

There are so many things that influence our life together as followers of Jesus; some are positive and some are negative - some come from among us and some from outside. The negative impact of the street preachers in Leek, has, I think, affected attitudes toward the churches in Leek.

Attitudes to prayer have also shown vast differences of opinion when there is no one 'right' answer or one 'right' way of praying, and from conversations I have had, people among us are praying and thinking deeply about their faith. The issues generated by the 'God in Love Unites Us' report to the Methodist Conference and the Human Sexuality reports to the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church mean that the decision to register to offer same-sex marriages can also be discussed by us - and we have the opportunity to show the open, affirming love of Jesus or to reject people, which is something I don't see in the Gospel accounts of Jesus apart from the stories of the religious hypocrites of the day. This particular issue has a potential to cause division as people's starting points are very different. But the older I get, the more I look at some of these issues, and the more of life I experience, the words of Jesus not only seem more pertinent but wise - 'let the person who is without sin cast the first stone'. Our theology also believes that it is God who deals with sin, not us. But there are those who would prefer to sort it for God - and we are back to the street preachers!

However, I still see amongst us at Trinity a people trying to live out their discipleship and being faithful to Jesus. Not agreeing does not make one less of a follower of Jesus than another. *How* we disagree may show how well we follow Jesus.

The beginning of the year made us realise how much we appreciated having heating in the church! The boiler issue did affect how we marked Advent and Christmas last year and also led the Gathering to relocate to Cheddleton. Although there was some heat by Christmas, the boilers were not fully functioning until January. We are very grateful to those who look after our building and its contents.

While the government is coming under scrutiny over their handling of the pandemic, we have been made aware of the on-going influence of the pandemic, with some people returning to Wednesday Coffee earlier in the year saying it was the first time they had been out since 2020! Part of it has been learning to live with another respiratory virus which will be present with all the others.

As we have been doing more and more in person, the on-line worship became impossible to continue as the editing was so time consuming – the last on-line video was made in February.

Wednesday coffee continues to do well and is usually very busy, as is the Cinema Club.

The work we do with Abi such as the Craft and Fun mornings seem to have been well received but the summer holiday club was not. This seemed to be a similar issue across the Circuit where the summer holiday clubs were run.

A few of us attended the Circuit trip to Iona which saw a week of mixed weather! It was interesting to see how, for some, it was like putting on an old glove and those who hadn't been before adapted to island life very well. It was one of the newbies who was brave enough to take a paddle in the sea!

It was another opportunity to discuss things of the Spirit and faith - and how we inform our faith which can be expressed through words and activity and art and silence. We continue to discuss faith in worship as well as house groups and Lent and Autumn study courses.

We have once again picked up the ideas of worshipping differently with Coffee, Cakes and Questions, Taize and Julien services taking place recently. We recognise that habits have changed since the pandemic, but we seem to be picking ourselves up and dusting ourselves off quite well. Our worship has been enhanced by musicians and readers, actors and people willing to share of themselves. Thank you.

We have also been left bereft by the deaths of our friends - and this year we have lost a number. There are on-going issues and illnesses that come and go which can be challenging to us, but there is a lot of support offered amongst the congregation.

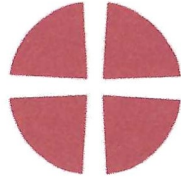
It was quite a shock when the URC Synod informed us they were stopping the post I currently fill. We are well aware of the decline within the churches across this island and generally within the West. When the former Leek Circuit joined with the former Cheadle Circuit - it was a sign of the decline facing our denominations; there were 23 churches in the Circuit at that time, there are now 10, we had 5 full time ministers of Word and Sacrament plus one in secular appointment, whereas from September 2024 there will be two full time ministers in this Circuit.

I am reminded of a conversation I had with a member in Devon who said to me more than twenty years ago, 'Will there be a church for you to retire from?' There may not be - but that doesn't mean there won't be followers of Jesus. Things may change: how we do 'church' will change and it is highly likely that the church as an institution may also radically alter, but while the story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus continues to be told, and inspires, challenges, heals and impacts people's actions thus helping to build the kingdom of God in word and deed, we need not fear change; taking our part in the conversations is the only way to influence it.

This will also be the last AGM report I write for Trinity; thank you for journeying with me, putting up with new hymns, modern words to old tunes, having an occasional go at something different. Thank you also to those among you who have offered healing space and have listened during extremely difficult times for me, Daniel and Aeddan over the last ten years, and thank you for those of you who kept out of it.

Next summer when there will be different futures for us, I am confident we will all go forward as God's people, trusting in the love of God and the hope of the Gospel and working for God's kingdom of justice and peace.

Richard



A united
congregation
of
**The Methodist
Church
and
The United
Reformed
Church**

Trinity Church,
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Registered Charity Number: 1171597

**Trinity Church, Leek
Accounts for the year
September 1st 2022 to
August 31st 2023**

Pages 1-7

Trinity Church Leek: Receipts and Payments Accounts - Year Ending August 31st 2023

2021-22 RECEIPTS		2022-23	2021-22 PAYMENTS		2022-23
£57,679.59	Collections S/O etc A01,2,3	£52,971.93	£55,000.00	Assessments(Tfr to CFB) x0	£55,000.00
£14,141.87	Tax reclaimed A04	£13,105.96	£0.00	Sunday Club M04	£0.00
£231.00	Job Retention Scheme-HMRC A05	£0.00	£507.13	Ministry under COVID T09	£710.04
£5,094.06	Special Appeals F01-15, excl F10	£6,230.68	£299.00	Minister's Pastoral Support Fee M12	£276.00
£77,346.52	Subtotal		£156.00	First Aid Training Elders M12	£0.00
£0.00	Insurance Settlement A19	£1,306.99	£55,962.13	Subtotal	£55,986.04
£2,000.00	Circuit Refund ref URC rebate A20	£5,000.00	£6,000.00	Donations from Church Funds D01-5,7,9	£5,350.00
£53.06	HM Courts Repay B12	£0.00	£5,174.06	Special Appeals G01-15 excl G10	£6,230.68
£2,063.06	Subtotal		£739.58	Donations Equiv to Gift Aid Due D08	£915.98
£3,602.95	Coffee Mornings B02	£4,897.38	£11,913.64	Subtotal	£12,496.66
£15.00	Meals (net) C05/6	-£279.45	£5,196.60	Repairs/Renewals R01,2	£7,263.80
£8,458.75	Lettings B01	£7,305.51	£0.00	Major Work(New Boilers incl Temp Heaters) R03	£32,071.40
£12,076.70	Subtotal		£696.00	Organ tuning R04	£990.00
£1,021.33	Films A11	£2,846.21	£685.48	Cleaning-Sanitary Provision T04,T05	£737.57
£1,500.36	Donations(Funerals) A12	£716.00	£6,578.08	Subtotal	£41,062.77
£2,058.00	Funerals/Weddings net fees/Tax A13/17	£1,325.00	£15,796.72	Wages: Staff&Cover&Tax(S01-7(excl S03)	£14,424.00
£115.00	Sundries, sale of plants, cards, toddlers A15,16,C11	£263.01	£15,796.72	Subtotal	£14,424.00
£1,500.00	Ex Gratia Payment re: Canopy C11	£0.00	£6,905.66	Gas/Elec U01/2	£9,788.00
£0.00	Boiler Donations from Congregation C12	£2,230.00	£500.61	Water rates U03	£604.38
£0.00	URC Grant for new boiler F17	£15,866.00	£556.74	Telephone B/8 U04	£556.94
£884.97	RSC (services) B10	£2,031.41	£5,791.44	Insurance(Inc copier ins) U05	£5,941.23
£15,000.00	RSC (Rent) B09	£15,000.00	£1,135.17	Licences(Inc Radio & Streaming 20/21) U06	£889.28
£0.00	Traidcraft net C03/4	£0.00	£143.86	Subscriptions (URC Trust (church Fees) U07	£143.86
£1.55	Bookstall net C01/2	£18.53	£15,033.48	Subtotal	£17,923.69
£0.00	Adult Outreach M13	£0.00	£383.96	Office Expenses T01	£190.00
£22,081.21	Subtotal		£1,691.61	Paper,Printing,Copier Lease T02,6,7	£1,829.37
£113,357.49	SUBTOTALS	£40,296.16	£2,075.57	Subtotal	£2,019.37
£1,159.32	Funds reported separately 2021-22 p2	-£24.80	£960.18	Sundries T03	£864.77
£1,540.00	Fund t(A18, t/S03 taxes-funerals/staff	£20.00	£139.73	Worship materials inc AAW M02,3,10	£625.04
£49.46	Fund r (Refugees Benevolent Fund) F10	£85.78	£525.02	Visiting Minister expenses (John Bell)	£0.00
£0.00	Fund b b/B04 Benevolent interest	£0.00	£175.00	CTLD M11	£100.00
£0.00	Fund y M05,M07, M09 Youth work	£0.00	£570.82	Tea,Coffee, Cups for Trinity C07	£758.37
£2,748.78	SubTotal	£80.98	£264.84	Flower fund net C09/10	-£145.93
£0.00	Legacy A08	£1,200.00	£413.13	Minors & Minders Clouse to CFB	£0.00
£0.00	TFR from Cap Reserve for organ	£0.00	£10,000.00	Additional Transfer to CFB	£1,500.00
£0.00	TFR from TMCP Glayds Harrop CO	£14,000.00		Subtotal	£1,500.00
£0.00	TFR from CFB for Canopy X0	£0.00	£15,200.00		
£0.00	SUBTOTAL		£15,200.00		
£413.13	Minors & Minders Closure	£0.00	£0.00		
£116,519.40	Total Income for Year	£146,116.14	£120,408.34	Total payments in year	£147,614.78
£22,477.06	Balance b/f from prev yr (general a/c)	£15,839.34	£1,141.60	Fund t (Tax, Pension, Nat Ins) t/TAX	£90.40
£37.25	Balance b/f from fund t(Tax)	£54.97	£68.98	Fund b (b/B05) Benevolent	£653.46
£922.03	Balance b/f from fund b (Benevolent	£902.51	£1,072.40	Fund r (Refugees Benevolent Fund G10)	£487.60
£1,423.61	Balance b/f from fund y (Youth)	£1,233.70	£189.91	Fund y (M05, Youth Outreach)	£308.41
£0.00	Balance b/f from fund r (Refugees Benevolent)	£467.60	£15,839.34	C/F from n (General	£14,259.72
			£54.97	C/F from t (Tax)	-£60.23
			£902.51	C/F from b (Benevolent)	£334.83
			£1,233.70	C/F from y (Youth)	£925.29
			£467.60	C/F from r (Refugees Benevolent)	£0.00
				Total C/F in NatWest a/c (n.b.t.y) =	£15,459.61
£141,379.35	Grand Total of Income	£164,614.26	£141,379.35	Grand Total of Payments	£164,614.26

TRINITY CHURCH, LEEK : YEAR ENDING 31ST AUGUST 2023 Other Accounts and Funds

Account c: CONTINGENCY FUND (Central Finance Board, CFB) (*)

Balance brought forward Sept 1 st 2022	£77,195.00	Assessment > Circuit (D/D) Code (N02)	£55,000
Interest CFB (A06)	£2,673.83		
Transfer from Nat West General 29/11/2022	£7,750.00		
Transfer from Nat West General 14/02/2023	£21,000.00		
Transfer from Nat West General 10/05/2023	£7,000.00	Balance c/f 31/08/2023	£81,368.83
Transfer from Nat West General 31/05/2023	£7,000.00		
Transfer from Nat West General 30/08/2023	£7,750.00		
Transfer from Nat West General 31/08/2023	£6,000.00		
(NB: £55,000 assessments; £1,500 additional)			
	£136,368.83		£136,368.83

Account l: CAPITAL RESERVE FUND (Leek United Building Society)

Balance brought forward	£28,494.70	No TFRs to NATWEST 2022-2023	
Interest Added (A7)	£165.43		
		Balance c/f at 31/08/2023	28,660.13
	£28,660.13		£28,660.13

Account m: CHURCHES MUTUAL CREDIT UNION (CMCU)

Balance Brought Forward	£5,029.27	No withdrawals 2022-2023	£0.00
Dividend Credited	£5.03		
		Balance c/f at 31/08/2023	£5,034.30
	£5,034.30		£5,034.30

Funds within NatWest bank account = n (general), t (tax), b (benevolent) y (youth), r (refugees)

Fund t TAX TO HMRC (Designated)

Start balance 1/9/2022	£54.97		
Tax on Funeral Fees (t/A18)	£21.20	Payments to HMRC (TAX) + NEST from t/TAX	£90.40
Tax + NEST pension+NI(Staff Wages) (t/S03)	(£46.00)	Balance c/f at 31/8/2023	(£60.23)
	£30.17		£30.17
NB Tax Refunds due to employees			

Fund b BENEVOLENT FUND (Restricted)

Start balance 1/9/2022	£902.51	Withdrawals 2022-2023 b/B05	£653.46
Interest from TMCP (b/B04)	£85.78	Balance c/f at 31/08/2023	£334.83
	£988.29		£988.29

Fund y YOUTH EVENTS FUND (Designated)

Start balance 1/9/2022	£1,233.70	Sunday group + Easter M05	£308.41
		Balance c/f at 31/08/2023	£925.29
	£1,233.70		£1,233.70

Fund r Refugees Benevolent Fund (Restricted)

Start balance 1/9/2022	£467.60	Withdrawals 2022-23 r/G10	£487.60
26/9/22 Donations	£20.00	Balance c/f at 31/08/2023	£0.00
	£487.60		£0.00

(*) Our assessment to the Methodist Circuit and URC Synod is transferred from our general account (a/c n) to the Methodist Central Finance Board (CFB) (a/c) during the course of the year, from where it is debited by the Staffordshire Moorlands Circuit (£55,000).

TMCP Trinity Church Assets: as at 1st September 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

(Note: the 2021 values are taken from the TMCP summary sheets, for the year ending 31st August 2023)

	Sept 2017	Sept 2018	Sept 2019	Sept 2020	Sept 2021	Sept 2022	Sept 2023
TMCP Trust 22109 (Gladys Harrop) (cash)	£40,941.03	£41,107.25	£41,374.42	£41,647.63	£36,694.20	£21,705.07 cash	£8,191.41 cash
TMCP Trust 6255 (Edward Norman Birch) (cash)	£55.52 Cash	£55.49 Cash	£55.49 Cash	£55.49 Cash	£55.49 Cash	£55.55 Cash	£55.49 cash
TMCP Trust 725(Emily Morton) Cash:Inv in CFB Mixed Fund:	£921.46 £1,840.10	£921.03 £1,918.28	£921.03 £1,942.06	£921.03 £1,907.80	£921.03 Cash £2,215.69	£921.03 cash £2,117.14 invest	£921.03 cash £2,026.08 invest
TMCP Trust 725A (George Hammersley) (cash)	£381.45 Cash	£383.02 Cash	£385.50 Cash	£388.04	£388.50	£389.27 cash	£400.65 cash
TOTAL Invested	Cash £42,299.46 Invest £1,840.10	Cash £42,466.79 Invest: £ 1,918.28	Cash £42,736.44 Invest: £1,942.06	Cash £ 43,012.19 Invest: £1,907.80	Cash £37,670.72 Invest: £2,215.69	Cash £23,070.92 Invest £2,117.14	Cash £9,568.58 Invest £2,026.08

Cash Assets are held in the Trustees Interest Fund.
The Emily Morton Investment part is in the CFB Mixed Fund

Insurance Provision from the Insurance Statement on the Renewal document

	Sept 2018	Sept 2019	Sept 2020	Sept 2021	Sept 2022	Sept 2023
Insurance Value of buildings	£5,859,157	£6,210,706	£6,583,349	£6,978,350	£7,536,618	£8,441,013
Church Contents	£235,963	£247,761	£260,150	£273,158	£289,548	£324,294
Organ	£467,360	£490,728	£515,265	£541,029	£573,491	£642,310
AV Equipment	£22,801	£23,941	£25,139	£26,396	£27,980	£31,338.00
Employers' Liability	£10,000,000	£10,000,000	£10,000,000	£10,000,000	£10,000,000	£10,000,000
Public Liability	£10,000,000	£10,000,000	£10,000,000	£10,000,000	£10,000,000	£10,000,000
Products Liability	£10,000,000	£10,000,000	£10,000,000	£10,000,000	£10,000,000	£10,000,000
Trustee's and Officers indemnity	£500,000	£500,000	£500,000	£500,000	£500,000	£500,000
Personal Accident Cover (Ages 5-85)			£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000

There are no outstanding liabilities at the year-end August 31st 2023.
£14,000 was withdrawn from the Gladys Harrop Trust to cover the boiler replacement
The indexation on the insurance is 12% this year

**Treasurer's Report for Trinity Church, Leek (Methodist and United Reformed)
to the Charity Commission, Sept 1st 2021-Aug 31st 2023 (Charity Number: 1171597)**

General: This year has seen a further continuation of the return to some kind of normality following Covid. The Offertory has reduced from 2021-22 by £3,707 due to the sad deaths of several long standing church members. The dedication of Church Members, who still feel unable to attend worship, in ensuring their Offertory envelopes reach Trinity has also helped. Bookings of our Lower Hall and Foyer space have reduced by £1,153 as we lost some regular hirers as a result of the few months we had without heating whilst our boiler was being replaced.

Our own regular coffee mornings which provide a social environment as well as income, have continued to improve with £4,897 raised and our regular film clubs have provided income of £2,846

Our normal practice of making appeals at Festival times took place at Harvest, Christmas and Easter and many people made donations directly to our supported Charities as well as via Trinity. (See Page 7 for details)

Receipts: Our Offertory continued to be sufficient for Trinity to pay its pledged Assessment to the Methodist Circuit, which, as Trinity is an LEP (Local Ecumenical Partnership), transfers Ministerial costs to the United Reformed Church for our Mission and Ministry. Giving for special appeals throughout the year was paid out directly to the recipient charities. The Gift Aid reclaimed from HMRC was down by about £1,036 mainly due to the aforementioned reduction in Offertories

An Insurance balance of £1,306.99 relating to loss of income during COVID was received, along with a Grant of £15,866.00 from the United Reformed Church towards the new boiler

Payments: The effect of COVID has reduced further since last year on our outgoings. Our Ministry continues to be enhanced by producing materials printed materials, which are made available. These are all referenced under the tab 'Ministry under COVID', the increase of £203 from last year reflects the increased postage costs.

We were able to maintain our assessment to the Methodist Circuit of £55,000.

'Major Work' includes £28,464 for the replacement boiler, £1,607.78 for temporary heaters and £1,999.62 for emergency ceiling repairs which were carried out

'Repairs & Renewals' included various maintenance work, in addition to the regular costs, the biggest of which were £1,065.60 Lift Remedial work and £1,026.31 work on the old boiler

'Gas/Electric' costs have increased by £2,882.34 following a significant increase when our Gas contract was renewed, we have not yet been impacted by the Electricity increase as we are still in contract until the end of August 2023.

Other Utility costs and the insurance premium show only minimal increases this year.

We were able to transfer £1,500 to our reserves during the year

Donations: Planned Tithed giving of £5,300 (10% of direct giving) to pre-agreed charities as well as our Festival giving is summarised on page 7.

Conclusion: We have managed to maintain our Assessment but had to reduce our tithed giving as we have lost a number of long standing church members

Energy costs will continue to be a challenge and we will start to get the impact of the Electricity increase following the end of our old contract. It is very difficult to pass on the full effect of the increases to external hirers without losing them altogether.

Regular maintenance of our building continues to be a cost with some more potential repairs in 2023/24 which may require some more transfers from our reserves.

Robin McDuell (Church Treasurer). November 3rd 2023

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Trinity Church, Leek

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Trinity Church, Leek, on pages 1-4 for the year ended 31st August 2023

Responsibilities and basis of report.

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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.

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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with these records; or
- 3 the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination'.

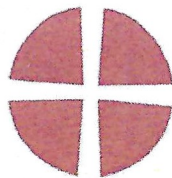
I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Oliver Newey ACA



Signed:

Date: 23/11/23



A united
congregation
of
**The Methodist
Church
and
The United
Reformed
Church**

Trinity Church,
(Methodist United Reformed)
Russell Street,
Leek, Staffs.,
ST13 5JF

Telephone: 01538 398483
Email: trinitychurchleek@uwclub.net
Registered Charity: 1171597

Trinity Church Accounts 2022-2023

The accounts on Pages 1 to 4 were presented to, and approved by, the

Church Meeting held on 30th November 2023

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Rev Richard Pope (Chairperson) *Richard Pope*

Mrs Maureen Wiskin (Church Secretary) *Maureen Wiskin*

Date: 30th November 2023

Allocation of central church funds (tithed giving) to charities 2022-2023

D01	Methodist Mission in Britain Fund	£600
D01	Methodist World Mission Fund	£1,000
D02	Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust (LWPT)	£200
D02	MHA	£450
D02	Action for Children	£500
D03	URC Commitment for Life	£1,500
D04	Leek Town Centre Youth Project (@21)	£150
D05	Leek Foodbank	£150
D05	Asha	£200
D07	A Rocha UK	£550
	TOTAL	£5,300

Charitable Monies in Transit, 2022-2023 (Money raised for specific appeals)

Event Income	Credit
F01 Harvest	
Gift Aid slips sent to Christian Aid directly	£627.00
F02 Christmas Appeal	£1,240.00
F03 Easter Appeal	£808.00
F05 Christian Aid (Individuals also contributed online)	£867.33
F06 MHA Appeal	£360.00
F07 Action for Children (Xmas/AforC envs)	£720.35
F08 Special Appeals (Pakistan Floods £202/Turkey Earthquake £868)	£1,070.00
F11 ASHA	£20.00
F12 Fairtrade Coffee Morning (£468 Coffee Morning plus £50 Donation)	£518.00
TOTAL:	£6,230.68

Paid Away to:>	Debit
G01 Harvest (Christian Aid)	£627.00
G02 Action Aid Uk (Christmas)*	£620.00
G02 Leek Foodbank (Christmas)*	£620.00
G03 Practical Action (Easter)*	£404.00
G03 Windmills (Easter)*	£404.00
G05 Christian Aid	£867.33
G06 MHA *	£360.00
G07 Action for Children*	£720.35
G08 Special Appeals (Pakistan Floods £202/Turkey Earthquake £868)*	£1,070.00
G11 ASHA*	£20.00
G12 Transform Trade	£518.00
TOTAL:	£6,230.68
D08 *Also donations equivalent to Gift Aid paid to Recipients marked *	£915.98