

## **Grappenhall Independent Methodist Church**

### **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March 2025**

This report includes information required by the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting by Charities 2005 as applicable to charities entitled to prepare accounts on the receipts and payments basis.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Grappenhall Independent Methodist Church is a local church of the Independent Methodist Association in Great Britain. It was registered on 20 March 2017 as Charity Number 1172160.

Grappenhall Independent Methodist Church is situated at:

2, Barton Avenue, Grappenhall, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 2LE

The trustees who served during the financial year from April 2024 to March 2025 are:

Robert E Brooks (Chair)  
Susan J McArthur  
Allyson D H Ashcroft  
Anne Pridden  
Glenys Baguley  
Kathleen Middleton  
Timothy Jordan  
Godfrey Gwilliam  
Roy Findlay

The Church building is held under trust with legal title vested in the nominated Trustees.

#### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

The activities of Grappenhall Independent Methodist Church are overseen by the Deacons of the Church and administrative matters are overseen by the Church Council. The governing document of the registered charity is a statement adopted by the Church Meeting on 9 February 2017.

The Church Council is responsible for the financial administration of the Church, and the care and maintenance of Church premises. The Church Meeting (of all members wishing to attend) gives general guidance on the life and work of the Church.

The members of the Church Council are nominated and elected by the members of

Grappenhall Independent Methodist Church at an Annual General Meeting. This meeting also nominates and elects trustees as necessary. The Church Council met 10 times during the year. The Deacons met 10 times during the year and the Trustees met twice.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

Grappenhall Independent Methodist Church seeks to advance the Christian faith through its activities and the facilities offered to the community by its building.

The Deacons are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in "The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit" and has regard to it in the administration of the Church.

The Deacons believe that the Church provides benefit to the public by:

- providing resources and facilities for public worship, pastoral care, and spiritual, moral and intellectual development, both for the congregation and for anyone else who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers.
- promoting Christian values and service by members of the congregation to the community, for the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

## **REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

The opening of the Fir Grove Hotel as an Asylum Centre brought us into contact with people who we never have imagined would walk through our door. People from Namibia, Botswana and Iran, just to identify those who we had the most meaningful contact with and with whom we tried to help and support as best as we could within our limitations. These individuals have now largely been settled elsewhere and we wish them well, but it is a reminder that we never know who is coming through our door next and how we should be prepared to welcome and assist whenever possible in Christian love.

New contacts have not been limited to asylum seekers and others have joined us for worship and fellowship during the year. Some have joined us for a short time whilst others are still with us and again this serves as a reminder that we need to continue to engage with those in our local community and be seen as a church which is welcoming, engaging and has something to offer. Our regular after service tea and coffee in the hall continues to be a positive aspect of what we do as church and is appreciated by most of our congregation. A special thanks to those who work in the kitchen each Sunday.

Our ability to serve the community is very much dependent on the spiritual strength and commitment of our core membership. The Deacons continue to look at opportunities to strengthen and develop our fellowship.

Sunday services continue to be well attended but we do suffer fluctuations due to a

number of factors including holidays, illness and those who only attend now and then. The pulpit continues to be served by a combination of our own preachers, visiting preachers and fellowship led worship. Whilst the current mix serves us well, we are mindful that our time of fellowship and worship must remain inclusive and relevant, and we continue to look for new and different opportunities to achieve those goals.

Engagement with our local community must be a priority because if we are not rooted within it, we become irrelevant and will eventually cease to exist.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **1 Summary**

Our offertory continues to hold steady despite falling numbers. Donations to the church increased significantly by around £6000 as a result of income received from the sale of Buckley Street Church. Room rental is a valuable source of income but requires management. We received a grant of £5500 from the Independent Methodist Connexion as a contribution towards the cost of installing Audio Visual equipment. Our income for the year was £32184 which reflects an overall increase of £10000 on the previous year. Our expenses remained relatively steady, and we ended the year with a General Fund Balance of £20144.

We are currently in the process of reviewing the costs of letting the room out. We charge a relatively nominal figure but need to review it to ensure that we are covering the cost of the utilities and wear and tear.

### **2 Reserves Policy**

**Unrestricted funds:** Ideally, the Deacons would wish to have in hand an amount equal to at least 6 months' regular expenditure as "free" reserves, to meet future shortfalls in income or unexpected expenses. The balance at 31 March 2025 represents 12 months of budgeted expenditure for 2025/2026.

**Designated Funds:** There are currently no designated funds.

This report was approved by the Annual General Meeting on 19 October 2025 and is signed on its behalf by Robert E Brooks, (Minister).



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*Robert E Brooks*

*Minister*

**Grappenhall Independent Methodist Church**  
**Income and Expenditure Account**  
**Period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025**

<b>Income</b>		<b>2024/2025</b>		<b>2023/2024</b>	
<b>Offeratories:</b>		£	10,752.83	£	9,439.74
<b>Donations:</b>					
	Keep Fit Group	£	400.00		
	C H Hutchings	£	900.00		
	D W Preston	£	400.00		
	Sale of Buckley Street	£	6,175.00		
	Oulton Court	£	20.00		
	Brownies	£	25.00		
	Mark Cleaver - Romans Course	£	50.00		
		£	7,970.00	£	2,035.00
<b>Room Rental:</b>		£	5,240.00	£	3,130.00
<b>HMRC Gift Aid Refund</b>		£	2,039.25	£	2,489.81
<b>Grant Income</b>					
	IM Association - Audio Visual Equipment	£	5,500.00	£	4,000.00
<b>Events &amp; Collections:</b>					
	Concert	£	130.00		
	Christmas Income	£	193.72		
		£	323.72	£	1,163.00
<b>Sundry Income</b>					
	Laptop Refund	£	349.00		
	Other	£	10.00		
		£	359.00	£	342.17
<b>Total Income</b>		£	32,184.80	£	22,599.72
<b>Balance Fwd @ 31/03/2024</b>		£	15,010.02		
		£	47,194.82		
<b>Expenses</b>		£	27,050.73		
<b>Balance @ 31/03/2025</b>		£	<b>20,144.09</b>		

**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025**

Lloyds TSB	£	20,144.09
Cash in hand	£	-
	£	20,144.09
General Fund Ledger	£	20,144.09

<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>2024/2025</b>	<b>2023/2024</b>
<b>Utilities:</b>			
Water Plus (United Utilities)	£ 514.79		£ 417.39
Business Gas	£ 2,292.86		£ 3,041.43
Scottish Power/British Gas electricity	£ 1,756.53		£ 2,685.06
British Telecom	£ 608.41		£ 907.29
		£ 5,172.59	£ 7,051.17
<b>Caretaker and Cleaning Costs</b>		£ 3,022.52	£ 2,680.68
<b>Insurance</b>		£ 2,340.53	£ 2,362.57
<b>Property Costs</b>			
Ceiling Repair	£ 120.00		
Plastering	£ 410.00		
Garden	£ 870.79		
Gutter Cleaning and repair	£ 175.00		
Skip Hire	£ 230.00		
Drain blockage	£ 668.00		
Sundry costs	£ 278.77		
		£ 2,752.56	£ 4,129.40
<b>Repairs and Replacements</b>			
Electric Fires	£ 431.58		
TV and Stand	£ 318.99		
Fire Inspection	£ 95.70		
Sundry	£ 51.29		
		£ 897.56	£ 5,113.78
<b>Equipment</b>			
Audio Visual Equipment	£ 7,515.60		
Laptops	£ 751.81		
		£ 8,267.41	£ 1,211.00
<b>Stationery/Publicity:</b>			
IM Resource Centre	£ 337.05		
Roots Subscription	£ 172.96		
Palm Crosses	£ 18.97		
Stationery and posters	£ 396.80		
Printing costs	£ 501.19		
		£ 1,426.97	£ 1,585.36
<b>Connexional Dues</b>			
2024/2025	£ 1,134.00		
2025/2026	£ 133.00		
<b>Donations:</b>		£ 1,267.00	£ 1,456.00
G & D Castro	£ 600.00		
Lymm IM Romania	£ 150.00		
Overseas Missions	£ 100.00		
Warrington Youth for Christ	£ 300.00		
Zoes Place	£ 323.72		
MacMillan	£ 200.00		
		£ 1,673.72	£ 900.00
<b>Sundry Expenses</b>			
Zoom Licence	£ 155.88		
Green Bin Subscription	£ 43.50		
Other	£ 30.49		
		£ 229.87	£ 150.00
<b>Expenses 2023/2024</b>		<b>£ 27,050.73</b>	£ 26,639.96

