

2023-2024 Lancaster Methodist Church **Annual Report for The Charity Commission**

Lancaster Methodist Church (LMC) is a church with two sites: Scotforth Road and The Cornerstone on Sulyard Street. Our Minister is Rev Linda Catlow.

Sunday morning worship takes place at LMC Scotforth Road and has an average attendance of 70 people. We are a church of all ages: over 90 years old down to under one year old. We hold a hybrid Service so that those who are unable to attend in person can still join us on Zoom – this is much appreciated. Our Sunday evening worship is held at the Cornerstone. The average attendance is 15 and again a wide range of ages. This is a more informal and interactive service - regularly welcoming reflections and contributions from the congregation. We also hold a midweek evening service on Zoom called Reflect in the City and a monthly lunchtime Holy Communion at the Cornerstone.

We are registered with the Inclusive Church Network and after Lancaster Pride in June 2024, a conversation was held and it was decided to start a monthly afternoon LGBTQ+ Sunday Open Table at the Cornerstone. This is an ecumenical led service and has been welcomed by the LGBTQ+ community and their allies. It is a safe place where all are welcome and openly share in discussion, prayer and Holy Communion. As we are an inclusive Methodist Church we are registered for both same sex and mixed marriage.

The church runs a number of activities on both our sites during the week.

- We have a toddler group called Little Pebbles which is run by a lay employee and church volunteers. It meets every Thursday at Scotforth Road and continues to be very popular with the local community.
- For our children and youth we run a Sunday Junior Church and also a monthly Youth Fellowship.
- There are a number of groups where people are nurtured and faith conversations take place: Monday Meeting Point attended by older members of our congregation; an evening fortnightly Housegroup; Bible Study at special seasons of the year ie Advent, Lent and Summer Bible Month.

We believe in reaching out to offer help to our community. On both our sites we run weekly Warm Spaces for those looking for a safe place to keep warm in a friendly, comfortable environment. Free refreshments are available as this activity is funded by Lancashire County Council. At the Cornerstone our full-time Chaplain's work continues to grow: caring for those who are bereaved by offering a counselling service and support café; working with those who have addictions; leading spiritual groups for those with or without faith. There is also a team of volunteers who assist the Chaplain with the various groups. This year we set up a Cornerstone Management Group which looks at the needs of Cornerstone and considers its mission and vision. This means we have now appointed volunteer Receptionists to be 'front of house', a welcoming friendly face as people enter the Cornerstone and also a temporary volunteer Centre Co-Ordinator. The Management Team ensure the Cornerstone is open for special

events like Lancaster Music Festival when we are a Busk Stop; Light up Lancaster; Fairtrade Fair; Lancaster Pride.

We value our community partners who either lease office space at The Cornerstone or use our premises for community activities. At Scotforth Road these range from choirs or bands holding regular rehearsals to fitness and well-being groups like Pilates. At the Cornerstone, our key long-term partners (licensed hirers) are Lancaster District Community and Voluntary Solutions, Lancashire Youth Challenge and RAIS Lancaster (Refugee Advocacy, Information and Support). Other 'partner' organisations include those who provide food: Global Village Café - Wednesday lunch and using our kitchen to prepare food; Lancaster Men's Hub - Friday lunch; Tara Centre - Friday evening drop-in and food for Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Other partner groups who provide a community service include The Making Place - craft café, Let's Be Friends - support for street homeless people, Smoke Free Lancashire and Lancaster Larder - food club.

Lancaster Methodist Church continues to have a global perspective and a heart for justice. The Justice, Peace and Environment Group have continued to raise awareness of campaigns and also identify appropriate charities for our fundraising activities. We have a Foodbank Collection Point which folks support from church and community. Special collections of toys and food were made at Christmas supporting the City Council's organised distribution to those in need. We already are an Eco-Church and have a Silver Award. We are planning on fitting Solar Panels to our roof so as to make a difference to the environment and our energy costs. We continue to look at how we can become a net-zero church by 2030, as encouraged by the British Methodist Church.

This year our finances have remained in a healthy position and we are able to continue our Reserve policy of retaining six months' typical expenditure. At present the church employs the full-time Cornerstone Chaplain, the part-time Cornerstone Caretaker, the part-time LMC Bookings Officer, the part-time Little Pebbles leader. The Cornerstone Chaplain's funding ends in November 2024 so the Church Council has agreed to use church monies to fund the post for at least a year. We also agreed to seek funding for a Cornerstone Centre Manager as a lot of the management work at the Cornerstone has fallen onto the Chaplain's shoulders. The Church Leadership Team is trying to ease this situation.

Lancaster Methodist Church continues to seek God's will in all we do and to reflect the love of Jesus Christ to all people.

Rev Linda J Catlow

Superintendent Methodist Minister/Chair of Trustees of Lancaster Methodist Church:

Signature:



Date: 04/04/2025

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Lancaster Methodist	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

North Lancashire	Circuit	Circuit no.	0125
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1170840

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:

Revd Linda J Catlow

Church Stewards:

Paul Bowden

Lesley Brookbanks

Andy Lund

Alison Love

Treasurer:

Dr Ian Love

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
			£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		43,460		43,460	47,820
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		6,759		6,759	4,011
a4	Lettings		64,072		64,072	55,513
a5	Other receipts		14,073	19,500	33,573	75,105
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		128,364	19,500	147,864 (a7)	182,449

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		37,800		37,800	36,000
b3	Donations		270		270	1,784
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		15,496	3,195	18,691	30,164
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		20,345		20,345	16,782
b6	<i>Capital Works</i>					6,042
b7	Other payments		64,283	16,700	80,983	86,600
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		138,194	19,895	158,089 (b9)	177,372

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(9,830)	(395)	(10,225)	5,077
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		215,984	21,433	237,417 (c6)	232,448
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	206,154	21,038	227,192	237,525
c4	Transfers and adjustments		76		76 (c7)	(108)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	206,230	21,038	227,268 (c8)	237,417 (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		(3)	132
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		4,562	6,426
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		4,566	6,561
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)	(7)	(3)

Name of ChurchLancaster Methodist No...012522

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..... 12 Oct 2024..

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 2024 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 17 October 2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Linda J Catlow..... Date 17 Oct 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Lancaster Methodist Church

Charity Number 1170840.

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Lancaster Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 set out on pages ... to 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 No...211622

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 PETER BOWKER

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 23 MOWBRAY DRIVE, BURTON, CARNFORTH

..... Post Code LA6 1NF

Date 31 JAN 25

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church ...Lancaster Methodist..... No...211622

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1:

The Church buildings are entered at their insured value, as is standard Methodist practice. However, they are not realisable by the local church (by sale or mortgage, for example) and so the church does not have the right to dispose of the buildings, or to gain from their disposal.

The two properties for which we are responsible enable the charity to carry out its objectives, and to generate income by hiring facilities to outside bodies. TMCP (Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes) is the custodian trustee.

Name of Church Lancaster Methodist No...211622

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Name of independent examiner PETER BOWKER

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Address 23 MOWBRAY DRIVE, BURTON, CARNFORTH

..... Post Code LA6 1NF

Date 31 JAN 25

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form Reviewed

Aug-24