

Annual Report 2019-20

Lancaster Methodist Church

Covid-19

Along with many other charities, for us the most significant event of the year 2019-20 was the outbreak of Covid-19. Inevitably, this had a significant impact upon our activity. All face-to-face activity ceased from 23rd March 2020 and very little was able to happen within our buildings for the remainder of the year.

Appropriate risk assessments were completed and suitable procedures were implemented with respect to people entering our buildings for any reason (mostly contractors eg. fire alarm checks, fire extinguisher checks; and also weekly water flushing to minimise the risk of legionella).

We had to furlough our café staff and also our cleaner and bookings administrator, but our Chaplain continued to work full-time throughout the pandemic continuing to offer pastoral care and support groups on Zoom. We were very grateful for the furlough financing from the government and also for grants we received from the Council to help cover our core costs while our buildings were closed during the pandemic.

The Cornerstone

Until the lockdown in March, many activities at The Cornerstone were going very well indeed. A new support project was started called 'Moving to Freedom'. Our aim with this is to use the spirituality of the '12 Steps' and Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount we want to offer:

- a spiritual path to a more fulfilling life
- perspective about our anxieties and fears
- a method for facing the mistakes of the past and trying to put them right

We also offered a grief support group on Zoom which has recently become a face-to-face group.

We began the process of formulating a 5 year business plan for The Cornerstone but this had to be postponed as we were unable to meet due to the pandemic. We hope to complete this project in 2020-21.

We instigated a 'Friends of The Cornerstone' scheme as a way to encourage a sense of commitment from the wide range of people associated with The Cornerstone. 'Friends' are those who have an interest in the concerns and work of The Cornerstone and want to offer a commitment and maintain a connection with it. They support the work of The Cornerstone with a donation of at least £10 per annum and receive:

- Three issues a year of The Cornerstone newsletter
- The Cornerstone Annual Report if requested
- Information about events, courses, and other opportunities at The Cornerstone.

Worship

Our focus for advent and Christmas 2019 was The Chrismon Tree - exploring the many symbols associated with it.

The transition from worship in our buildings to online worship via the Zoom platform happened relatively smoothly, starting on Good Friday. We managed to recruit a team of volunteers to work in the background and oversee the technical aspects of Zoom and we arranged for 2 people to share in the leadership of our worship each week. Almost immediately we had over 50 people attending the Sunday worship via Zoom and the attendance continued to be between 50 and about 100 people throughout the pandemic. We have also provided our weekly 'Reflect in the City' via Zoom throughout the pandemic, this has seen a much larger attendance than when we held it in the building - most weeks the attendance has been over 20 on Zoom whereas when we met in the building the attendance was usually 4-15 people. We have begun exploring how we might continue to offer our worship using the Zoom platform once we have resumed worship in our buildings.

Most of our regular congregation have participated in the Zoom worship on a Sunday, but we have also welcomed many people from the wider community - mainly locally, but also some from elsewhere in the UK.

A highlight of our worship via Zoom has been the creativity of our worship leaders, seen for example in the writing and 'performing' of reflective monologues which have been very much appreciated. For the members of our worshipping community who have been unable to connect online through Zoom we have continued to deliver weekly worship resources on paper, which has been much appreciated.

Service

In October we held a Community 'Drop-in' at our Scotforth Road premises - inviting all user groups to have a display of their activities. This was to raise awareness of the different activities already present in the building, but also to hear the views of local residents about what is needed in our community and how the building could be more effectively used. We delivered leaflets in the streets surrounding the church inviting people to visit, but sadly, we had very few visitors - however, the sharing between the different user groups proved to be well worthwhile.

Following the difficulty of recruiting volunteers to oversee our Little Pebbles (Parent and Toddler group), we made the decision to recruit a part-time member of staff. We successfully recruited a member of staff in March 2020, but unfortunately, due to lockdown, she was unable to begin. We hope that in due course she will be a great asset to our work with families.

We made a commitment to disinvest from fossil fuels. At this point, we decided to put pressure on the Methodist Central Finance Board by making it clear that unless they divest from fossil fuels then we will withdraw our funds from them - we await their decision.

Evangelism

We sang Christmas carols as part of the Dalton Square Ice Rink activities on the evening of 23rd December - we partnered with Lancaster Brass Band who provided the musical accompaniment. It was a fantastic event with many people from the local community joining in with the singing and we are very much committed to be involved in similar ways in the future.

Towards the end of the year we began a series of themed online sessions under the title 'Build Back Better' - these were open to the wider community as well as our own members and reflected upon ways that we should emerge, and things we should learn, from our experiences during the pandemic. Each session had 2 or more guest speakers who introduced the topics (things such as health, education, housing, young people, employment and social security). The attendance was excellent and the conversations were profound.

Learning and Caring

We held a reflection evening on the Methodist Conference report "God in Love Unites Us", where we discovered significant support for the report and a desire to see it adopted by Methodist Conference. Our AGM had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, but the Church Council continued to meet via Zoom to oversee all aspects of the charity. We have continued to seek the views of our members, most notably with a significant survey in July 2020 to discern when people would feel ready to resume worship in the building - it was very clear that people felt that we should wait until such time as the many Covid restrictions were lifted.

After a few months of the pandemic, we realised that our Cornerstone Chaplain was being pulled in too many different directions - continuing to offer pastoral care to many people (through phone calls, emails and Zoom calls) and offering support groups via Zoom, but also trying to oversee the risk-assessments and Covid-security of The Cornerstone. Having had the plan of employing a Centre Manager on the back-burner for some time, we felt that the time was now right to recruit someone to oversee both our buildings (Scotforth Road and The Cornerstone) and also to assist in our community development work and fundraising. The post was advertised towards the end of this financial year and we hope to recruit early in the next year.

**CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

Lancaster Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2020

North Lancashire	Circuit	Circuit no	21-16
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1170840

If not a registered charity **Her 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 Stephen J Charman

Church Stewards:

Paul Bowden
Lesley Brookbanks
Susan Pye

Treasurer:

Dr Ian Love

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
			£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		44,805		44,805	45,163
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		176		176	162
a4	Lettings		40,316		40,316	48,627
a5	Other receipts		58,359	22,000	80,359	81,845
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		143,656	22,000	165,656 (a7)	175,797

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		45,000		45,000	27,000
b3	Donations		698		698	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		11,694		11,694	18,476
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		12,856		12,856	15,675
b6			7,583		7,583	13,871
b7	Other payments		62,471	22,000	84,471	69,638
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		140,302	22,000	162,302 (b9)	144,660

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	3,354		3,354	31,137
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		126,884		126,884 (c6)	94,871
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	130,238		130,238	126,008
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(1,204)		(1,204) (c7)	876
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	129,034		129,034 (c8)	126,884 (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		69		21
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		1,789		4,144
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		1,858		4,096
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)			69

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 2020 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)	165,656 (a7)	162,302 (b9)	3,354	(1,204) (c7)	126,884 (c6)	129,034 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	165,656	162,302	3,354	(1,204)	126,884 (x)	129,034 (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 2020		OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	Cash in hand	442	417
f2	Bank Current Account	101,849	103,848
f3	Bank Deposit Account		
f4	Central Finance Board	24,593	24,769
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	126,884 (c6)	129,034 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	126,884 (x)	129,034 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2019	At 31 August 2020
g1		
g2	4,439,000	4,441,014
g3		
g4	20,000	20,000
g5		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

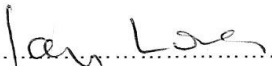
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

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

Name of Church .. **Lancaster Methodist Church**

Declarations and Scrutiny


I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 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..... 19.11.20.....

Name and address of treasurer Dr Ian Love
..... 10 Johnson Close, Lancaster Post Code..... LA1 5EU

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 19.11.20.....

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Stephen Charman Date 19.11.20

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Lancaster Methodist Church

Charity Number . 1170840

Responsibilities and basis of report

Lancaster Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2020 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: Lancaster Methodist Church

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. Richardson

Name of independent examiner MICHAEL RICHARDSON

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ACCA

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 12 WINDSOR ROAD, GARSTANG

PRESTON Post Code PR3 1ED

Date 26-10-2020

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-19