **1170226**

## Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	<p>We are a local Methodist Church, primarily a worshipping and praying fellowship of Christians. Our mission statement is to "Show Christ to Others".</p> <p>We meet for a weekly act of worship at 2 church buildings in Nantwich in Hospital Street and Broad Lane.</p> <p>Our worship is advertised and all are welcome to attend. Additional services are held at Easter and Christmas and occasional all age worship.</p> <p>We seek to provide opportunity for prayer, Bible study and fellowship through various activities at church. All groups are advertised with an open invitation to attend.</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	<p>We provide a number of regular activities to support both members of the church and people in need within the community. We also make the building available for community use.</p> <p>Regular activities include:</p> <p><b>Drop'n'Shop</b> This provides activities for primary school aged children on a Saturday morning, allowing parents free time to shop. This meets once per month.</p> <p><b>Friendship Group</b> This is a monthly group to support socially isolated people. People meet for chat, games, craft activities and occasional speakers on relevant topics.</p> <p><b>Noah's Ark</b> This is a weekly group aimed at very young children and their parents and carers. The aim is to introduce children to the teachings of Jesus through story, song and craft alongside time for free play.</p> <p><b>Thursday Lunches</b> Monthly lunches provide a further opportunity for fellowship and social interaction and are very popular.</p> <p><b>Coffee Club</b> A weekly coffee club is held at Broad Lane to combat social isolation.</p> <p><b>Train Rides</b> Free rides are offered every Saturday morning on the miniature railway running alongside the church. This</p>

	<p>provides opportunity to engage with people and for fundraising. Donations received are split between four children's charities.</p> <p>A special "Santa train" operated in December with opportunity to meet Father Christmas..</p> <p><b>Brownies</b></p> <p>Brownies meet at the church on a weekly basis and take part in occasional all-age worship on a Sunday morning.</p> <p><b>Ecumenical outreach activities</b></p> <p>Members of the church have continued to support mentoring of pupils at Brine Leas and Malbank High Schools</p> <p>Assemblies have been led at Acton and Worleston primary schools.</p> <p>Churches Together provided a presence at the Nantwich Show, undertaking a litter pick as a means of engaging with people and also provided a baby change facility.</p> <p>A Christmas Day lunch was held for people who would otherwise be on their own. Transport was provided if required, a traditional Christmas meal and entertainment.</p> <p><b>Use of premises by external organisations</b></p> <p>The premises are used on a regular basis by a Bereavement group. We have received a grant from Cheshire East to make rooms available free of charge for community groups such as this.</p> <p>The building is also offered for hire to external organisations and is being used by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nantwich Choral Society</li> <li>• Baby Time,</li> <li>• U3A</li> <li>• Nantwich Historical Society</li> <li>• Nantwich Model Engineers Club</li> <li>• Nantwich Youth Theatre</li> <li>• Roses (cancer) Group</li> <li>• Conexus (youth mentoring)</li> </ul>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act having due regard to public benefit as per guidance published by the Charity Commission.

#### **Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policy on grant making	We do not make grants. We make occasional collections and donations for specific purposes such as emergency disaster relief
Policy on social investment including program related investment	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	<p>All activities are highly dependent on volunteers, mostly from church members but with some support for Drop'n'Shop, and the train from community volunteers. Noah's Ark is supported by a lay worker employed by the Circuit.</p> <p>We are dependent on a small number of dedicated</p>

	volunteers who make an enormous contribution to the running of the church activities. The volunteers are predominantly older people who undertake as many of the tasks as they are able to..
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## Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	<p><b>Sunday Worship</b></p> <p>We have introduced a crèche to meet the need of 2 families with children with special needs who have joined the church. This enables the parents to attend the service. We have also provided age appropriate activities for an older child in the family.</p> <p>We have been pleased to include the Brownies in taking part in all age worship. They have prepared presentations and have assisted with special services such as harvest and a gift service at the start of advent.</p> <p>We have also welcomed the "Young Voices" choir to participate in special events.</p> <p>A "remembering" service was again held before Christmas for people who have been bereaved.</p> <p>We have continued to host the "Open Table" communion service monthly on a Sunday evening. This is run by, and for, LGBTQIA+ people, their friends and families. This has been well attended with people enjoying a simple meal together before the service.</p> <p>The church is registered with the Inclusive Church Network. We welcome people of any faith, colour or background, and of every gender identity and sexual orientation.</p> <p><b>Activities</b></p> <p>All regular activities have continued throughout the year. Outreach is provided to young families through Noah's Ark and Drop'n'Shop and to older, socially isolated people through the Friendship Group and lunches. The group is open to people with dementia and we are a "dementia friendly" church.</p>
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### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	<p><b>Performance against 2023-24 Objectives</b></p> <p><b>Appointment of a lay worker to support the activities of a group of churches within the circuit working together as a "hub".</b></p> <p>The South Cheshire Methodist Circuit has agreed the appointment of a community development worker for the Nantwich Whitchurch and Rural hub. It is hoped that the post will be filled in 2024-25.</p> <p><b>To enhance the offer of Drop'n'Shop to support neurodiverse children.</b></p> <p>A grant application to a charitable trust was made for equipment and staffing costs to support this development. Unfortunately, this was unsuccessful. Alternative grants are being pursued.</p> <p><b>To extend Drop'n'Shop to weekly rather than monthly meetings.</b></p> <p>This has not been possible due to the lack of sufficient</p>
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	<p>volunteers and the failure of the funding application as above.</p> <p><b>To support the development of a Street Angels scheme in Nantwich by offering the premises as a base.</b></p> <p>The church is providing the base for the Street Angels scheme which commenced in December 2023 operating weekly on Saturday nights.</p> <p><b>To work with Churches Together to publish a leaflet publicising church services and activities to distribute to the new housing developments.</b></p> <p>The leaflet was completed and published and is now available for use.</p> <p><b>To develop the use of the church building as a community centre.</b></p> <p>Research was undertaken about the best way to proceed, including visiting a church in Biddulph where this approach had been successful. Advice was obtained from the District Projects Officer. This resulted in a proposal to appoint a Centre Development Manager. Funding for the post has been obtained from the Circuit and a job description agreed for recruitment to proceed in 2024-25</p> <p><b>School outreach – to support a mentorship scheme at Malbank School.</b></p> <p>This has been implemented with volunteer mentors supporting several pupils.</p> <p><b>To offer the “Easter Hope” interactive event to 3 local primary schools.</b></p> <p>Three events took place in March 2024 with pupils from Highfields and Acton primary schools attending the church and volunteers delivering the event at Worleston primary school.</p>
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Despite falling membership and attendance, income from donations is broadly in line with the previous year. Income from lunches and coffee mornings has increased as we have been able to offer more events.
Investment performance against objectives	N/A
Other	<p><b>Objectives for 2024-25</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of a Centre Development Manager to develop the use of the church building as a community centre.</li> <li>• To enhance the offer of Drop'n'Shop to support neurodiverse children. This would be dependent on a successful grant application to a charitable trust.</li> <li>• To extend Drop'n'Shop to weekly rather than monthly meetings.</li> <li>• To offer “Easter Hope” interactive events to 3 primary schools</li> <li>• To develop as an “Eco-Church”. Grant applications will be made for the purchase of storage batteries for the energy generated by the solar panels which are already fitted.</li> </ul>

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Accounts attached. The financial forecast for 2023/4 was a break even position. Income from donations and fund raising has been maintained. Income from room lettings has increased. Expenditure has increased but has been carefully managed and the overall position was a financial surplus of almost £12,000.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	We have a small reserves account with the Methodist Central Finance Board for contingencies
Amount of reserves held	A deposit of £21,039 is held as at 31.08.2024
Reasons for holding zero reserves	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	At present there are no uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	The main source of income is regular giving on a weekly basis by members of the congregation. Gift Aid is claimed as appropriate. This is supplemented by various fundraising activities. In addition, income is received from hire of the premises and leasing car parking spaces. We also received a grant from Cheshire East Council to be a Connected Communities Centre, offering free use of the premises to voluntary groups.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	As the congregation continues to age, the risk of declining membership is a reality. There is also the challenge from rising costs and the potential need for expenditure to replace equipment such as the boilers.

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	<p>Nantwich with Broad Lane Methodist Church is part of the 'Methodist Church of Great Britain' whose status as a charity has historically been derived from the Deed of Union 1932 and the Methodist Church Act 1976. We are connected to Cheshire South Methodist Circuit which itself is part of the Chester &amp; Stoke-on-Trent Methodist District.</p> <p>We operate in the administrative unitary authority area of Cheshire East.</p> <p>Our constitutional practices can be found in <a href="http://www.methodist.org/ministers-and-office-holders/cpd">www.methodist.org/ministers-and-office-holders/cpd</a></p>
How is the charity constituted? (	<p>As a Methodist Society we are accountable to Circuit, District and Connexion and are required to comply with regulations laid down in the Constitution, Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, which is updated annually. As a Society we make decisions at Church Council meetings of which we are required to hold at least two per year and more as and when required by the local situations. Voting members of Church Council must be members of The Methodist Church of Great Britain and trustees of Nantwich with Broad Lane Methodist Church. The Church Council is supported by a number of sub-committees responsible for such things as finance, property, stewards, pastoral care.</p>
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	<p>Church Council members are the Trustees. The Chair is the minister who is employed by the Methodist Church at national level and stationed at the invitation of the local Circuit. The Council is made up of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church stewards</li> <li>• Treasurer</li> <li>• Property Steward</li> <li>• Pastoral Secretary</li> <li>• Church Council Secretary</li> <li>• Representatives of the congregation.</li> </ul> <p>The appointments are made at the Church General Meeting and confirmed annually. The appointments should be for no longer than 6 years but this can be extended by agreement if there are no alternative volunteers.</p>

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Nantwich with Broad Lane Methodist Church
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1170226
Charity's principal address	<p>Nantwich with Broad Lane Methodist Church c/o The Church Office Hospital Street Nantwich CW5 5RP.</p>

## Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Rev. Robin Fox	Chair		
2	Sheila Crosbie	Secretary		
3	Yvonne Alcock	Treasurer		
4	John Walkington	Property Steward		
5	Margaret Kirkman	Pastoral Secretary		
6	Elizabeth Grundy	Senior Steward		
7	Marcus Appleby	Church Steward		
8	John Coulter	Church Steward		
9	Edward George	Church Steward		
10	David Maidment	Church Steward		
11	Eileen Robertson	Church Steward		
12	Patricia Maidment	Circuit Steward		
13	Erik Kirkman	Associated Presbyter		
14	Jaqueline Holland			
15	Denise Lawson			
16	Joyce Platt			
17	Anne Robinson			
18	Doreen Thomas			

## Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

## Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Robin Fox

Sheila Crosbie

Full name(s)

Rev Robin Fox

Sheila Crosbie

Position (eg Secretary,  
Chair, etc)

Chair

Date

24.02.25



GENERAL FUNDS - RECEIPTS	2023 / 2024		2022 / 2023	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Offerings &amp; Tax recovered</b>				
Collections cash	6,322.66		£ 6,186.17	
Regular Giving	5,740.00		£ 1,511.00	
Standing Orders	16,012.00		£18,098.96	
Gift Aid	7,957.94	36,032.60	£10,358.71	£ 36,154.84
<b>Bank, CFB &amp; Investment Income</b>				
Interest (Bank & CFB)		904.68		£ 578.75
<b>Lettings</b>				
Room Hire		11,548.29		£ 9,394.90
<b>Other Receipts</b>				
Car Park Fees	9149.50			£ 8,945.00
Catering income(fund raising)	6,515.97		£ 4,464.96	
Donations to Church	5,480.87		£ 9,313.88	
Internal Organisation Donations	400.00		£ 140.00	
Donations to Church from funerals/weddings	835.00		£ 1,267.00	
Grants	3,520.00		£ 3,250.00	
Wedding/funeral fees	165.00		£ 180.00	
Solar Refund	1,409.95		£ 1,995.29	
Miscellaneous Receipts		27,476.29		£ 20,611.13
<b>GENERAL FUNDS TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>75,961.86</b>		<b>£ 75,684.62</b>
<b>GENERAL FUNDS - PAYMENTS</b>				
<b>Circuit Assessment or Share</b>				
Assessment		35,214.63		£ 32,250.00
<b>Donations</b>				
Donations - Connexional				£ 50.00
Donations - Other Funds				
<b>Repairs &amp; Maintenance</b>				
Repairs & Maintenance	2611.19		£ 1,927.28	
Cleaning costs	4715.65	7,326.84	£ 1,854.45	£ 3,781.73
<b>Utilities (Insurance, Water, Heating &amp; lighting)</b>				
Insurance / Licences	3,584.74		£ 3,497.76	
Utilities	12,550.99	16,135.73	£11,727.92	£ 15,225.68
Fundraising Exps	1,839.77		£ 1,334.60	
Outreach Fund	110.04		£ 338.77	
Grant expenditure	-		£ 1,330.07	
Telephone & Broadband	1,622.59		£ 965.08	
Office Exps	1,035.74		£ 993.06	
Miscellaneous payments	746.94	5,355.08	£ 115.24	£ 5,076.82
<b>GENERAL FUNDS TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>64,032.28</b>		<b>£ 56,384.23</b>
<b>GENERAL FUNDS NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>11,929.58</b>		<b>£ 19,300.39</b>

Approved by the Trustees on... 24/2/25

Signed...  
Y. Alcock (Treasurer)

Date... 24/2/25

Signed...  
Rev Robin Fox (Chair of Church Council)

Date... 24/2/25

Restricted Funds Receipts & Payments	Opening Bal	Receipts	Payments	Closing Bal
Conns Funds (JMA)	0.00			0.00
Conn Funds (Easter Offering/World Mission)	0.00	150.96	-150.96	0.00
Action for children	0.00	467.37	-467.37	0.00
All we Can	0.00	442.77	-462.77	-20.00
Food Bank	0.00	10.00		10.00
Pakistan	0.00			0.00
St Lukes	0.00	76.35	-76.35	0.00
MHA	0.00	50.00	-50.00	0.00
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	0.00	1197.45	-1207.45	-10.00

#### Account Analysis

Unrestricted Funds	43500.94	75961.86	64032.28	55430.52
Restricted Funds	0.00	1197.45	1207.45	-10.00
TOTAL	43500.94	77159.31	65239.73	55420.52

#### STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

Summary of how Funds are Held	2023/2024	£	2022/2023	£
Petty Cash		27.12		27.12
Bank Current Account	£	34,354.46	£	30,381.42
Central Finance Board Deposit Account 1	£	21,038.94	£	14,978.67
Central Finance Board Deposit Account 2	£	-	£	2,224.51
		55,420.52		47,611.72
Less unrepresented cheques				4,110.78
				43,500.94
Sub Total		55,420.52		
Plus Income received not yet banked		-		-
		55,420.52		43,500.94
TOTAL GENERAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR		55,420.52		£ 43,500.94

Methodist Insurance Policy No: 21/MPG/9141762	2023 / 2024	£	2022 / 2023	£
Buildings Assets Buildings & land.	NMC	£ 3,506,205.00		£ 3,420,715.00
	BL	£ 594,730.00		£ 580,229.00
Contents	NMC	£ 220,590.00		£ 199,541.00
	BL	£ 15,040.00		£ 14,673.00

#### Internal Organisations with separate funds

	Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Closing Balance
Women's Fellowship	393.05	309.41	-326.50	375.96
Drop 'n' Shop	310.99	3484.16	-3674.17	120.98
Men's supper club	156.81		-156.81	0.00
Friendship Group	249.68	496.45	-655.97	90.16
Church Flowers	1.28	100.00	-98.50	2.78
Pastoral Flowers	4.89	29.00	-33.00	0.89
Noah's Ark	150.19	280.10	-294.19	136.10
	1266.89	4699.12	-5239.14	726.87

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Nantwich Methodist Church

The report relates to the Church Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024

### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is the examiner's responsibility to:

Examine the accounts under Section 145 of the Charities Act

Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act.

State whether particular matters have come to his/her attention.

### Basis of Independent Examiners Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.


### Independent Examiners Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

1. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
2. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act and regulations have not been met or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I have obtained independent verification of all bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB)

Name: DAVID ANTHONY JONES Date: 20.01.2025

Signature: 

Relevant Professional qualification or body: CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (FCA)

Address: 28 CHADWICKE CLOSE  
STAPELEY  
NANTWICH, CHESHIRE  
CW5 7NF.

