THE METHODIST CHURCH, HATFIELD ROAD, ST ALBANS

England & Wales · Charity number 1173147

Details

Other names	HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH, ST ALBANS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2017-05-24
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Hatfield Road Methodist Church 133B Hatfield Road St. Albans Hertfordshire AL1 4JX
Phone	01727851834
Website	https://www.hatfieldroadmethodist.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE PURPOSES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH ARE AND SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SINCE THE DATE OF UNION THE ADVANCEMENT OF - (A) THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DOCTRINAL STANDARDS AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH; (B) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CONNEXIONAL, DISTRICT, CIRCUIT, LOCAL OR OTHER ORGANISATION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH; (C) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY SOCIETY OR INSTITUTION SUBSIDUARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH; (D) ANY PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CHARITY BEING A CHARITY SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Activities: Worship and learning, prayer and house groups. Premises offering care for the elderly, group for the alcohol dependency of a family member, babies & toddlers group where parents/carers can meet and learn from each other, activities for children and young people including Christian uniformed organisations, fundraise for international, national & local organisations & support bereaved/distressed.

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Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Hertfordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£127,283	£126,015	-	-
2024-08-31	£165,671	£178,694	-	-
2023-08-31	£126,644	£112,245	-	-
2022-08-31	£121,894	£142,455	-	-
2021-08-31	£131,030	£139,184	-	-
2020-08-31	£132,688	£84,586	-	-

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Jervis Daniel Yovan	Chair	2023-09-01
Angela Spriggs		2024-02-27
Anne Wall		2023-06-01
CAROLINE CLARE TOUGH		2012-05-01
Christopher Roger Kitchin		2026-05-17
DENISE MARGARET WILLINGHAM		2016-05-22
ERIC CHARLES BRIDGSTOCK		2018-06-12
FREDA ELIZABETH GRAY		2017-08-30
GEORGINA MARGARET WOODHEAD		2026-05-17
Graham Rollason Danbury		2026-05-17
Hilary Moore		2026-05-17
Jacqueline Ann Vivian		2023-11-06
James Appiah		2021-06-01
Joanna Elisabeth Rose		2009-05-01
Louise Helen Mullins		2026-05-17
Napoleon Yorke-Andrews		2025-03-16
Noelene Browning		2025-10-01
PETER RICHARD WALLACE		2015-10-14
ROSALIND ANNE HANCOCK		2015-05-01
Rev David Jebb		2022-09-01
Rev Nigel Perrott		2022-09-01
Ruth Elizabeth Wallace		2023-06-01
Stuart Finlay Johnson		2025-10-01
Tomas Cvrcek		2018-05-20
Valerie Christine Parker		2019-06-12

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THE METHODIST CHURCH, HATFIELD ROAD, ST ALBANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1173147

Accounts

The **Methodist** Church

Hatfield Road Methodist Church, St Albans

Serving Christ and the Local Community

Annual Report 2025-2026

Presented to the Annual General Church Meeting of Sunday 17th May 2026
[Paper 6]

Revision r2 17th May 2026 [Minor amendments in blue since r1 of 12th May 2026]

17/5/26

133B Hatfield Road, St Albans AL1 4JX
District 34 Bedfordshire, Essex & Hertfordshire, Circuit 13 St Albans & Welwyn, Church Id 25824 Charity Registration Number 1173147

This report has been compiled and edited by Peter Wallace, Church Council Secretary. Thank you to all who have contributed to this report and to the life of this church.

Any details of web links may be found at the end of the report using 'end note' links[i, ii, iii… like this] ..

If you would like a hardcopy or large print of this Annual Report, please contact the Minister or one of the Church Stewards

Front Cover Watercolour Illustration of the Church by Maureen Carveley (~2012)

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Introduction

Our Calling

The Methodist Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans is part of the St Albans and Welwyn Methodist Circuit in the Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex District of the Methodist Church in Britain

The Calling of The Methodist Church in Britain is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. It does this through:

WORSHIP

By increasing awareness of God's presence and celebrating God's love

LEARNING & CARING

By helping people grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

SERVICE

By being a good neighbour to people in need and challenging injustice

EVANGELISM

By making more followers of Jesus Christ

The calling of Hatfield Road Methodist Church, as agreed by its Church Council, includes the commitment to:

'Serve Christ and the Local Community'

Our Obligations as a Registered Charity

Each Methodist Church is a charity as part of the Methodist Connexion administered by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP[i]). This local church is also registered directly with the Charity Commission[ii] as 'The Methodist Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans (1173147)'.

As a registered charity, our annual report must explain what its charitable purposes are and what it has done during the year to carry out those purposes[iii] and also contain the year's accounts for the charity, which must be submitted to the Charity Commission no later than 10 months after the end of their financial year (31st August for Methodist Churches). These charitable purposes are summarized within each annual Standard Form of Accounts.

All Church Council members must be eligible and willing to become Trustees.

Our Presbyter's Message

Rev J Daniel Yovan, Minister with Pastoral Charge

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As we meet for our AGCM this year, we give thanks and praise to God for his faithfulness in everything that have happened in the life of the church. As we look forward, I pray that God will enable us to understand the depth, height and the width of the love of Jesus for us. May God reveal himself to us all through the power of the Holy Spirit so that our eyes and our hearts may be enlightened (Ephesians 1: 15 – 23). Let our hearts not be troubled by whatever is going on in the world at the moment. Let us keep our eyes focused on Jesus who is the author and perfector of our faith, in whom we find our refuge and strength. May the Lord Lead us in the coming year.

Work with Young People

Our Alpha Youth series in preparation for Baptism and confirmation on the 5th of April was a success by the help of the Holy Spirit. I am ever so grateful for all those who have helped (throughout the Alpha) in various ways and the full immersion baptism. Please continue to pray for all those who took the commitment to follow Jesus, so that they will be strengthened in their faith as they navigate through their lives. Our next Baptism/confirmation will be on the 16th August 2026.

I am also co-ordinating the leaders from each church in the circuit, with the help of the circuit staff and Heather Moir from Shenley, to develop the work among young people. This work has already began in the last year and we will continue by God's grace. The purpose of this piece of work is to bring our young people from the circuit together once a quarter for some activities and build up a moment towards 3 Generate each year. Heather is co-ordinating/ leading the booking for 3Generate and will visit churches in the coming weeks.

My heartfelt thanks to all the Sunday club leaders (our Sunday club is playing a great role) in encouraging our children and young people in their walk with God. Congratulations to all our JMA collectors too.

Mission in the St Albans Methodist Churches – Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road

We met, as St Albans Methodist Churches, Angela Turner at 2pm on 28th of March at Homewood Road United Reformed Church for an open conversation with each other, to find a way to journey together towards the future. I am sorry that this meeting did not go very well. Going forward, while both churches are planning their own mission plan separately, I still think, that we do need to talk about the future of Methodism in St Albans with some seriousness in the coming years. We cannot sit and do nothing (I am still praying about it). Please keep this in your prayers.

The Anna Chaplaincy Management Group is trying to find a way to continue the work of Anna Chaplaincy by extending the appointment of Maggie further (Maggie's current contract comes to an end in August 2027). Please see separate detailed reports from Louise Mullins and Maggie Dodd.

We have formed two Lay Worker Groups: one for Anna Chaplaincy and the other for a Children and Family worker for both churches. We have regular meetings to find a way forward in terms of identifying

the mission and shaping a 'job description'. I am thankful for those who are willing to take responsibilities within those groups to see the work progress.

Mission and Outreach at HRMC

I am thrilled to note that all that we do to make contact with the local residents and those who walk through the door. The prayer groups both in person and on WhatsApp, Tuesday Cuppa, Babies and Toddlers and Day care are very beneficial for people in various ways. Our regular outreach events organised by the Social and Outreach Events is beginning to take some momentum. Saturday Family Time is attracting some families. The upcoming events are the Christian Aid Hunger Lunch and the regional ArtServe Event. Thank you all for your support to make this church to bear witness.

Joint Worship

Our joint worship with MRMC included the October memorial service for recently bereaved families, Carols and Praise (at the end of December) - a time to get together and enjoy fellowship. Maundy Thursday was not well-attended 2nd April 2026 but there were good numbers at HRMC on Good Friday. However, coming together for united worship needs more encouragement for both churches. The next event will be Praise in the Park on Bank Holiday Sunday 23rd August 2026. Please mark the date in your diary. I am in conversation with other local churches to encourage them to take part in the service.

Worship at HRMC

The Stewards are finding a way forward to enrich the worship experience of those who attend. On the first Sundays of the month, we have united 9am Holy Communion service, Create and Celebrate, and evening Praise and Prayer led by Chris Hancock (thank you Chris). We need to encourage people to attend and support these services. A big thank you to all those who are part of the Music Group that plays a vital role in the life of the church.

Work with Schools

I have not done many sessions with STEP in schools recently, apart from leading a couple of reflections (contemplative prayers) for their staff training day. I will be attending in March a cultural day in one of the schools in Harpenden. I am supervising other ministers through the district and doing spiritual direction through St Albans diocese. I am also volunteering as a chaplain at the Cathedral once a month.

Departure of Deacon Nigel Perrott

We will miss Nigel and Jane and their ministry among us. We wish them God's blessings on their new adventure as they prepare to move. Please see a separate paper from the superintendent about the reason for Nigel's curtailment. The Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) is exploring the way forward for Cornerstone (see a separate paper to the Circuit Meeting of 16th March 2026). From now on the responsibility for Cornerstone's management lies at the hand of CLT/Cornerstone Management Group.

* * *

My family and I are doing well by God's grace but I am trying not to take on more and more responsibilities within both churches and in the circuit. However, it is not always possible to say no to things that have deadlines. I am in regular conversation with the staff team to find a way forward for both churches without burning myself out. I have never before felt a pressure like this in the last seven years of my ministry. Please keep me and the family in your prayers.

I would like to thank all the pastoral visitors, stewards, Sunday assistants and those who are helping out with various services, musicians and those who are looking after the property and finance. Please continue to look after one another in love and pray for those who need our prayers in our churches and the nations around the world. would like to thank everyone who has played some role in the life of the church. Your contributions are invaluable to the keeping up of the Church community.

May God would bless you and your family with the joy unspeakable and the peace that endures. I and my family are grateful for all the prayers and support we have received from you so far. May the Lord continue to build His Church.

Amen.

Church Stewards' Report – Ruth Wallace (Senior Steward)

Our Ministers

Daniel returned from his Sabbatical in July 2025 and is now in his third year with us.

Nigel curtailed his appointment a year early and will finish in July 2026. Since his curtailment he has been invited to be involved in several aspects of the churches life but his engagement has been very limited.

Our Circuit representative is now Senior Circuit Steward, Stuart Johnson.

Steward Team

Our current stewards until 30th June 2026 are Ruth Wallace, Tomáš Cvrček, Anne Wall, Denise Willingham and Napoleon Yorke-Andrews:

- Ruth has now been senior steward for a year and anticipates another year in the role
- Denise has rejoined the steward team
- Tomas will be stepping down in the summer after seven years including two years as Senior Steward and one extra year to support handover
- Noelene Browning has left the stewards team but remains a Church Council Trustee for banking purposes

We are grateful to our Sunday Assistants Sue Davey, Sally Newton, Evangeline Selvarajan (9.00am) and Angela Spriggs. Jan Kitchin is not currently able to assist and will be unable to rejoin the Sunday Assistant team for the foreseeable future

We have urgent vacancies for **two Stewards** and **two Sunday assistants** – please consider if you would be able to join (or rejoin) one of these teams.

Worship and Services

We have held a variety of services in addition to our usual offering.

Praise in the Park on Sunday 24th August 2025 was a new initiative by Daniel in which HRMC and MRMC were joined by the Salvation Army and Church of the God of Prophecy for a service in Clarence Park. About 112 attended from the different churches and a number of other churches have indicated their interest in joining us for another *Praise in the park* service due 23rd August 2026.

Peter Wallace led our first ever *Blessing of the school Bags* service on 31st August 2025. Children and young people, and adults working in education were invited to bring in their school bags and share a

little about their school life. It was particularly moving that Cooper was able to take part and for the congregation to hear about his school.

We have welcomed several visiting preachers including former ministers Rev Sarah Lowe (*World Church*) and Rev Michael Giles (*Church Anniversary*). Matt Henderson from *Leprosy Mission* led a very thought-provoking service and it is good that the *Leprosy Mission* will be one of our new chosen charities to support from 1st September 2026.

A highlight of the Advent and Christmas services this year was the *Nativity* service led by the children and young people which has now had over 100 viewings on the church Youtube site. Gifts from the service were gratefully received by the *SAHWR (Women's Refuge)*. The *Christingle* service was not well attended with only 5 children from 3 families, so the stewards will ensure it is better publicised next year.

The reflective *Good Friday service* led by Chris Hancock was much appreciated by those who attended, however attendance at the *Maundy Thursday* service joint with, and at MRMC, was very poor.

Our *Easter day* service 5th April 2026 included the baptism of four and confirmation five of our young people. One of the young people requested she be *baptised by full immersion* and, once this was arranged, all the baptismal candidates also chose to be baptised by full immersion. It was a logistical challenge. However with thorough preparation, it all went ahead as planned and without incident.

The stewards have also had discussions about how the role of the worship leader can be enhanced within the church.

Attendance and Membership

In 2025 our overall average attendance on a Sunday morning dipped below 60 for the first time, with the biggest drop off on the first Sunday with the 9.00am at 13.5 (down from 16.8 in 2024) and Create and Celebrate at 47 (from 56 in 2024).

Since January 2026, the average attendance for all Sundays has increased slightly back to 63 - similar to 2024. Numbers have remained the same for the 9.00am service but have increased by an average of two for Create and Celebrate, though not back up to 2024 levels.

We have welcomed five people into the church by Baptism and six into membership by confirmation or transfer. (See pastoral report)

Sunday Club numbers remain fairly steady with some families attending more, and some less regularly. A small group attended 3Generate (see Sunday Club report).

Church Council Activities

The stewards have discussed and raised a number of issues to Church council.

The Financial Management policies has been reviewed and updated. New practices are now in place for the handling of cash in particular.

In the light of the lower attendance figures on the first Sunday of the month, the stewards produced a survey questionnaire to explore what factors might be contributing to lower attendance. We are grateful to the congregation for their very high response rate. A report has now been produced which is due to be discussed by Worship Consultation on Tuesday 12th May 2026 and our AGCM on Sunday 17th May 2026.

The Church Council of 3rd February 2026 balloted a selection of charities nominated by the church congregation. The three new charities selected from 1st September 2026 until 31st August 2029 are:

Local **Herts Welcomes Refugees**[iv] which works in partnership with the *Refugee Council*[v] and supports their work championing the rights of refugees.

National **The Brain Tumour Charity**[vi] is the world's leading brain tumour charity and the largest dedicated funder of research into brain tumours globally [including the UK].

International **Leprosy Mission**[vii] Great Britain is a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy.

These charities will share from occasional fundraising events organized or sponsored by the church (for example, Quorum Concerts). Our existing charities will benefit until 31st August 2026: The Living Room; the Alzheimer's Society; and Christian Aid. This is in addition to our support of Charities Sponsored by the Methodist Church and events arranged to support particular charities.

Church Groups and Church Council Appointments

The stewards have updated the list of church groups and appointments made on behalf of Church Council. We have the following vacancies (**please consider if you could help**):

- *Cradle Roll Secretary* — Sunday Club Coordinator Caroline Tough is covering the role and appreciated Zuzanna Cvrčková's assistance with the Easter Day baptisms. However, it would be good to have someone more permanent for this role
- *JMA* — Hannah and Jacob will be stepping down in the summer
- *GDPR* — currently covered by Daniel
- *Gift Aid Secretary* — Nerys Bint has stepped down
- *Tuesday Cuppa* — Christine Ford is finishing this summer and Ros Hancock will be coordinating a rota of helpers to run it each week
- *Chair of Finance and Property* — Eric Bridgstock is proposing to step down due to conflict of interests with his other role as Treasurer

With the exception of the Chair of the Finance and Property committee, none of these roles are particularly onerous so if you would like to help, or to find out more please contact a steward.

We thank Claire Debnam for joint leadership of the Babies and Toddlers Group with Chris Hancock, as Louise Bourton from Shenley Methodist Church has moved to Cheltenham.

Please also see the reports from individual groups below.

Events and Outreach

District Discipleship Enabler Angela Turner led a meeting of both Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road churches on Saturday 28th March 2026 at Homewood Road URC to discuss the *Future Vision for Methodists in St Albans*. The meeting was very well attended by both HRMC and MRMC. However the brief was not followed, so the meeting was very disappointing and there was no real outcome, or closer alignment between the visions of the two churches. The Stewards will continue to meet bi-monthly with MRMC Stewards but there are no plans to meet as whole churches again for now.

The Church was accredited as *Single Friendly*, and several lunches for the congregation have taken place. On 18th April a new social group *Friendship Connect*, for single people over 35's was launched, headed by Angela Spriggs. This is an area with real opportunities for growth which I hope we can build on.

Daniel led *Alpha Youth* during the spring term 2026 which was attended by six of our own youth plus several young people and an adult from the circuit. Following this all six were confirmed and/or baptised on Easter Sunday.

Family fun time, led by Tomáš Cvrček continues to go well, the next event will be held at 1500 on Saturday 23rd May 2026.

On 9th May 2026, HRMC hosted the regional *Artserve* event coordinated by Jo Rose. A dozen or so attended from HRMC and were able to take part in a creative worship session and various creative workshops, as well as learn more about the organisation.

Anne Wall organised a *Christian Aid Hunger Lunch* after church 10th May 2026.

The *Social & Outreach Events* group has arranged and coordinated several events including a very successful *Jackets and Japes* evening on 24th January. Future events planned include a *Garden Tea Party* (with Rev Andrew Prout) on Saturday 13th June 2026 as part of our *Church Anniversary* celebrations, *Quorum Concert* 11th July 2026, *Family Fun time* 17th July 2026, and *Holiday@Home* 10-14th August 2026

Property and Practical Issues

Saturday cleaning has become a regular fixture. Thank you to all who volunteer.

The *Quinquennial inspection* took place on 2nd October 2025 with no major surprises.

The *Small hall refurbishment* has been completed with several regular lettings now using the space. The exterior of the church has been decorated and the front door, now blue, is easier to see from the road. The screens in the sanctuary/Aldersgate lounge have been refurbished. See more details below.

The stewards have tidied and reorganised the vestry and plans are afoot for other areas in the church in due course.

Ongoing Activities

Lay workers A team of members are actively involved in securing funding to enable the *Anna Chaplaincy* role to continue when the current funding runs out in August 2027. Another team are exploring the possibility of a *Children and Families worker*.

Part of the grant process will require submission of a new church mission statement and plan which the stewards will take forwards.

* * *

I am grateful to all who contribute so much to the life of this church.

Thank you.

Church Council

The Church Council is responsible for the affairs of our church and usually meets three times a year. Members, who may normally serve for up to 6 years, are appointed automatically because of their role, such as Ministers and Church Stewards, or elected each year as representatives of the Annual General Church Meeting (AGCM), or appointed by the Council itself to ensure that all areas of the church's life are adequately represented.

Church Council meetings are open to any church member although only Church Council members may vote. Non-Council members may speak with the permission of the meeting and the prior knowledge of the Minister with Pastoral Charge or Church Council Secretary. Meetings are publicized in church notices and papers about the meetings can be found on the notice board opposite the kitchen and on the church website.

Since the last AGCM of 16th March 2025 the Church Council has met three times for routine business on 25th June 2025, 1st October 2025, and 3rd February 2026. The next meeting is planned for 10th June 2026.

Our Stewardship of Money and Property

Church Treasurer's Report – Eric Bridgstock

Banking

In June last year, CAF Bank (our main account) rolled out a new system, which made the online experience considerably more cumbersome to use – for example, creating a payment takes about twice as long as previously. It has improved slightly, but the search functions are still slow and unreliable, and some functions are 'hidden' in their menu system – far from ideal.

In September, the Methodist Central Finance Branch (CFB), which holds our deposit account, underwent a similar 'upgrade' with much the same outcome. What were simple tasks to review transactions, or move money between CFB and CAF, have become obfuscated by terminology and user interface.

Performance against Budget

A detailed review of income and expenditure against budget, for the first six months of Methodist Year 2025-26, is presented separately. It shows a deficit of £25k against a budgeted loss of £16.5k; but Gift Aid and Lay Worker grants (totalling around £20k) are scheduled for the second half of the year.

Property matters have incurred higher than budgeted costs – partitions, external painting, and the gas and electrics work triggered by the Quinquennial.

£1,200 of lettings income in March means that the £7,000 budget has already been exceeded. Small Hall income since the start of Methodist Year is now more than the income from Large Hall lettings.

Layworkers

Anna Chaplaincy

Maggie Dodd joined in April 2021 on a five year contract. For her first four months, she worked half-time, then went full-time until Feb 2025, when it was agreed that, for family reasons, her weekly hours would be reduced by half (to 17½), and the contract would run for an extra year, with the end date extended to 23 April 2027. Subsequently, from 3 Nov 2025, it was agreed that weekly hours would increase to 20, while retaining the April 2027 end of contract date. Grant bodies (Connexion and District) both agreed to maintain the total grant and spread the final payments over the two 'half-time' years. Additionally, as those bodies operate on Methodist Years, they have stipulated that Maggie must be contracted to Aug 2027.

A working group, meeting monthly, has been formed to look at how the Anna Chaplaincy can be continued beyond that date, specifically finding sources of funding and ensuring the appropriate management is in place to support anticipated growth. Funding from other local and national sources (for example, St Albans churches and charitable organisations) are being investigated. Congregational funding (pledges) will probably also be sought again.

Children & Families Worker (CFW)

Emma Williams (née Haggis) was recruited as a CFW in 2020 on a three-year contract but left after 22 months in May 2022. A group is looking into the possibility of engaging someone to operate in the CFW role. This includes the need to provide funding.

Lay Workers Funding status

An accounting error has been found in the annual process of trueing up the Lay Worker costs and grants with MRMC, created by HRMC Treasurer and not detected by the MRMC Treasurer. It has yet to be fully resolved and may mean HRMC owes MRMC over £25k. It was identified when the reserves for this project in the two churches were significantly different, and explains why HRMC reserves appeared unduly healthy. It will get sorted during our trueing up exercise with MRMC in July 2026.

Energy

Energy costs remain a significant expenditure but both have been changed in the last year, which shields us from some of the effects of the Middle East conflict.

Our electricity contract with British Gas (!) was renewed in August 2025.

Our gas contract is with SSE and we switched to Green Gas at the start of this year. However, their incompetence has meant that they have been billing (and taking Direct Debit charges) using a [much higher] Variable Business Rate. Our broker, who has been very helpful over the past few years, is on the case and is confident that it will get resolved. I have also had direct contact with SSE.

CHARITIES

Since the 2025 AGCM, over £4,000 has been raised for charities.

- World Mission: £340 (Sarah Lowe service) and £966 (JMA)
- All We Can: £500 (Harvest and Christmas)
- Christian Aid: £286 (Service) and £606 (Hunger Lunch)
- Chosen Charities: £209 (Easter Tea), £312 (January Japes)
- The Leprosy Mission: £487 (Service)
- Women's refuge: £260 (Christmas)
- Herts Young Homeless: £235 (Christmas)

A detailed review of income and expenditure against budget, for the first six months of Methodist Year 2025-26, is presented separately.

Standard Form of Accounts (SFoA) for Year Ending 31st August 2025

See separate paper 7. The SFoA has been independently examined, reviewed and signed off by all necessary parties (treasurer, presbyter and independent examiner John Scott) with the approval of the Church Council of 3rd February 2026. The SFoA will be submitted to the Charity Commissioners with this Annual Report and as part of our annual return to the Connexion.

Review of Current Year Ending 31st August 2026 – Half Year September 2025 to February 2026

See overleaf.

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH - FINANCE SUMMARY, Q1 & Q2 Sep 2025 - Feb 2026					
[Budgets as approved CC 01Oct25]	ACTUALS 2024-25 (full year)		ACTUALS (2025-26 half year)		
		BUDGET 2025-26		Proportion	
	1/9/24 - 31/8/25	1/9/25 - 31/8/26	1/9/25 - 28/2/26	of budget	Comment
RECEIPTS					
Collections	£58,919	£60,000	£29,760	50%	
Gift Aid	£14,743	£12,000	£0	0%	expected Q3
Interest & Endowment Income	£7,473	£7,000	£3,185	46%	CFB interest nominally 4%
Lettings	£7,584	£7,000	£6,450	92%	two good new lets in Small Hall
Donations for Church	£5,800	£1,000	£682	68%	
Sunday Coffee	£312	£300	£188	63%	
Café	£1,009	£400	£342	86%	Now 'Tuesday Cuppa'
Babies & Toddlers (Net of costs)	£2,213	£2,000	£1,135	57%	
Home Mission	£773	£500	£0	0%	
Sundry	£231	£1,000	£68	7%	
Cornerstone	£5,400	£5,000	£100	2%	
Lay Workers	£22,022	£17,000	£822	5%	grants due Q3
TOTAL	**£126,479**	**£113,200**	**£42,732**	38%	
	£99,057	£91,200	£41,810	46%	***no Anna or C/stone***
PAYMENTS					
Circuit Assessment	£58,500	£58,500	£29,250	50%	
Repairs & Renewals	£15,073	£20,000	£15,473	77%	Exterior paint & Partition Repair
Gas	£6,586	£7,000	£1,000	14%	
Electricity	£2,099	£2,300	£934	41%	
Water Rates	£321	£380	£144	38%	
Insurance	£2,765	£2,800	£2,858	102%	Full premium paid
Cleaning & supplies	£481	£500	£236	47%	
Staff costs (not Lay Workers)	£1,287	£1,300	£536	41%	
Licences and Subscriptions	£1,340	£1,400	£1,401	100%	CCLI and website
Biffa Waste Disposal	£865	£1,000	£191	19%	
Youth/Sunday Club	£269	£1,000	£119	12%	
Stationery/copying (net)	£204	£500	£213	43%	
Bible notes (net)	-£35	£0	-£132		Income > expended
Organists & Music	£0	£100	£0	0%	
Donations	£0	£500	£0	0%	
Benevolence Fund	£0	£250	£0	0%	
Equipment & Furniture	£2,267	£2,000	£2,403	120%	TV and chairs for Small Hall
Sundry	£512	£1,000	£305	31%	
Catering	£0	£200	£20	10%	
Evangelism & Outreach	£2,551	£3,000	£582	19%	
Cornerstone	£2,088	£2,000	£869	43%	
Lay Workers	£27,754	£24,000	£10,493	44%	
TOTAL	**£124,927**	**£129,730**	**£66,895**	52%	
	£95,085	*£103,730*	*£55,533*	54%	***no Anna or C/stone***
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	**£1,552**	**-£16,530**	**-£24,163**	146%	
	£3,972	*-£12,530*	*-£13,723*	110%	***no Anna or C/stone***

Table 1 Income & expenditure against budget, Half Year, 2025-26, 01Sep25-28Feb26

Supporting Notes for Table 1:

- We continue to benefit from over £150,000 in the deposit account @3.5% interest
- Partitions and external painting were main building expenditure; the Quinquennial inspection identified electrical and gas works.
- Lay Worker project: Maggie now on 20hr/week. Error detected in annual trueing up with MRMC - we will settle with them (c £26k?) in Q4
- Monthly expenditure (excluding Layworker costs & Cornerstone Operational Expenses) has averaged £9,255 over the period, amounting to £87 per mem
- The bank balances held at 30th November 2025 were £169,264. This includes £23,098 Restricted (Bequests and Gifts), £33,564 ring-fenced for the Anna Chaplaincy (adjusted down for trueing up), and £3,375 for Cornerstone.
- The Church's reserves policy is to hold a sum equal to 6 months' expenditure, which was £62,463 during 2024-25.
- Donations to charities

  £501 All We Can (Harvest & Christmas)
  £894 World Mission (JMA)
  £260 Womens Refuge
  £235 Herts Young Homeless
  £487 The Leprosy Mission
  £312 Chosen Charities
  To be disbursed in Q3
  £589 for a Gambian charity from 2015-16 World Missions collection remains to be resolved.

Property – Eric Bridgstock (Chair of Finance & Property Group)

Buildings

Small Hall Refurbishment

Refurbishment was undertaken between May and September. Snags with the fire bell and powered door were resolved during October. The room is equipped with tables and chairs, and the kitchenette drawers are full of cutlery, crockery, etc. It is providing a space for our young people (air-hockey and football tables). Al Anon held their Christmas party there in December.

The damp in the boundary wall remains an issue, and addressing it will need the cooperation of the landlord of No 2 Glenferrie Road. In August, we arranged repair of the fence between our two properties, with the expectation that goodwill will be forthcoming.

Smaller Jobs

Items damaged during the break-in during April have been repaired or replaced. The desk is yet to be assembled, pending its likely role in the Vestry.

The WiFi in the Sanctuary has been boosted and is now permanently on (not just when the A/V system is being used).

Incandescent and fluorescent lighting in the corridors, Vestry, Upper Room, and back lobby have been replaced by low energy units.

Both sets of kitchen taps have been replaced, as have the WC seats.

Infestations of carpet moths have been dealt with.

Waste and Recycling

During a webinar, BIFFA explained legislation changes that will mean we will have four bins from March 2027:

- general waste
- food waste
- card, paper, metal & plastic
- glass

Legal Matter

We have had various exchanges with our neighbour at 135A, including a meeting in December. To help resolve the issue (lack of clarity in the Land Registry regarding ownership of the northern end of the boundary) some new drawings/sketches are being prepared, which will facilitate engaging TMCP - Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes – who are ultimately responsible for all Methodist property.

* * *

Finally, as always, grateful thanks to those who:

- undertake the cleaning of our church premises
- tend the gardens
- maintain and repair the buildings and fixtures

Cornerstone Project - Deacon Nigel Perrott

As I prepare to move on from the circuit at the end of July 2026, life at Cornerstone goes on with Faith Talk evenings, coffee mornings, and kids club continuing to thrive. It's encouraging to see residents connecting and sharing life together. Joanna Rose and Ros Hancock now join our weekly coffee morning and are getting to know everyone. The Circuit Leadership Team (CLT) is actively discussing the house's future, and I am sure that in due course they will be able to bring further information to the churches.

Deacon Nigel Perrott's request to curtail his appointment a year early (31st July 2026) was approved in September 2025 (See letter from the Superintendent below).

Dear Members of the Circuit Meeting and Friends,

Over recent months, I have been in conversation with Deacon Nigel Perrott and members of the Circuit Leadership Team regarding Nigel's ministry at Cornerstone House and the future direction of the project.

The appointment at Cornerstone House (formerly *The De Havilland Community Project*) was established in 2007 with a vision of shared partnership between Methodist and Anglican churches, together with other youth and community initiatives in Hatfield. Over time, that wider partnership has changed, leaving the Methodist Circuit with sole responsibility for this work. Since joining us in 2022, Nigel has served with dedication, compassion, and energy. He has faithfully sought to build community, nurture relationships, and respond to complex pastoral and social needs. His ministry has been a blessing to many, and we are deeply grateful for his commitment, enthusiasm, and care.

As the work has developed, it has become clear that the present model places a heavy responsibility on Nigel personally as he has carried this ministry largely on his own with the support of Jane. After much prayer and consultation, Nigel has discerned that this way of working is not sustainable for him in the long term. He has therefore requested that his appointment be curtailed in August 2026, one year earlier than the initial five-year period. This request was considered by the Circuit Curtailment Committee yesterday and, with their support, it has been agreed that his appointment will conclude on 31st August 2026.

This decision provides the Circuit Leadership Team with the time and opportunity to reflect carefully on the future of Cornerstone House. In parallel, we will also be reviewing the Soft Play Project at Marlborough Road, enabling us to prayerfully and wisely discern how best to invest our resources in ways that are both sustainable and effective for mission in the years ahead.

We encourage you to hold Nigel, Jane, and their family in your prayers as they look to the future. Between now and August 2026, we will continue to work closely with Nigel to review progress and to consider, together, the most appropriate way forward.

With every blessing,
Sgd. David Jebb
Superintendent Minister

Sgd.Mr Stuart Johnson
Circuit Senior Steward

The following section provides an update on the future of the Cornerstone Project.

Cornerstone Project – Superintendent's Update to the Circuit Meeting of 16th March 2026

Following the Circuit Meeting on 16th September 2025 the Circuit Leadership Team established the 'Cornerstone Working Group' (CWG) to undertake a review of the options for Cornerstone from September 2026. The CWG comprises the CLT members plus Joanna Rose (safeguarding officer for Cornerstone) and Ros Hancock (member of the existing support group).

At the same time, the oversight of Cornerstone activities reverted to the circuit, rather than the St Albans churches, and a new Management Team was formed of Revd David Jebb, Revd Rosemary Mutopo, Val Parker, Ros Hancock and Joanna Rose.

The role of the CWG is to look at the longer term options for the mission work at Cornerstone and the use of the property, and the role of the Management Team is to work with Nigel Perrott and focus on the activities of Cornerstone until July/August 2026.

The CWG has met on 5 occasions to work through three basic scenarios which were initially identified

1. Keep the Cornerstone activities running but without anyone appointed or living at the property

2. Re-start the project with someone living at Cornerstone

3. Closure of project

Option 1 would be possible, but depends on volunteers from the circuit hosting and running activities in the community space at Cornerstone

Option 2 may be possible, with arrangements in place from September/October, or at a later date if it takes a longer time to find a suitable ordained or lay appointment.

Option 3 remains a possibility, though we would wish to fully explore and exhaust the other options before settling on this option.

Other variations of these three options may be possible too.

In reviewing option 2, we have held three meetings with the Welwyn Hatfield group of Young Life International (https://welwynhatfield.ylinternational.org/) to consider a joint project based at Cornerstone, which could include two Young Life staff members, married couple Justin & Emma, living in the property and being part of the Cornerstone mission. Discussions are ongoing, no decisions or commitments have been given or agreed, and we expect to bring an update on the discussions to the June 2026 circuit meeting.

Anna Chaplaincy Management Group - Louise Mullins

The members of the committee are Rev Daniel Yovan (chair), Catherine Meredith and Andrew Johnstone (MRMC) and Denise Willingham, Joanna Rose and Louise Mullins (line manager) (HRMC). Our last meeting was held on 29th April 2026.

Maggie is now coming to the end of her fifth year in her role, and whilst she continues in her own position as ecumenical Anna Chaplain (AC) she remains AC coordinator for the AC and Anna Friends (AF) team. Maggie is now working 20 hours per week, which provides an effective work life balance. This is enabling the final year's funding to be spread over two years rather than one.

Following discussion at the Church Council in February it was requested that a group should be formed to scope possibilities with a view to taking forward Maggie's post at the end of her contract, which is the wish of both HRMC and MRMC members. We have now formed an Anna Chaplaincy Extension (ACE) group. The group first met in March and are meeting monthly. Eric Bridgstock is meeting with us, and this is proving invaluable as HRMC treasurer and with his knowledge and perspective on the initial establishment of Maggie's role.

Maggie and her team continue to have an impact on the lives of many in our community. We are grateful to God for Maggie's deep spirituality, pastoral commitment, creativity and enthusiasm. She continues to sustain established projects as well as innovating new and creative ideas and bringing them to fruition.

Anna Chaplaincy Lead Maggie Dodd

As I enter my sixth year with HRMC and MRMC as Anna Chaplain, I remain thankful for all the amazing opportunities and encounters I have in my role.

This past year has included working alongside Samuel Ryder Academy again, on a digital portrait project which resulted in myself and their Art Department hosting a stand at *St Albans Spring Festival* last May. The same month I was thrilled to *welcome Denise to the Anna Chaplaincy team as an Anna Friend*. She has been such a great support, offering home communions, taking on the rota and organising *Chance to Chat*, our weekly community outreach group at Morrisons and helping with services, including the popular Messy Vintage style service (one of which we held in January this year at Fosse House, which was very well-received).

In August, HRMC and MRMC hosted the amazing *Holiday@Home*, which was a great success as ever, huge thanks to Denise and Idy for organising the event, and the fantastic volunteers from both churches who prepared delicious food, entertained guests with music, crafts, conversation and contributed to such a warm-hearted gathering.

I'm in the process of preparing the fifth *Seniors' Guide to events, groups and services* in churches across St Albans. The sponsorship for the back page of the booklet reduces the overheads of production a huge amount (I print 2,000 copies). The latest version will be distributed to churches, community and healthcare contacts. The booklet continues to be well-received and is a great way of people finding out about church events and what Anna Chaplaincy is all about.

In the past year St Albans Anna Chaplaincy has continued, with the help of Peter Curtis, *to lead regular services at seven care homes and two retirement flat complexes*, I thoroughly enjoy leading the monthly *Wednesday Worship service with craft activity* at HRMC which is a highlight of my month, and continue to meet in the Wesley Room twice a month for *Creativity in Fellowship*. Do consider joining us if you like

to craft/paint and enjoy a chat. We meet every 2nd and 4th Friday morning of the month from 10.30 until midday.

Anna Chaplaincy locally continues to make a difference – we currently have Hilary is in her second year as Anna Chaplain in Harpenden, Kate in Hatfield, Caroline in Welwyn and Sue in Bedford, and Peter, Denise and myself working together in St Albans. I have spoken at a meeting of St Albans Diocese Vocations Advisers recently, who were enthusiastic about the Diocese offering Anna Chaplaincy as a vocational pathway, so watch this space.

The past year myself and Peter have hosted an Anna Chaplaincy stand at an Older People's Community Event at Greenwood Park Community Centre and at St Albans Cathedral Community Showcase. I am working with Age Friendly Hertfordshire on the launch of 'comfort spaces' in the city centre and will be on their stand at this year's Spring Festival.

Collaboration with churches across St Albans continues, this year I've been involved with facilitating the Dementia training lead at Caring Homes (the company behind The Orchard in St Albans), to offer workshops at St Peter's and St Paul's churches.

I am currently planning a *St Francis themed inter-generational project with the Catholic church*. This collaboration was at the request of the national Anna Chaplaincy Network who are seeking to forge stronger links with the Catholic Church and have asked me to pilot a project. The event in June will be attended by Debbie Ducille, Anna Chaplaincy national lead, Bishop Paul McAleenan, and members of Caritas Diocese of Westminster,so the pressure is on! The project involves a local Catholic primary school and care home, and it should be great if everything comes together – fingers crossed.

Towards the end of 2025 I organised the annual *Sending Love to Care Homes* project, and what a response! Kind crafters lovingly made over 1,300 mini Christmas stockings which went out to residents in 25 care homes from Radlett to Redbourn, and everywhere in between. I am so grateful to everyone who gets involved to make the lovely little hand-made gifts. They are always really appreciated. I have no idea how I'm going to top last year's project this year – pray for me!

I am now in my 6th year with you as your Anna Chaplain and an *Anna Chaplaincy Extension (ACE) group* has been set up to look at ways of continuing this work beyond the current contract period (extended recently to August 2027). We need to find ways of funding the next few years, possibly setting new targets for my role, and how that might look. Do contact Denise or Eric if you have any thoughts and suggestions.

Thank you everyone at HRMC for your continued support for what I do. I am incredibly grateful for your kindness and prayers. I look forward with excitement to what lies ahead and where God is leading me and our local Anna Chaplaincy.

Holiday@Home - Denise Willingham

In one week in August, for four days, older people are welcomed from the local community and from both of the St Albans Methodist churches to Holiday@Home. The idea is to provide fun and companionship for those who may not be able to go away for a holiday.

2025 was the busiest since the venture's inception in 2016, with nearly 50 guests attending for some or all of the four days. The event is held for two days at each church. Each year this is made possible by over thirty enthusiastic volunteers from HRMC, MRMC, St Peter's and the URC. Helpers provide a warm welcome, chat to guests, assist with lifts, join in board games, provide craft activities, create quizzes and produce delicious home cooked lunches and cakes. Musical entertainment and opportunities for community singing are always popular and were once again provided by Katie's Jumping Fleas Ukelele

Band and HRMC's Music Group. The latter this year presented a forty five minute singalong version of the Sound of Music.

As always great fun was had by all, guests and helpers alike.

Work of God Hatfield Road Methodist Church

Pastoral Secretary – Jackie Vivian

The role of Pastoral Secretary together with the support of the Pastoral Visitors and House Group Leaders is an important activity in the life of the Church.

Everyone has an allocated visitor and they are there for their members during the year. I also feel that we are, as a Church, are good at supporting each other.

We meet as a group twice a year with Daniel. This gives us an opportunity to talk together.

We welcomed the transfer of membership of Ann Rogers on Easter Day 21st April 2025.

There has been one infant baptised since the last AGCM 16th March 2025, Solomon Samuel Waiz on Sunday 17th August 2025, the son of Duaa Robin and Danish Waiz.

Our membership as of 31st December 2025 was 113.

We had a very happy occasion on Easter Sunday 5th April 2026 when we welcomed into our Church by baptism, Esther, Jack, Helen and Rebecca by full immersion. Afterwards Daisy, Lisa, Esther, Helen and Jack were confirmed into our Church membership. It was a joyous occasion seeing so many young people making their commitments together in a packed Church.

Since the last AGCM of 16th March 2025 (ahead of Rev Daniel Yovan's Sabbatical), there have been no deaths of church members to report. However, we remember with sadness and thanksgiving:

- Circuit Local Preacher Graham Phillips who died 3rd August 2025, aged 83. Graham was a member of St John's, Potters Bar.
- Circuit Supernumerary, Reverend Peter Hudson, who died at the age of 91 on 8th September 2025. He had lived locally with his wife Celia and they worshipped at Marlborough Road.
- Joe Kinchenton, a past member and a Steward who died 20th March 2026 at the age of 75. Joe had lived with his wife, Deacon Linda Kinchenton, at Cornerstone House until 2022.

Prayer Ministry – Chris Hancock and Roy Vivian

At Roy's request I have taken over responsibility for arranging a rota for a team to pray after Sunday morning services. This will enable us to pray with any members of the congregation who wish to have prayers said with them. We are in the process of re-launching these prayers, currently, only after the 10.30 Communion Service on the third Sunday of the month. However, we do not have sufficient people in the team to ensure this is always possible. Our aspiration is to extend the prayer teams' availability so that this can take place every week but until we can recruit more members for the team this will remain aspirational.

To this end it is my intention to both request additional volunteers and offer a short training session should any volunteer feel that they require this.

The weekly publication of the Prayer Diary has continued and is included in Sunday's Notices. In this way all the people and families who are listed can be remembered in our prayers during the following week.

For many years, Ros Hancock has led a prayer group for the needs of our Church. The meetings take place on Tuesday mornings (via WhatsApp) and are supported by members of Ros's house group and a few other Church members. Please contact Ros if you would like to join.

The early morning prayer meeting originally introduced in 2009 by Graham Smith and Chris Hancock continues to function. Chris leads each session at Church between 7.00am and 8.00am on Tuesdays. As part of this prayer time, the prayers which have been hung on the tree of prayers, located in the foyer, are prayed for. We pray for these items for five weeks and then they are removed from the tree.

The weekly Circuit Prayer Meeting which our Superintendent, the Rev. David Jebb introduced in 2023, continues to take place at 9.00am on Saturday mornings via Zoom.

The Prayer Tree circulates urgent prayer requests and updates by email to a team of 30 volunteers. The knowledge that many people are offering prayers provides comfort and support to those who have requested them. Please contact Roy Vivian if you would like to join.

Music Group – Leader, Joanna Rose

The Music Group meets to rehearse at church each Thursday evening at 8pm, preparing to support worship on Sunday mornings and at the monthly Praise & Worship evening service. The group enjoys making music together, singing and playing a variety of instruments. We sometimes select or recommend hymns for the preacher, and we like to spend time in our rehearsals looking out and learning new hymns or tunes that we will then introduce to the congregation in Sunday services. For special events such as the Christmas carol service, Harvest, or Easter we often put out an invitation for additional singers or players to join us. We continue to add to our library of recorded hymns which was started during the Covid lockdown – we now have over 260 hymns performed by the Music Group available for use from our website.

We welcome new members of any age from secondary school upwards. If you enjoy singing, or can play an instrument and would be interested in joining us on a regular basis or just for special events, please speak to Joanna Rose. If you are a competent pianist and would be interested in playing the piano or organ for any services (monthly 9am, weekly 10:30 or monthly 7pm services), again please contact Joanna.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the members of the Music Group for their dedication in providing such wonderful support to the worship every week.

Cradle Roll (Baptismal Roll) – *Position Vacant (report by Caroline Tough)*

The Cradle Roll or Baptismal Roll is a register of all the children who have been welcomed into the church through baptism or thanksgiving services. Their names are displayed on the poster in the children's corner. Each child receives a card from the church on the anniversary of their baptism.The children move up to Sunday Club once they are old enough (usually age three)- Peony Rose Hall Smallthorne and James Alfred John Woodhead are now both three. There has been one infant baptised since the last AGCM, Solomon Samuel Waiz on Sunday 17th August 2025. There have were also four baptisms of young people on Easter Day 2026, Helen Nyambura Errik, Jack Kamau Errick and Rebecca Errik (Children of Jane Muchai) and Esther Momoh. Helen, Jack and Esther were also confirmed as were Gladys Kamau's daughters Daisy Wanjiru Parakuo and Lisa Syalo Parakuo.

Sunday Club Caroline Tough, Sunday Club Coordinator

We continue to have two Sunday Club groups at Hatfield Road - one for children aged 4 – 11 meeting in the Wesley Room and one for young people aged 11 -18 meeting in the Upper Room. Both groups are

supported by a dedicated team of leaders and helpers. The younger group follow themed teaching and, at the moment, are working through the Parables that Jesus told. The older group does not follow a structured theme but Tomas is inspired to lead what is relevant for each particular week.

Sunday Club meets on the second and third Sunday of each month. In their groups the children and young people are encouraged to develop their faith through reading the Bible, craft activities, games and quizzes as well as more in- depth discussion. They often include refreshments!

There are plenty of ways for the children and young people to be involved on the other Sundays with Create and Celebrate services on the 1st Sunday having activities suitable for all ages and the 4th Sunday being an All- Age Worship service which encourages children and young people to be actively involved in the service. At all times there is a table at the back of the church which has a variety of books, colouring, jigsaws and puzzles suitable for very young children available for them to play happily (and usually quietly!) during a service. There are also story bags available for slightly older children to go and collect and bring back to their seats containing a Bible story and items to go with the story.

Children and young people are valued members of our church family and we encourage them to read or lead parts of the service whenever possible.

The Sunday Club performed a scripted nativity play at the beginning of December created by Tomas which involved 17 children. They practised their lines and the music for the service with dedication and it was a wonderful way to hear the Christmas Story.

Some of the young people attended an Alpha Youth course along with other young people from across the circuit. On Easter Day four of our young people were baptised and five confirmed which was a joyful occasion.

Sunday Club is grateful for all the prayer support offered to the leaders and helpers and for the children and young people.

Tomas has continued to run Saturday Family Time every couple of months and it has proved very popular with those who have attended. It is for children aged 7-14 to attend with their parents to enjoy fun activities together. We hope that this is something that the children feel they can invite their friends to come along to.

Daniel is also co-ordinating youth leaders to bring young people from the circuit together once a quarter for activities that build momentum towards the national Methodist youth event 3Generate during the first weekend of October each year at the NEC in Birmingham.

Create & Celebrate – Ros Hancock

Our Create & Celebrate service continues to be held on the first Sunday of every month. The first hour in the hall 10.00-11.00 focuses on crafts and other activities, with a link to the theme for the day including: treasure hunts; quizzes; wordsearches; discussions; and games – all accompanied by refreshments. At 11.00 we move into the church for a short 30 minute celebration service when all the activities are admired, brought together and explained within their context of the story that week.

Junior Mission for All (JMA) – Gurmeet Chauhan (Hannah), JMA Lead

Junior Mission for All (JMA) is a fun way of encouraging children and young people to engage with God's mission in Britain and throughout the world. Annual resources help support JMA members including the Rainbow magazine which brings news and stories from Partner Churches around the world, plus games and activities. Members are also asked to pray for the people they read or hear about and to serve by collecting and raising money from friends at church and elsewhere. JMA is a network of children,

supported by adults, who support and learn about the mission of the church all over the world. The JMA promise is to 'Learn, pray and serve with the worldwide church of Jesus Christ'. 20% of money raised is allocated to the Methodist Mission in Britain Fund and 80% to the Methodist World Mission Fund.

There are more than 11 collectors (including four adults who keep collecting boxes at home).

According to treasurer Eric Bridgstock, since 1st September 2025 JMA has already raised £966.29 with at least three months to go. Of this, £337.88 was raised at our annual JMA barbecue at the manse on Sunday 7th September 2025, and £628.41 by collectors.

This compares with £480.92 collected during Connexional Year beginning 1st September 2024.

We thank JMA Secretary, Gurmeet Chauhan (Hannah), and JMA Voluntary Treasurer, Jacob Masih Daniel, are stepping down from the role

Safeguarding – Joanna Rose, Church Safeguarding Officer

The Methodist Church takes safeguarding very seriously, and we follow the rules of 'safer recruitment', ensuring that all those working with children, young people or vulnerable adults within Hatfield Road Methodist Church are subject to appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. All these people, and others in position of responsibility are also required to undertake the Methodist Church's Creating Safer Spaces training every four years, with preachers and leaders trained to an advanced level. All those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church should be able to identify signs of various types of abuse, know how to react, and who to inform of any concerns they may have.

We do all we can to create a safe space for everyone within Hatfield Road Methodist Church and for those with whom we have contact virtually, either online or by phone. If you ever have any concerns about something you see or hear in relation to children, young people or vulnerable adults at the church, however small that may be, you can speak in confidence to me, our Minister, or the circuit safeguarding officer. Full contact details can be found on the church noticeboards.

Tuesday Cuppa – Christine Ford, Coordinator

The Aldersgate Café opened in spring 2012. In September 2022 we reopened after the summer break as the Warm Welcome Café. Since then visitor numbers have remained fairly static. By July 2025 it was decided to have a more informal and less labour-intensive arrangement. After the summer break the Tuesday Cuppa opened in September 2025. There is no charge for the tea, coffee and cake or biscuit but donations are welcome.

We still have regular customers, from the local community and our own church, who enjoy meeting to have a chat. However, there has been no increase in the number of visitors.

At the end of July, I will step down both as co-ordinator and as a volunteer. I would like to thank everyone who has supported the café over the years by volunteering, making cakes, setting up and clearing away. You have all been a wonderful team.

Babies and Toddlers – Chris Hancock

I continue to have lead responsibility for Babies and Toddlers. Claire Debnam has taken over as co-leader following Louise Bourton's move away from the area.

Wednesday morning sessions continue to be well attended and are valued by parents and carers. We average around 30 children each week. Alongside the toys and books, we provide a craft activity each

week - we are grateful to Margaret Quinn and Mary Gotts who continue to prepare these activities for the children. To close the session, we share story time and singing which is always great fun.

We have recently had some deaf families attending and Rev Daniel, with their help, has offered to arrange some basic sign language training for those of the team who would like to do this.

Needless to say we are extremely grateful to the many folk who help set up, serve tea and coffee, assist during the session, and clear and clean up afterwards.

We now set up the large hall for the session during the time café is meeting in the foyer from approximately 10:00 am on a Tuesday.

We are currently blessed with an ample number of helpers who do the practical things. However, it is always better to plan for the future. It would,therefore, be brilliant if anyone feels that they could offer an occasional Wednesday to help by chatting with the children and their carers. Alternatively, if anyone can spare an occasional Tuesday from 10:00am for around an hour for set up, or for a shorter period from 11.00 at the end of the Wednesday session to put away when one of the team is unavailable. The children and adults help clear up at 11:00 before the singing, so it is only packing away back into the cupboards on Wednesdays! Please contact Chris if you are able to help.

Day Care Group – Sue Davey, Leader

This is a wonderful social and lunch group which will have been running for 38 years in June 2026. It is set up to remove barriers that might otherwise deter vulnerable and frail elderly folk from leaving their homes, by providing transport, accessible space and practical care and support, so that they can enjoy some hot food, warm fellowship and fun. Visitors come from within our church and the wider local community. We have close links with St Paul's church and the Fleetville Community Centre and are grateful for the volunteers and practical and financial support they provide.

At the present time we have eleven wonderful elderly lady visitors who attend Daycare most Fridays, together with up to thirteen helpers. We are grateful for those who provide transport each week. One visitor has now moved into a care home and another has joined.

Fleetville School delivers main course meals to us each week, and volunteers from the Group and the church provide desserts.

We entertain our visitors each week with quizzes, music from David Amos and our own Music Group, painting and craft activities, flower arranging and playing board games. We usually enjoy a Christmas lunch at a local restaurant, and a canalboat trip each summer.

We would like to offer church members the opportunity to support Day Care by providing occasional desserts, organising an activity from time to time, or just chatting with our visitors. If you feel you can help in any way, please contact me – we would welcome your support for our really friendly group that means so much to us.

Creativity in Fellowship - Maggie Dodd

Our small friendly group meets on the second and fourth Fridays of the month between 10.30am and midday in the Wesley Room. Each of us bring along a craft or creative project, often watercolours and pastels. We enjoy a hot drink and a good catch up together. There are usually about four of us, and we would love to welcome more people to our group so do come along if you are free, or contact Maggie (07462 586773) to find out more.

House Groups – Johanna Mason, Coordinator

There are currently four House Groups with 30 members, some of whom cannot attend regularly. Tony Moody, Peter Wallace, Ros Hancock and myself each lead a HG fortnightly, offering a choice of either day or evening meetings with breaks over the school holidays.

Tony leads and hosts a HG via Zoom (courtesy of Evangeline) on a Monday evening with eight regular participants. Following a lengthy Lifebuilder study book on 'Isaiah:Trusting God in Troubled Times', the current study material is 'Luke for Everyone', a study that was continued over the Lenten period. Over the summer Tony and Carolyn held their annual Garden Party for the HG members together with their 'other halves'.

Peter leads and hosts a HG on a Wednesday evening with a varying number of between six and nine members. Over the summer months and with a view to contemporary events, the group watched and discussed a film called 'The Children's Act'. The Circuit Lent Course 'Who is the Christ' was the chosen Lent material. New material for the rest of the year is yet to be decided.

Ros leads HG on a Friday morning at the home of Sarah Cox with between four and five regular participants. Members are able to join the group via Zoom if they are away and unable to attend. The current study material is 'Luke for Everyone' by Tom Wright with a break in studies over the Lenten period to study 'Meeting God in John' by David Ford.

My HG meets at my house on a Thursday morning with eight regular members. Occasionally when I cannot host or if transport is a problem, we gather at church rather than miss a meeting. Following on from 'Isaiah: Trusting God in Troubled Times', the group is currently looking at 'Luke for Everyone' by Tom Wright. Over the Lenten period the challenging 'Meeting God in John' was studied.

When possible, details of HG are included in The Notices. Information is also available on the Church Notice Board in the Foyer.

Social & Outreach Events (SOE) Group – Joanna Rose, Coordinator

This Group meets occasionally to plan a series of social events which may be aimed at our own congregation, additional churches in the circuit, or the wider community. It is not the role of the Group to organise the events, but to produce a schedule of recommended events which we feel people from the church, the circuit, or the community will enjoy, and to support others within the congregation to bring them to reality.

If you have any ideas for events, or would be willing to organize or help run an event, please do let Joanna know.

EcoChurch – Ros Hancock, Coordinator

As a church we continue to commit to Eco Church and having attained our status with a Bronze award, we are now working towards the silver award.

A Rocha, who run the scheme, updated their survey questions early last year and it is now quite a lot harder to fulfil the requirements for each award. There are 5 categories of questions that we need to engage with: Worship and teaching, Buildings and energy, Land and Nature, Community and global engagement, and Lifestyle. Obviously, this by necessity means we all need to get involved.

The recycling bin in the back lobby is emptied as needed and a list of items we recycle are taken to the Greenhouse above Jeffersons, the refill and Eco store in London Road. I'm finding that it is not very well used at present – it would be helpful to know if this is because people are 'doing it themselves' or

whether it needs better advertising. I do feel that it is rather out of the way in the back lobby and certainly Autumn, the Circuit Administrator had not noticed it until I mentioned it in the Circuit Eco forum which has recently been set up by our Senior Circuit Steward Stuart Johnson. Both Autumn and I also regularly attend the District Eco forum with Angela Turner.

Maybe the Stewards could discuss a better place to put out the recycling so it can be seen more easily and show those who come in that we are doing out bit for the environment? Marlborough Road have the advantage of a windowsill in their long corridor.

Single Friendly Church (SFC) Initiative – Angela Spriggs, SFC Champion

Single Friendly Church continues to be embedded into the workings of the Church. In the last few months we have held two Sunday lunches for church members in a local pub. We will continue to hold informal social gatherings within the church community. In April we extended our reach beyond our immediate church to foster a wider social community for single people in St Albans and beyond. We launched a new social group for singles aged 35+, Friendship Connect. We held our first meet-up in the Beech House in St Albans, where we had 9 people attending and sharing lively conversation and pizza. We have another few events lined up over the next few months. Within our church we continue to work on ensuring services, messaging and other church activities are inclusive to all.

Church Council Members (and Managing Trustees)

Current Membership 3rd February 2026

Position	Name	Date appointed
Circuit Ministers	Reverend David Jebb (Superintendent Minister) [viii] Reverend J Daniel Yovan (Presbyter in Pastoral Charge) [ix] Deacon Nigel Perrott [x] (Minister)	Sep 2022 Sep 2023 Sep 2022
Layworker (observer)	Maggie Dodd, Anna Chaplaincy Lead	Nov 2021
Church Stewards[xi] (up to six) with effect from 1st July 2025	Ruth Wallace (Senior Church Steward) Tomáš Cvrček (until June 2026) Anne Wall Napoleon Yorke-Andrews Denise Willingham [Vacancy x 1]	Jun 2023 May 2018 May 2023 Jul 2025 Feb 2026
Church Treasurer[xii]	Eric Bridgstock	Jun 2018*
Pastoral Committee[xiii]	Jackie Vivian	Sep 2023
Church Council Secretary[xiv]	Peter Wallace	Jun 2023
One Circuit Steward on behalf of the Circuit Stewards[xv]	Stuart Johnson	Sep 2025
Members elected by the Annual General Church Meeting[xvi] (Not less than six representatives nor more than fifteen elected) annually by General Church Meeting	Ros Hancock (Justice & Peace/ EcoChurch) [Elected by ballot] James Appiah Angela Spriggs (Single-Friendly Church)	May 2015 Jun 2021 May 2024

Additional Members appointed by Church Council[xvii]:

Sunday Club and Youth Superintendent	Caroline Tough	Sep 2022
Finance & Property Committee	Eric Bridgstock (Chair of Meeting until June 2026)	Jun 2019
Mission Secretaries Action Group (Mission in Britain / World Missions / JMA / Christian Aid / Justice & Peace)	[Vacancy]	
Worship Consultation Convenor	Peter Wallace	Sep 2015
Safeguarding Officer	Joanna Rose	May 2009
Other appointed by Church Council	Freda Gray (Catering Coordination, Property, Cleaning] Val Parker (lettings) Noelene Browning (paying cash into church bank)	Aug 2017 Jun 2019 Sep 2025

Elected to Circuit Meeting[xviii] (up to five)	Church Steward [Ex Officio]: Ruth Wallace Church Treasurer [Ex Officio]: Eric Bridgstock* Joanna Rose Ros Hancock Denise Willingham	Jul 2025 Jun 2018* Sep 2017 Sep 2022 Sep 2022

See end notes for references to standing orders of the Methodist Church.
Church Stewards appointments normally take effect on 1 July each year. In practice, all have started at different times to reflect their own availability and to support church needs. The stewards elect the Senior Steward from among their number.
* Extended by ballot (75% majority).

End Notes

[i] https://www.tmcp.org.uk/
[ii] https://my-charity-account.charitycommission.gov.uk/
[iii] https://howcharitieswork.com/transparency-and-accountability/annual-reports/#:~:text=A%20charity's%20annual%20report%20must,assessment%20of%20what%20they%20achieved
[iv] https://www.hertswelcomes.org.uk/
[v] https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/who-we-are/what-we-do/
[vi] https://www.thebraintumourcharity.org/
[vii] https://www.leprosymission.org.uk/about/
[viii] Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD), Volume 2, Standing Order (SO) 610 (1) (i) https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/governance/cpd/
[ix] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (i)
[x] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (iv)
[xi] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (vi)
[xii] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (vii)
[xiii] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (viii)
[xiv] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (ix)
[xv] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (xii)
[xvi] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (x)
[xvii] Up to 15 additional persons appointed by the Church Council to ensure that all areas of the church's life are adequately represented and in particular that, wherever possible, young people are included in its membership SO 610 (1) (xi) as follows: 5 & 6
[xviii] (Ex Officio Officers) SO 510 (1) (vii) (plus 3 others) SO 510 (1) (viii)

CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Hatfield Road Methodist	**Church**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2025

St Albans & Welwyn	**Circuit**	**Circuit no.**	**13**

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	**1173147**
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:

Rev J Daniel Yovan

Church Stewards:

Ruth Wallace	**Anne Wall**
Noelene Browning	**Napoleon Yorke-Andrews**
Tomas Cvrcek	

Treasurer:

Eric Bridgstock

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

Hatfield Road Methodist Church

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year	
			£	£	£		£	
a1	**RECEIPTS**	**Note**						
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		73,662		**73,662**		80,923	
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		7,510		**7,510**		9,426	
a4	Lettings		7,584		**7,584**		6,791	
a5	Other receipts		11,105	27,422	**38,527**		68,531	
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**99,861**	**27,422**	**127,283**	**(a7)**	**165,671**	
	SECTION B							
b1	**PAYMENTS**							
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		58,500		**58,500**		53,275	
b3	Donations		286		**286**			
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		15,073		**15,073**		65,586	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		12,636		**12,636**		12,361	
b6								
b7	Other payments		9,678	29,842	**39,520**		47,472	
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**96,173**	**29,842**	**126,015**	**(b9)**	**178,694**	
	SECTION C							
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	**(a6-b8)**	3,688	(2,420)	**1,268**		(13,023)	
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		39,165	151,019	**190,184**	**(c6)**	203,207	
c3	**Sub total**	**(c1+c2)**	42,853	148,599	**191,452**		**190,184**	
c4	Transfers and adjustments		42,708	(42,729)	**(21)**	**(c7)**		
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	**(c3+c4)**	**85,561**	**105,870**	**191,431**	**(c8)**	**190,184**	**(c6)**

	SECTION D		
d	**FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)**	£	£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year	589	589
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	3,682	4,760
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	3,682	4,760
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID** (d1+d2-d3)	**589**	**589**

Hatfield Road Methodist **Church**

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 2025 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)**	**127,283** **(a7)**	**126,015** **(b9)**	**1,268**	**(21)** **(c7)**	**190,184** **(c6)**	**191,431** **(c8)**
e10	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**127,283**	**126,015**	**1,268**	**(21)**	**190,184** **(x)**	**191,431** **(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 2025	**OPENING BALANCES**		**CLOSING BALANCES**	
f1	Cash in hand				
f2	Bank Current Account	29,293		15,699	
f3	Bank Deposit Account				
f4	Central Finance Board	161,113		175,920	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	395		401	
f6	Other funds				
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**190,801**	(c6)	**192,020**	(c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)
f9	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**190,801**	(x)	**192,020**	(y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	3,357,964	3,357,964
g3	Other Assets	125,923	125,923
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

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 .....**Hatfield Road Methodist**..... No.....**34/13**.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 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 3/2/2026

Name and address of treasurer ..... **ERIC BRIDGSTOCK**

16, Evans Grove, St Albans, Herts..... Post Code **AL4 9PJ**.....

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were/~~will be~~* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 3/2/26

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting ...J. David Tonan..... Date ..03/02/2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

Charity Number .. 1173147

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hatfield Road Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 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 .....**HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH**..... No .....**34/13**.....

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 ..... JOHN SCOTT

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... None .....

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address ..... 19 College Street

..... St Albans ..... Post Code AL3 4PW

Date ..... 6/2/26 .....

* delete or circle as appropriate

THE METHODIST CHURCH, HATFIELD ROAD, ST ALBANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1173147

Accounts

The **Methodist** Church

Hatfield Road Methodist Church, St Albans

Serving Christ and the Local Community

Annual Report 2024-2025

Presented to the Annual General Church Meeting of Sunday 16th March 2025
[Paper 6]

Revision R1 Issued 27th February 2025

133B Hatfield Road, St Albans AL1 4JX
District 34 Bedfordshire, Essex & Hertfordshire, Circuit 13 St Albans & Welwyn, Church Id 25824 Charity Registration Number 1173147

This report has been compiled and edited by Peter Wallace, Church Council Secretary. Thank you to all who have contributed to this report and to the life of this church.

Any details of web links may be found at the end of the report using 'end note' links[i, ii, iii… like this] ..

If you would like a hardcopy or large print of this Annual Report, please contact the Minister or one of the Church Stewards

Front Cover Watercolour Illustration of the Church by Maureen Carveley (~2012)

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Create & Celebrate – Ros Hancock 25

Junior Mission for All (JMA) – Gurmeet Chauhan (Hannah), JMA Lead 25

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Warm Welcome Café – Christine Ford, Coordinator 26

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Introduction

Our Calling

The Methodist Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans is part of the St Albans and Welwyn Methodist Circuit in the Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex District of the Methodist Church in Britain

The Calling of The Methodist Church in Britain is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. It does this through:

WORSHIP

By increasing awareness of God's presence and celebrating God's love

LEARNING & CARING

By helping people grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

SERVICE

By being a good neighbour to people in need and challenging injustice

EVANGELISM

By making more followers of Jesus Christ

The calling of Hatfield Road Methodist Church, as agreed by its Church Council, includes the commitment to:

'Serve Christ and the Local Community'

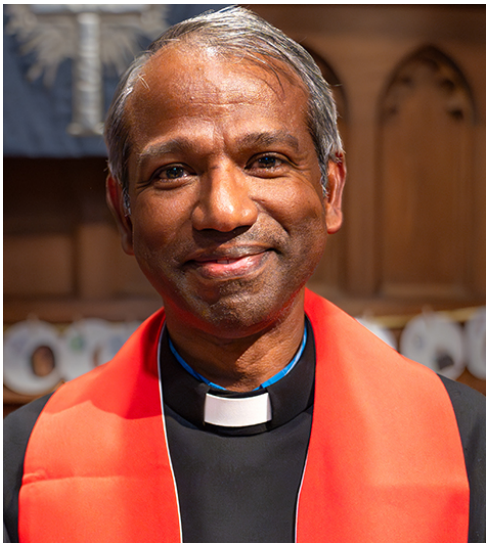
Our Obligations as a Registered Charity

Each Methodist Church is a charity as part of the Methodist Connexion administered by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP[i]). This local church is also registered directly with the Charity Commission[ii] as 'The Methodist Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans (1173147)'.

As a registered charity, our annual report must explain what its charitable purposes are and what it has done during the year to carry out those purposes[iii] and also contain the year's accounts for the charity, which must be submitted to the Charity Commission no later than 10 months after the end of their financial year (31st August for Methodist Churches). These charitable purposes are summarized within each annual Statement of Financial Accounts.

All Church Council members must be eligible and willing to become Trustees.

Our Presbyter's Message



Rev J Daniel Yovan, Minister with Pastoral Charge

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour who has delivered us from sin and death. God has called us all to be co-workers in his kingdom to give witness to this saving grace. I thank God every day for the opportunity he has given me to work with you to that end. When we rely upon God, he gives us grace to fulfil the calling he placed upon our lives. I am ever so grateful for all the support I receive through your prayers and commitment.

Connexional/District/Circuit matters

We now have a new circuit administrator, Autumn Leong. Thanks to Chris for all the hard work he put into the Circuit in the past years.
In October, we took eight children from our circuit to attend 3Generate 2024 in Birmingham. As a follow up, we met after school at Ludwick Way 7th February 2025 which district discipleship enabler, Angela Brydon, also attended. This after-school event was open to young people from all the churches in the Circuit. This is going to be a quarterly gathering of our young people for some fellowship, fun and faith. The next gathering will be 2nd May 2025 at Stevenage bowling centre.
I have now visited all the churches in the circuit to lead worship on Sundays.

Future of the St Albans Methodist Churches – Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road

We are trying our best to work together as St Alban churches. To explore the potential mission opportunities and ways of working together, both churches should have open conversations. Please continue to pray for both churches that the Spirit of God will show us the way forward. During my sabbatical, I am also planning to spend time in prayer and reflection to think about the future of the St Alban churches.

Ecumenical in St Albans

City centre clergy meet every other month for a prayer and breakfast. It is a time of sharing and fellowship.

I am still a voluntary chaplain at the Cathedral once a month (some months I am unable to be there). Meeting all sorts of people there, brings me joy and it is a great opportunity to serve the people of all nations.

Pastoral

I am thankful to all the pastoral visitors who look after all those who are in our list. I am doing my best to visit all those who are in need of a visit. Please let me know if you know someone need a visit or home communion. Now Denise is taking communion to those who are house bound and supporting Maggie in the services at care homes.

Fellowship at HRMC

I am grateful and thank God for all our friends at Hatfield Road working tirelessly to keep the activities going. Stewards, pastoral visitors, volunteers at the café and Friday day care are passionately promoting the love of Jesus in their own capacity. I am seeing a few new people coming to the various services and this is the work of God. We do need to find a way to strengthen the connections we have with the families (can we employ a family worker?). I feel that we do need to seriously pray and plan about improving the work we already do around families.

Schools work with STEP

I am volunteering with STEPiv (The St Albans and Harpenden Christian Education Project), the organisation working with the secondary school children and taking lunch clubs. I am going to Verulam school once a week whenever I am available. Having conversations around God and life with the children who come from various background is humbling. Sometimes it seems impossible to answer their questions.

Sabbatical

I will be on sabbatical between the 21st April and 21st July 2025. I have booked a nine day course on spiritual conversation with the Jesuit centre in London. I am also planning to attend the Alpha leadership conference in the beginning of May.

Friends,

Let us keep praying and obeying the call that God placed upon our lives. We do not need to be 'successful', but faithful. God will bless our faithful service and bring many to his kingdom.

Amen.

16/3/2025

Church Stewards' Report - Tomáš Cvrček (Senior Steward)

Overview

In the time since our last Annual General Meeting, our church celebrated its 130th anniversary. Inclement weather prevented us from commemorating this occasion with an outdoor service but the anniversary was, nonetheless, marked by a dedicated service on 9th June 2024. Among other notable events was the celebration of unior Mission for All (JMA) in September, the International Meal Evening and the baptism of little James Woodhead in October and a full programme of Advent festivities during December 2024. We also tried to draw the community to the Gospel through the screening of The Chosen series in June 2024 but, due to a low response, further screenings were cancelled. Apart from these events, our regular worship proceeded along the established monthly pattern, starting with a Create & Celebrate service on the first Sunday of each month, followed by two Sundays with Sunday Club, including a third Sunday with Holy Communion, and an All-Age Worship on the fourth Sunday.

Our work and need for more recruits

This is probably in my last report as Senior Steward, as my term in this role is coming to an end. The steward team has operated over the course of the last year in the same composition as in the previous year, consisting of me, Ruth Wallace, Anne Wall and Noelene Browning. Since our last AGCM, we were able to expand the ranks of Sunday Assistants, which group now consists of Sally Newton, Napoleon Yorke-Andrews, Angela Spriggs, Jan Kitchin and Sue Davey, with Evangeline Selvarajan assisting on the

first Sundays of each month with the Holy Communion services at 9am. I am most grateful for the dedication of all members, as it has been key to our being able to cover all the stewarding duties across the year. In general, I consider the operation of the steward team efficient and without any major problems. Throughout the year, I have not encountered any major issues with filling our rota, which is quite remarkable, given that two members of the steward team occasionally leave the country for extended periods of time. We have been able to cover not only the regular Sunday services but also services for Christian holidays such as Christingle and the Carol service. We called on emeriti stewards for help in the case of the Midnight Service on Christmas Eve. We also continue to work with stewards from Marlborough Road Methodist Church, with whom we have join meetings every other month.

In terms of the coordination and planning of services, important changes took place in our approach to the IT side of things. New members have stepped up to take over tasks that had previously been done single-handedly by Chris Hancock, such as the creation of PowerPoint slides and projection. This includes Magda Cvrckova, Joanna Rose, Peter Wallace, Eric Bridgstock and myself. Chris continues to operate our church's YouTube channel, ensuring that livestreaming of our service proceeds smoothly. To improve the day-to-day coordination of all church events, the presbyter and stewards have also decided on a trial to harness the power of the "WhatsApp Communities" feature (see below).

The steward team also took leadership in undertaking the Risk Assessment in 2024. The assessment has been concluded and the steward team has since been discussing how to mitigate some of the risks that the report identified. This includes the structural risks inherent in the imbalanced age structure of church membership, to which our mission activities will hopefully provide a remedy in the future (see the relevant part of the report below). Stewards also remains active in the continuing work of reviewing all church policies. In this regard, the Church Council was presented with an updated version of the HRMC Statement of Purpose and Vision and now also with the Register of Meetings and their Purpose. Policy review is a standard item of the steward agenda and will continue in future, so as to ensure that our church policies are up to date.

Everyone on the steward team continues to think of ways in which we could expand our numbers. This concern was already raised in my report last year. Since then, Napoleon Yorke-Andrews has agreed to put forward his name for the Steward position, which I wholeheartedly welcome. Two other church members are still considering their candidacy for stewardship.

Mission conversations

Our church has engaged in a series of mission conversations over the course of the past year – mostly led by Deacon Nigel Perrott. In their wake, a few new activities have started or are under way. One arose from the suggestion raised by Nigel to make our premises, which are used by many outsiders, more visibly places of Christian witness for example through decorations in the Large Hall. More specifically, our church has been challenged to adorn the back wall as well the side alcoves of the Large Hall with artwork carrying Christian symbolism, so that the building itself can be enlisted in the service of the Gospel beyond the preaching during our regular events. The church stewards have discussed the plan and issued a call to the congregation for contributions, the result of which is a proposal put before the Church Council of 11th February 2025 to complete the project, God willing, by the end of March 2025 .

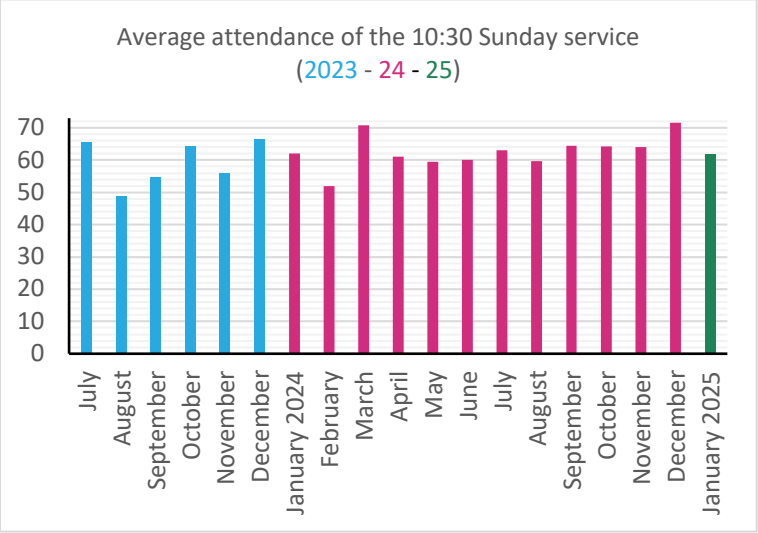
Another mission-related activity is the recently commenced Saturday Family Time, spearheaded by myself. The idea is to have a monthly or bimonthly event that would allow school-age children (age 7-14) to engage in exciting activities with their parents on church premises, making use either of the Small Hall or the Large Hall. The activities should ideally be of such nature that the school age children in our

church would be excited to invite their school friends who would then bring along their parents. As a first trial – and a proof-of-concept event – we held an air-hockey tournament in the Small Hall on 18th January. We had 11 children participating and I am pleased to report that all the school-age boys in our church brought along at least one friend who is not part of a family that regularly attends the church (although not all such outsiders brought parents along). As our next events in the series, I hope to organize a Remote-Controlled Car Race, a Soft-Tennis Parent-Child Doubles, a Treasure Hunt on church premises, A Kahoot! Quiz Night and some others. Ideally, the event will be an opportunity for church members to invite outsiders to enjoy the fellowship of our church.

Organizationally, the mission conversation has also spurred a call for better coordination of our mission activities, given that they make take place through several different channels – through the steward team, by the initiative of the minister, through the Social and Outreach committee, the Sunday Club and so on. This is probably something that needs to be done effectively by the senior steward rather than through a separate, newly created and appointed officer of the church. The steward team has considered a technological solution to this issue in the form of a WhatsApp community – a feature that allows individual committees and working groups to have their own private platforms for internal information sharing and consultation, while also allowing for an umbrella structure for coordination across all the mission-related structures and bodies. Ideally, the WhatsApp community would include church members who are on the steward team, the Social & Outreach Committee, those dealing with lettings and Sunday Club and perhaps others as needed.

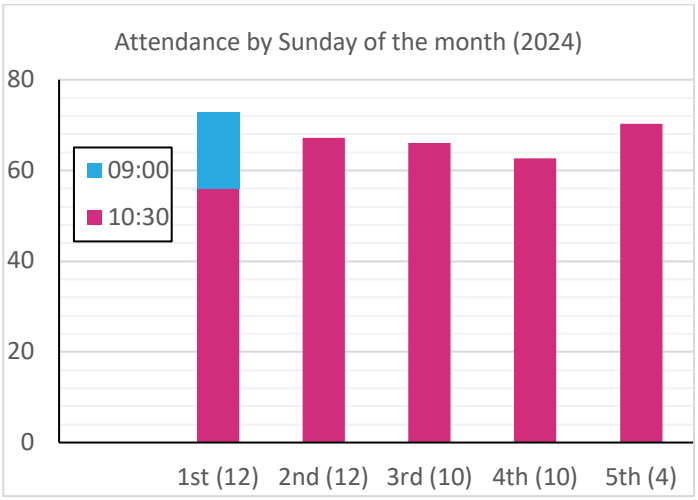
Attendance at services

As part of my responsibility for the organizational aspect of our church services, I hereby share some information on attendance on Sundays:



Attendance has fluctuated between a minimum of 45 (18th February 2024) and maximum of 96 (31st March 2024 – Easter Sunday); the number of children and youth falling between 5 and 13.

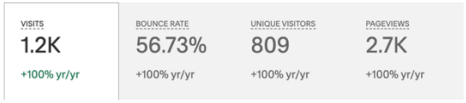
The first Sunday of the month, with two services on offer, is the best-attended Sunday on average, as can be seen from the following graph (note that we have data for 3rd and 4th Sunday in only 10 of the 12 months; there were only four months last year with a fifth Sunday):

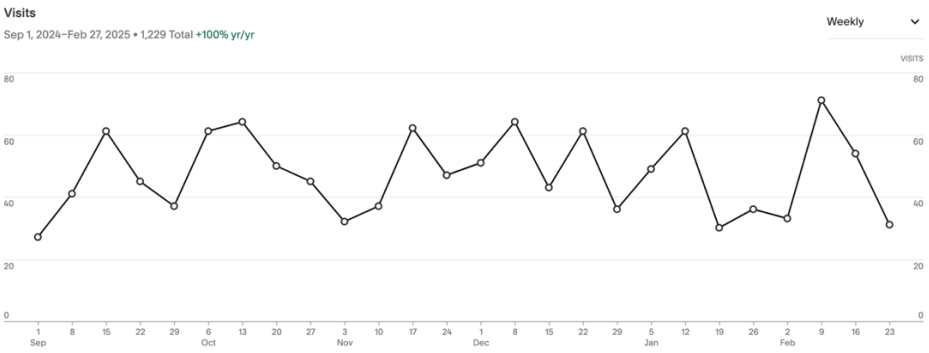


Impact of New Church Website

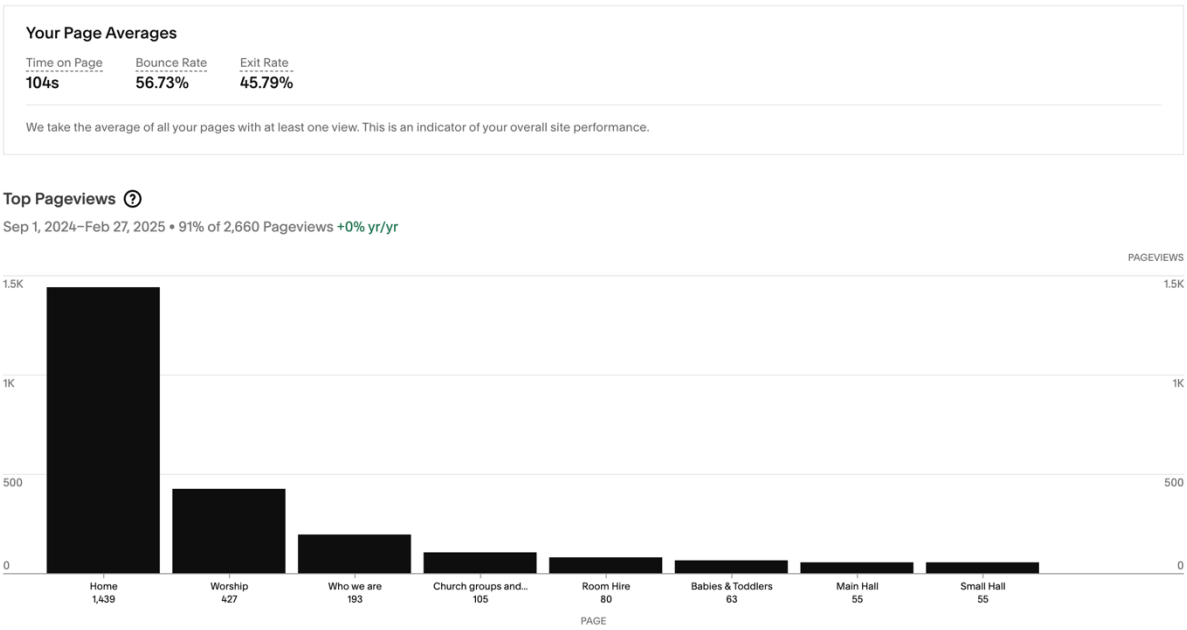
The church website has been recently reconstructed and has worked in its new format and structure since about the beginning of September. It is slowly settling into a workable and functional routine. Recordings of our Sunday services are regularly posted on it. The front page also carried up-to-date information about upcoming events and photographs of recent activities in our church. Any visitor to the website would be able to see that the website is regularly maintained and that the church behind it is a lively and active church. We have also recently updated all the church-related emails, together with appropriate forwarding setup to responsible office holders (e.g. seniorsteward@hatfieldroadmethodist.org.uk , lettings@hatfieldroadmethodist.org.uk etc.). The next step in our church's electronic communication strategy is a better integration of the website with our social media accounts, especially Facebook and X.

The graphs below contain some information about the website traffic since its effective launch in September 2024. First, we see that the church website is receiving between 40 and 60 visits per week on average, of which about 57% do not click beyond the front page.

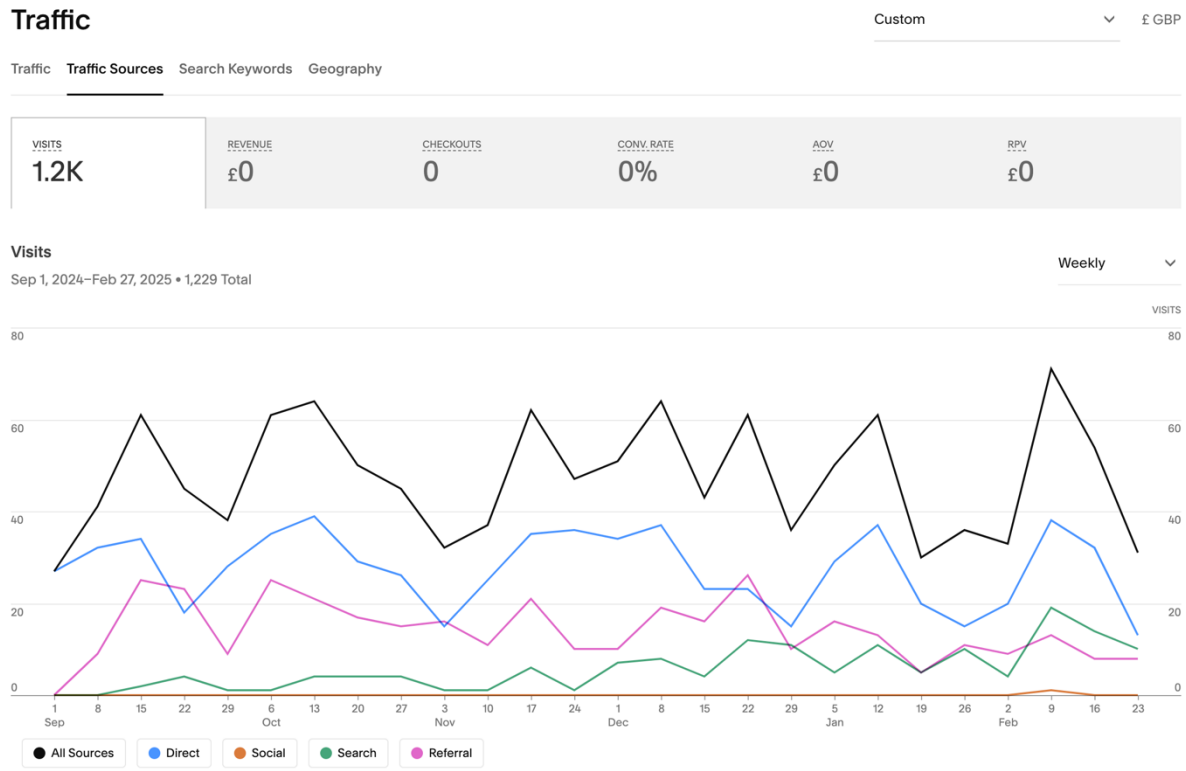




The second graph shows that, beyond the front page, the next most visited page is the Worship page, which carries the YouTube recording of our most recent worship as well as information about our regular worship scheduling.



The third graph here below, showing Traffic Sources, indicate that we still need to improve on the searchability of our church website: not very many visitors come to the page by Googling us, although the “search” data show a mildly increasing trend over time; more visitors reach our website from links to placed elsewhere, e.g. in church emails, through a direct browser bookmark etc.



Ours thanks to all who contribute to the life of the church

I am grateful for the contributions of all who are in positions of responsibility in the church, which includes not only the stewards but also the finance team, the sounds & projection team, the catering & refreshments team, the music group and everybody else.

May we all continue to faithfully answer God's call to service in whatever role we are needed.

Church Council

The Church Council is responsible for the affairs of our church and usually meets three times a year. Members, who may normally serve for up to 6 years, are appointed automatically because of their role, such as Ministers and Church Stewards, or elected each year as representatives of the Annual General Church Meeting (AGCM), or appointed by the Council itself to ensure that all areas of the church's life are adequately represented.

Church Council meetings are open to any church member although only Church Council members may vote. Non-Council members may speak with the permission of the meeting and the prior knowledge of the Minister with Pastoral Charge or Church Council Secretary. Meetings are publicized in church notices and papers about the meetings can be found on the notice board opposite the kitchen and on the church website.

Since the last AGCM in May 2024 the Church Council has met three times for routine business on 26th June 2024, 16th October 2024, and 11th February 2025. The next meeting is planned for 25th June 2025.

The Church Council of 28th February 2023 confirmed the church would support the following specific charities, to be reviewed after two to three years:

Local	**The Living Room**[v] which works locally to support people through addiction
National	**Alzheimer's Society**[vi] which works national to support people with Alzheimer's
International	**Christian Aid**[vii] which internationally seeks to alleviate poverty through direct support and structural change.

Our Stewardship of Money and Property

Church Treasurer's Report – Eric Bridgstock

As of September 2024, our annual Circuit Assessment is up from £52,800 to £58,500 (+11%). Offerings for the first quarter (Sep to Nov) are down £1,500 year on year, so it will be appropriate to encourage increased giving. That said, our reserves remain substantial, bolstered by deposit account interest of over £600 per month.

Our CollecTin card machine was deployed at the end of January 2024, and has proved popular, since handling over £5,000 in connection with Sunday offering, Café, Babies & Toddlers, and especially during events in aid of charities.

The insurance claim for the break-in was handled very efficiently by Methodist Insurance. We had to pay the excess of £500, but the residual claim for damaged items (£1,377) was settled quickly and fully. The premium for the current year increased by a modest 2.6% (£70).

Funding for the Small Hall refurbishment was made possible through Circuit and District grants, reserves, and a very generous response from the congregation.

Maggie Dodd has requested a switch to half-time from February 2025 as we approach the final year of her five-year contract as Anna Chaplain to allow her to continue part-time for two more years. The Management Group have approved this request and both the Connexion and District have agreed to reschedule their grant support across the longer term. The Anna Chaplaincy project continues in good financial health.

Our financial responsibility for Cornerstone has operated well – no issues. Funding is provided to HRMC by the Circuit, and we use it to reimburse their expenses and fund projects/resources.

Energy costs remain a significant expenditure, but much the same as a year ago.

Since the 2024 AGM, over £2,800 has been raised for charities.

- World Mission: £216 (Easter Offering) and £340 (JMA)
- Cowan family Uganda project: £194 (Tony Moody's talk)
- Christian Aid: £410 (Collection) and £233 (Hunger Lunch)
- Chosen Charities: £246 (Afternoon Tea), £416 (International Meal), £230 (Quorum Concert)
- All We Can: £596 (Harvest and Christmas post and services)

A detailed review of income and expenditure against budget, for the first three months of Methodist Year 2024-25, is presented separately.

The 2023-24 Accounts are with the Independent Examiner, John Robinson. John has undertaken this since 2018 and, as is good practice, has suggested that someone else should be engaged. John Scott has agreed to take on the role for the 2024-25 accounts, now he is no longer a member of this church.

Statement of Financial Accounts (SoFA) for Year Ending 31st August 2024

See separate paper 7. The SoFA has been independently examined, reviewed and signed off by all necessary parties (treasurer, presbyter and independent examiner John Robinson). It will be submitted to the Charity Commissioners with this Annual Report and as part of our annual return to the Connexion.

Review of Current Year Ending 31st August 2025 – First Quarter September to November 2024

See overleaf.

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH - FINANCE SUMMARY, Q1 Sept 2024 - Nov 2024					
2023/24 ACTUALS Full Year					
2024/25 BUDGET agreed by CC on 16 Oct 2024					
2024/25 ACTUALS Q1					
	ACTUALS 2023-24 1/9/23 - 31/8/24	BUDGET 2024-25 1/9/24 - 31/8/25	ACTUALS Q1 2024-25 1/9/24 - 30/11/24	Proportion of budget	Comment
RECEIPTS					
Collections	£68,272	£65,000	£14,495	22%	Down £1,500 on Q1 last year
Gift Aid	£12,651	£12,000	£0	0%	GA expected in May
Interest & Endowment Income	£9,379	£8,000	£1,970	25%	Continuing to benefit from over 4.7% interest on deposit account
Lettings	£6,791	£7,000	£922	13%	£1,192 in same quarter a year ago
Donations for Church	£27,701	£2,000	£5,200	260%	Anonymous one-off £5000
Sunday Coffee	£546	£500	£79	16%	
Café	£1,062	£1,000	£317	32%	
Babies & Toddlers (Net of costs)	£1,410	£1,500	£537	36%	
Home Mission	£696	£700	£4	1%	Refers to Holiday@Home
Sundry	£1,534	£1,000	£39	4%	
Cornerstone	£5,154	£5,000	£0	0%	
Lay Workers	£29,649	£25,000	£761	3%	*Grants due in Q3*
TOTAL	**£164,845**	**£128,700**	**£24,324**	19%	
	£130,042	***£98,700***	***£23,563***	24%	***if Anna & Cornerstone excluded***
PAYMENTS					
Circuit Assessment	£53,275	£58,500	£14,625	25%	
Repairs & Renewals	£65,586	£40,000	£9,023	23%	incl final Small Hall payment (powered door and flooring delta); all lights now low energy
Gas	£6,786	£7,000	£696	10%	
Electricity	£2,054	£2,500	£459	18%	
Water Rates	£323	£380	£72	19%	
Insurance	£2,695	£2,800	£2,765	99%	Annual premium paid
Cleaning & supplies	£486	£500	£110	22%	
Staff costs (not Lay Workers)	£1,287	£1,200	£322	27%	
Licences and Subscriptions	£815	£1,000	£196	20%	new website
Biffa Waste Disposal	£503	£2,000	£236	12%	
Youth/Sunday Club	£593	£500	£135	27%	
Stationery/copying (net)	£461	£500	£199	40%	
Bible notes (net)	£13	£0	£66		
Organists & Music	£0	£100	£0	0%	
Donations	£0	£1,000	£0	0%	
Benevolence Fund	£30	£250		0%	
Equipment & Furniture	£1,341	£3,000	£176	6%	
Sundry	£483	£1,000	£263	26%	
Catering	£505	£500	£0	0%	
Evangelism & Outreach	£747	£1,000	£417	42%	
Cornerstone	£4,322	£4,000	£271	7%	
Lay Workers	£35,598	£35,000	£8,981	26%	
TOTAL	**£177,903**	**£162,730**	**£39,012**	24%	
	£137,983	*£123,730*	*£29,760*	24%	*if Anna & Cornerstone excluded*
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	**-£153,579**	**-£34,030**	**-£14,689**	43%	
	-£114,420	*-£25,030*	*-£6,198*	25%	*if Anna & Cornerstone excluded*

Table 1 Income & expenditure against budget, Quarter 1, 2024-25, 01Sep25-30Nov25

Supporting Notes for Table 1:

- Income from collections is down, year on year
- We continue to benefit from large reserves and high interest rates on deposit account
- Income from Café and Babies & Toddlers is better than budget
- Lettings appear down, but budget was increased from £5k to £7k. The rates were revised and took effect for new lettings from 1st April 2024, with existing regular user groups paying more since 1st September 2024
- Energy costs on track to remain within budget (Q2 will be the test)
- Small Hall refurbishment mostly in 2023-24. Just the powered door (£3,180) and some Architect and Building Inspection fees (expect circa £4,000) in 2024)
- Lay Worker project (Anna Chaplaincy): Running close to budget. We have yet to make use of the allocated reserves.
- Monthly expenditure (excluding Lay Worker and Cornerstone) has averaged £9,920 over the period, amounting to £94 per member per month (106 members)
- The bank balances held at 30th November 2024 were £167,625. This includes £38,131 Restricted (Bequests and Gifts), £61,985 ring-fenced for the Anna Chaplaincy, and £560 for Cornerstone.
- The Church's reserves policy is to hold a sum equal to 6 months' expenditure, which was £68,991 in Methodist Year 2023-24
- Charity collections:
  - World Mission (JMA) £254
  - Church's Chosen Charities (International Meal & Quorum Concert) £646)
  - All We Can (Harvest & Christmas) £596

  [Note: £589 collected for a Gambian charity from 2015-16 World Missions collection remains unresolved.]

Property – Eric Bridgstock (Chair of Finance & Property Group)

Buildings

Small Hall Refurbishment

Refurbishment was undertaken between May and September. Snags with the fire bell and powered door were resolved during October. The room is equipped with tables and chairs, and the kitchenette drawers are full of cutlery, crockery, etc. It is providing a space for our young people (air-hockey and football tables). Al Anon held their Christmas party there in December.

The damp in the boundary wall remains an issue, and addressing it will need the cooperation of the landlord of No 2 Glenferrie Road. In August, we arranged repair of the fence between our two properties, with the expectation that goodwill will be forthcoming.

Smaller Jobs

Items damaged during the break-in during April have been repaired or replaced. The desk is yet to be assembled, pending its likely role in the Vestry.

The WiFi in the Sanctuary has been boosted and is now permanently on (not just when the A/V system is being used).

Incandescent and fluorescent lighting in the corridors, Vestry, Upper Room, and back lobby have been replaced by low energy units.

Both sets of kitchen taps have been replaced, as have the WC seats.

Infestations of carpet moths have been dealt with.

Waste and Recycling

During a webinar, BIFFA explained legislation changes that will mean we will have four bins from March 2027:

- general waste
- food waste
- card, paper, metal & plastic
- glass

Legal Matter

We have had various exchanges with our neighbour at 135A, including a meeting in December. To help resolve the issue (lack of clarity in the Land Registry regarding ownership of the northern end of the boundary) some new drawings/sketches are being prepared, which will facilitate engaging TMCP - Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes – who are ultimately responsible for all Methodist property.

* * *

Finally, as always, grateful thanks to those who:

- undertake the cleaning of our church premises
- tend the gardens
- maintain and repair the buildings and fixtures

Cornerstone Project - Deacon Nigel Perrott

[Deacon Nigel Perrott is currently off on sabbatical until 1st April 2025. This is Nigel's report to Church Council from September 2024].

We are now starting our third year here at Cornerstone and the time has really flown by. Over the last two years we have seen families come and go. It is very apparent the private rental sector here is ever changing, and with such high rents, it often leads to people moving to cheaper areas.

We continue to build friendships and our little illustration shows some of the names of those who we are in most contact with.

Our after school club is certainly our most successful group and we aim to start another day soon. Our year sixes will be moving up to seniors next September and over the next ten months we will be doing some transition work with them. Our links with Young Life International are going well and they will be assisting with this group. We have also forged links with St John's in Hatfield where a number of activities are taking place for young people.

I also thought the church council may like to know how our funding is being spent (see table below). There is a fund of £5,000 available from the Circuit each year and I have included a breakdown of what we spent in the last year. You will note that our two largest amounts are spent on food and our summer trips. I would like to thank the members of Hatfield Road for their generosity this year, it enabled us to take 27 people from the estate to Lego Land on the hottest day of the year! We were also able to invite a local farm to bring some animals along to the garden for a farm day - pictures available in the foyer! These events are not only fun but also an opportunity to share precious time with families, so thank you again.

Sharing life with people can be quite demanding as so many people live very challenging lives. This summer we have had to help with family breakdown, mental health, money problems, and a neighbour's cat who is being overfed by a stranger. These things are time consuming and at times quite overwhelming. It is also an honour to be there for people in those very challenging times. I began my appointment here by seeing Cornerstone as a house of hope and Jane and I strive to see this happen.

The big question that now has to be asked is quite simple, "What next"?

The project here at Cornerstone has been through a number of changes over the last fifteen years, and I do have to ask some difficult questions if the project is going to continue for another ten years.

It is very clear that there is a need on the estate, spiritually and practically. How we tackle this not only all depends on the commitment of Jane and I but the whole church. I value the support we receive, not just financially but also the prayer.

I see the last two years as a time of discovery, a time to see the need, to build the friendships and more importantly to gain the trust of those we befriend. To sit with someone and hear their worries and concerns is deeply humbling, and at the same time requires a great deal of trust and understanding. I continually pray that God will breakthrough into these situations and those around us can see Jesus for themselves. We have built a great deal of trust with a number of people, and being asked to bless a home or conduct a wedding blessing to people who are unchurched is amazing and I thank God for those opportunities.

I said in a previous report that we needed to start afresh, so much that had taken place in the past had been lost and we needed to look at this home as a blank sheet. The Apostle Paul, reminds us that we cannot dwell on the past but move forward (Philippians 3:12-14):

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, 14 I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus."

So now it is now time to change gear, and strive to bring those names above, and more, into a new community. One to one relationships are wonderful, but bringing those names all together in one place can be very difficult!

Around the Methodist connexion there are similar community projects working on housing estates, however, Cornerstone is the only project that uses the manse as a base. It is very unusual for a project of this nature to be managed by only one couple, especially when one of them is not employed! Imagine what could have been achieved if there were a team of people living on the estate. Sharing the relationships, creating new ideas and praying together.

It is not possible to really understand a community if you do not live there, this is often known as "parachute ministry" At some point soon, I will elaborate more on this, but at this stage I am just giving an overview of my thoughts.

I firmly believe that Cornerstone has the potential to be a fantastic and growing community, but this will depend on a number of factors that I will go into this autumn.

At the end of October Jane and I are meeting Trey Hall who is the Director for Evangelism and Growth in the Methodist Church. We are going to discuss how the Connexional Team may be able to assist with the work here at Cornerstone. Trey has planted a number of community projects and has a wealth of experience to share and is keen to offer some help.

I will report back to the Church Council following this meeting, but in the meantime I continue to strive forward and look for glimpses of God glory here on The Salisbury Village.

Finally, as you will know, I am taking a sabbatical from 1st January until the 31st March 2025.

Given what I have said in my report you may be wondering how this time out will work. I will be away for four weeks in January and on my return will be at "home". There will be no formal groups, but Young Life will continue to use the community room. It is not possible to hide away and people will no doubt pop in for a cup of tea from time to time. The friendships we have built around us cannot stop and neither would either of us want it to! So basically, I will be removed from all church duties and remain an informal presence. We are both very happy with this and know that my time out of circuit will still be a blessing and a time of refreshment.

Use of Cornerstone Funds (Year Ending 31st August 2024)

Description	Amount (£)	Totals (£)
General		
Food for general activities	479.04	
Buffet Food for Vice Presidents' visit	54.76	
Parties including food and gifts	108.45	
Books & Resources (Try praying/Bible Studies ECT)	69.09	
Stationery & Printing	162.35	
Craft Supplies	107.89	
Replacement Toys & Games	122.55	
Cleaning Sundries	15.21	
Heat & Light –Community Room	100.00	
Soft Play Equipment	468.00	
New Outside Play Area	294.79	
School Chaplain Uniforms	152.00	2,134.13
Trips and events		
Halloween Event	17.24	
Sunday Lunch at Farm Pub	100.50	
Lego Land	1384.00	
Performing Pets farm experience at Cornerstone	450.00	
Holiday Club entry for some Cornerstone Kids	45.00	1,996.74
Total Payments		**4,130.87**
Less donations received	924.00	
Net Expenses (Total Payments less Donations)		**3,206.87**

Thank you all again for your continued support

Nigel Pellatt

Anna Chaplaincy Management Group - Louise Mullins

The members of the committee are Rev. Daniel Yovan (chair), Catherine Meredith and Andrew Johnstone (MRMC) and Denise Willingham, Joanna Rose and Louise Mullins (line manager) (HRMC). Our last meeting was held on 21st January 2025.

Maggie is now coming to the end of her fourth year in her role and whilst fulfilling her own Anna Chaplain (AC) role, continues as AC coordinator for the AC and Anna Friends (AF) team. Succession planning, including the handover of some care home responsibilities, has begun. This was required with the 5-year plan/contract. It has now been agreed that Maggie will reduce her hours from 1st February 2025 to 17.5 hours per week (0.5 Whole Time Equivalent). This now means that the final year's funding will be spread over two years rather than one. This will enable Maggie to extend her time in her role whilst offering support and guidance, modelling the role to those who are gradually taking over AC responsibilities.

Finally, all those who have contributed financially, prayerfully or by volunteering can be reassured that Maggie and her team have and will continue to make a difference to the lives of many in our community. We are grateful to God for the way in which her spiritual, creative and pastoral gifts have been allowed to shape the project here in St Albans and further afield.

Anna Chaplaincy Lead Maggie Dodd

The past year has seen Anna Chaplaincy grow locally and take shape. Looking back over the year there have been some positive and notable events.

One of the highlights of last summer was the **Artists & Residents art project** which involved students from Samuel Ryder Academy, and members of the Friday Day Care group, The Orchard Nursing and Care Home and Sharing Stories group at St Luke's church, collaborating on an exhibition of portraits. It was a lovely way for the children to get to know local older people and I was able to talk about the project at the Mayor's Reception at Sopwell House in June. The school also held an after-school exhibition of the portraits in their library which some members of Friday Day Care and Sharing Stories attended.

In August, HRMC and MRMC hosted the wonderful **Holiday@Home**, which was a great success as ever, huge thanks to Denise and Idy for organising the event, and the fantastic volunteers from both churches who prepared amazing food, entertained guests with music, crafts, conversation and contributed to such a warm-hearted gathering.

Since our last AGCM I published the 4th Seniors' Guide to events, groups and services in churches across St Albans. I secured sponsorship for the back page of the booklet which reduced the overheads of production a huge amount, I am preparing to update the latest version now, which will be distributed to the usual church, community and healthcare contacts. I am constantly encouraged by the reach of the booklet, speaking to a lady only last week who had accessed a church social group which supports both her and her husband who is living with Dementia.

In early 2024 we started the **Chance to Chat** community outreach at Morrisons and will celebrate a year's anniversary in early March with a visit from the Mayor. The group which offers a warm welcome to anyone who wants to stop for a coffee, has a rota of helpers from five different churches and is now an established group, with regular guests who join us, the staff at the supermarket have got to know us and it feels like we are a friendly presence in the cafe. Do pop by if you're ever in the supermarket on a Monday morning (9.30am until 11.30am).

In the past year I have continued to lead **regular services at seven care homes and two retirement flat complexes**, leading the monthly **Wednesday Worship service with craft activity** at HRMC which is a highlight of my month, and helped re-launch **CAMEO** at The Salvation Army with lunch and a range of speakers and activities which has given the group a new lease of life.

2024 was a time of expansion locally for Anna Chaplaincy as we welcomed Hilary as Anna Chaplain in Harpenden (June 2024) and Kate as Anna Chaplain in Hatfield (September 2024), with two more Anna Chaplains hoping to be commissioned in the next couple of months. Caroline, who is training to be an Anna Chaplain in Welwyn shadowed me for a couple of weeks during the summer, which included helping me at one of the Older People's Community Events at Greenwood Park Community Centre. Peter Curtis has continued to work with me at most of the care homes where I lead services, and in February 2025 will take over from me at two local care homes. Ruth, my other Anna Chaplain colleague in St Albans, will lead at a further two care homes, freeing up some of my time for coordinating chaplaincy locally.

Towards the end of 2024 I launched the annual **Sending Love to Care Homes** project, with our gift theme being sheep - I am incredibly grateful to so many people spending time and effort creating gifts

for care home residents and we had enough woolly friends to give each care home resident in St Albans a token of love. The little sheep all had wonderful characters and were really appreciated. The project always enables me to make contact with churches, care homes, craft groups and children's groups, which is such a great blessing, this year I spoke to 2nd St Albans Beavers about the project and my role as Anna Chaplain and we even had the local Memory Cafe at St Mary's make sheep for us with their guests and carers.

I've been fortunate to have been invited to speak at various events this past year. In June, I represented the National Anna Chaplaincy Network in Westminster at the **Empowering Communities** event run by The Pilgrims Friend Society, speaking to a room of representatives from various charities that support older people, I returned in November for the follow up meeting to look at how the Government might engage with us to form policy around the needs of older people. I also attended the regular **Stronger Together** networking Zooms run by Communities First. Peter Curtis is attending as Anna Chaplaincy rep to the local **FACE interfaith** meetings, and we had a stand at the second **St Albans Community Showcase** in the Cathedral in October. This is in addition to the three **OPALS** roadshows we've had a stand at, where Peter, Caroline and I spent time talking to local people and older people's groups about Anna Chaplaincy. I continue to write regularly for the Herts Advertiser and feel that after nearly 4 years Anna Chaplaincy is very much embedded in local church and secular networks, which is great.

As I approach the beginning of my fifth year in the role, I am mindful of succession planning and how the chaplaincy needs to evolve to become more sustainable long-term. After discussion with my Management Group, I have asked to reduce my working hours by half to 17.5 per week, from 35, allowing for a tapering of the work I do, and some flexibility at home. After checking with the grant funders, this new arrangement commenced in February 2025.

The cut in hours has coincided with a handover of the majority of the care home services which Anna Chaplaincy colleagues have now taken on. The coming months will see me concentrate on growing the city-wide secular and church connections I have built up over the past few years, supporting the local Anna Chaplains, galvanising and growing that group while exploring how the chaplaincy can be sustained once the funding has run out. The reduced working hours should mean the role can continue until early 2027.

Thank you to everyone at HRMC who continue to support what I do, out in the community, working with other churches, in care settings, and within our church community - wherever God takes me. I am incredibly grateful for your kindness and prayers. Do get in touch if you would like me to visit, or have any ideas or feedback on my role, I always like to hear from you.

Holiday@Home - Denise Willingham

For four days last August 2024, guests were welcomed at Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road Methodists Churches to our annual Holiday@Home. Forty folk from the local community attended, as well as from the churches. This was made possible by the assistance of thirty helpers from HRMC, MRMC and St Peter's Church. Guests were entertained each day by games, quizzes, craft activities and plenty of lively conversation. Musical entertainment and opportunities for community singing were provided by Katie's Jumping Fleas Ukelele Band and HRMC's Music Group. Delicious home cooked lunches and cakes added to the enjoyment of the week.

This popular annual event is made possible by all the many helpers and great fun was had by all, visitors and volunteers alike. A quote from one guest sums up the week: "I felt as if I had had a whole week's holiday away".

Pastoral Secretary – Jackie Vivian

The Pastoral care of all of our members and adherents is so important. There are 14 Pastoral Visitors and 4 House Group Leaders and, between them, they delivered over 100 envelopes to them all in the run-up to Christmas The envelopes for members included their membership card, new directory and for everyone a list of services over Christmas, Daniel's Pastoral letter and a Christmas message card.

We had a meeting on the 18th November 2024 led by Daniel where those present were able to share any concerns or updates which they had about their Pastoral members. It was good to welcome back Gina Woodhead who had taken a back seat over the past year. We talked about members and adherents whom we had not seen for some time in Church and were encouraged to see what we could do by making further contact.

At the meeting we also remembered those who died since we had last met namely Princess Glasford who died on 21st July 2024 and the Rev Colin Rowe on 30th July 2024.
[Post-meeting note: We give thanks for the life of Kiru Alagaratnum who died 31st January 2025.]

We welcomed Arpit Jais into membership in November and now look forward to Janet Holt joining us in February.

I am very grateful for all the support I have received from many members of the Church family.

There were 112 members as of 31st December 2024.

Prayer Ministry – Roy Vivian

Since the beginning of November 2024, four members of the Prayer Team have remained in the Sanctuary at the end of the 10.30 Communion Service on the third Sunday of the month to pray with any members of the congregation who have come forward. We hope that other Church members will come forward to allows us to extend prayer coverage to all Sunday mornings, as before the Covid pandemic.

The weekly publication of the Prayer Diary, overseen by Peggy Liffen, has continued to be included in Sunday's Notices. In this way all the people and families who are listed can be remembered in our prayers during the following week.

For many years, Ros Hancock has led a prayer group for the needs of our Church. The meetings take place on Tuesday mornings (via WhatsApp) and are supported by members of Ros's house group and a few other Church members. Please contact Ros if you would like to join.

The early morning prayer meeting originally introduced in 2009 by Graham Smith and Chris Hancock continues to function. Chris leads each session at Church between 7.00am and 8.00am on Tuesdays.

The weekly Circuit Prayer Meeting which our Superintendent, the Rev. David Jebb introduced in 2023, continues to take place at 9.00am on Saturday mornings via Zoom.

The Prayer Tree circulates urgent prayer requests and updates by email to a team of 30 volunteers. The knowledge that many people are offering prayers provides comfort and support to those who have requested them. Please contact Roy Vivian if you would like to join.

Music Group – Leader, Joanna Rose

The Music Group meets to rehearse at church each Thursday evening at 8pm, preparing to support worship on Sunday mornings and at the monthly Praise & Worship evening service. The group enjoys making music together, singing and playing a variety of instruments. We sometimes select or recommend hymns for the preacher, and we like to spend time in our rehearsals looking out and learning new hymns or tunes that we will then introduce to the congregation in Sunday services. For special events such as the Christmas carol service, Harvest, or Easter we often put out an invitation for additional singers or players to join us. We continue to add to our library of recorded hymns which was started during the Covid lockdown – we now have over 260 hymns performed by the Music Group available for use from our website.

We welcome new members of any age from secondary school upwards. If you enjoy singing, or can play an instrument and would be interested in joining us for special events or on a regular basis, please speak to Joanna Rose. If you are a competent pianist and would be interested in playing the piano or organ for any services (monthly 9am, weekly 10:30 or monthly 7pm services), again please contact Joanna.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the members of the Music Group for their dedication in providing such wonderful support to the worship every week.

Cradle Roll (Baptismal Roll) – *Position Vacant*

The Cradle Roll is a register of all the children who have been welcomed into the church through Baptism or a Service of Thanksgiving. Their names are proudly displayed in the Children's corner. The children remain on the Cradle Roll until they are three years old when they are promoted into the Sunday Club. There has been one new infant baptism since our last AGCM of 19th May 2024. Rev Daniel Yovan baptised James Alfred John Woodhead on 13th October 2024. There are now two children on the Cradle Roll (those under three years of age) –Peony Rose Hall Smallthorne and James Alfred John Woodhead. Each child receives a card from the church on the anniversary of their baptism.

Sunday Club Caroline Tough, Sunday Club Coordinator

We continue to have two Sunday Club groups at Hatfield Road - one for children aged 4 – 11 meeting in the Wesley Room and one for young people aged 11 -18 meeting in the Upper Room. Both groups have grown in number over the past year and are supported by a dedicated team of leaders and helpers. The younger group follow themed teaching and at the moment are working through the Jesus says " I am the …… light of the world, good shepherd, true vine etc "series. Before that we worked through the stories of the many miracles Jesus performed. The older group does not follow a structured theme but Tomas is inspired to lead what is relevant for each particular week.

Sunday Club meets on the second and third Sunday of each month. In their groups the children and young people are encouraged to develop their faith through reading the Bible, craft activities, games and quizzes as well as more in- depth discussion. They often include refreshments!

There are plenty of ways for the children and young people to be involved on the other Sundays with Create and Celebrate services on the 1st Sunday having activities suitable for all ages and the 4th Sunday being an All- Age Worship service which encourages children and young people to be actively involved in the service. At all times there is a table at the back of the church which has a variety of books, colouring, jigsaws and puzzles suitable for very young children available for them to play happily (and usually quietly!) during a service. There are also story bags available for slightly older children to go and collect and bring back to their seats containing a Bible story and items to go with the story.

The children and young people are valued members of our church family and we encourage them to read or lead parts of the service whenever we can. We can all learn so much from each other.

We had a wonderful nativity service at the beginning of December which was part of the Create & Celebrate service and many children, young people and adults took part, dressing up to represent the various key characters of the Christmas story. Many families maintain their link with the church at Christmas and it was lovely to welcome back families we have not seen for a while.

A new venture, Saturday Family Time, started on the 18th January and proved very popular with those who attended. It is for children aged 7-14 to attend with their parents to enjoy fun activities together. We hope that this is something that the children feel they can invite their friends to come along to.

Sunday Club is grateful for all the prayer support offered to the leaders and helpers and for the children and young people. We feel we have been especially blessed this year and, if we continue to grow, we may need to recruit some additional assistance. Praise God!

Create & Celebrate – Ros Hancock

Our Create & Celebrate service continues to be held on the first Sunday of every month. The first hour in the hall 10.00-11.00 focuses on crafts and other activities, with a link to the theme for the day including: treasure hunts; quizzes; wordsearches; discussions; and games – all accompanied by refreshments. At 11.00 we move into the church for a short 30 minute celebration service when all the activities are admired, brought together and explained within their context of the story that week.

Junior Mission for All (JMA) – Gurmeet Chauhan (Hannah), JMA Lead

JMA (Junior Mission for All) is a network of children, supported by adults, who support and learn about the mission of the church all over the world. The JMA promise is to 'Learn, pray and serve with the worldwide church of Jesus Christ'. 20% of money raised is allocated to the Methodist Mission in Britain Fund and 80% to the Methodist World Mission Fund.

At HRMC, following the handover of Treasurer to our Youth and JMA Leader in September 2024, we have opted in to encourage all church members to become JMA collectors. This has been running successfully with 11+ committed collectors and still growing in numbers.

There has been a successful increase from 4 members that were committed collectors in 2023-2024.

Summary of progress and recent fundraising events:

Events		**Funds Raised**
10th September 2023	Barbecue	£ 524.49 (including gift aid)
29th September 2024	Bring and Share lunch at the church	£ 355.17
JMA Collections		
1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024		£ 396.32
1st – 12th January 2025		£ 85.43
Grand Total		**£1,361.41**

We are grateful for the assistance of Jacob Masih Daniel as JMA Voluntary Treasurer.

Safeguarding – Joanna Rose, Church Safeguarding Officer

The Methodist Church takes safeguarding very seriously, and we follow the rules of 'safer recruitment', ensuring that all those working with children, young people or vulnerable adults within Hatfield Road Methodist Church are subject to appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. All these people, and others in position of responsibility are also required to undertake the Methodist Church's Creating Safer Spaces training every four years, with preachers and leaders trained to an advanced level. All those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church should be able to identify signs of various types of abuse, know how to react, and who to inform of any concerns they may have.

We do all we can to create a safe space for everyone within Hatfield Road Methodist Church and for those with whom we have contact virtually, either online or by phone. If you ever have any concerns about something you see or hear in relation to children, young people or vulnerable adults at the church, however small that may be, you can speak in confidence to me, our Minister, or the circuit safeguarding officer. Full contact details can be found on the church noticeboard.

Warm Welcome Café – Christine Ford, Coordinator

The Warm Welcome café first started in the spring of 2012, when it was known as the Aldersgate Café. We are open every Tuesday morning from 9 a.m. until 11.30 a.m. serving tea, coffee and home-made cakes. There is no charge but donations are very welcome (cash or card).

Our loyal customers, both from the local community and our own church family, attend regularly, along with occasional visitors and passers-by.

The Café continues to be run by a group of dedicated volunteers who work in various roles, setting up, serving, clearing up and making delicious cakes. Thank you all, the café could not run without your help. If you feel you can join the team please speak to Christine or any of our volunteers.

We are continuing to discuss and pray about how the Café can move forward, especially considering the Mission of our Church.

We value your prayers and support. Please come along and enjoy your Café.

Babies and Toddlers – Chris Hancock

Chris Hancock has now taken on lead responsibility for Babies and Toddlers. Louise Bourton (from Shenley Methodist Church) continues to act as a co-leader.

Wednesday morning sessions continue to be well attended and are valued by parents and carers. We average around 30 children each week. Alongside the toys and books, we continue to provide a craft activity each week - we are grateful to Margaret Quinn and Mary Gotts who continue to prepare these activities for the children. To close the session, we share story time and singing which is always great fun.

Needless to say we are extremely grateful to the many folk who help set up, serve tea and coffee, assist during the session, and clear and clean up afterwards.

Unfortunately, Joe Quinn is currently not able to help with setting up and clearing away. So, I am now setting up on Tuesday along with Amanda. It would be brilliant if anyone feels that they can spare an occasional Tuesday from 2:00pm for around an hour for set up, or for a shorter period from 11.00 at the end of the Wednesday session to put away. The children and adults help clear up at 11:00 before the singing, so it is only packing away back into the cupboards on Wednesdays! Please contact Chris if you are able to help.

Day Care Group – Sue Davey, Leader

This is a wonderful social and lunch group which will have been running for 37 years in June 2025. It is set up to remove barriers that might otherwise deter vulnerable and frail elderly folk from leaving their homes, by providing transport, accessible space and practical care and support, so that they can enjoy some hot food, warm fellowship and fun. Visitors come from within our church and the wider local community. We have close links with St Paul's church and the Fleetville Community Centre and are grateful for the volunteers and practical and financial support they provide.

At the present time, we welcome ten elderly ladies most weeks but could raise this to twelve. There are eight regular helpers who come most weeks, and another very willing lady who shares the job of transporting our visitors week by week. Fleetville School delivers main course meals to us each week, and volunteers from the Group and the church provide desserts.

We entertain our visitors each week with quizzes, music from David Amos and our own Music Group, painting and craft activities, flower arranging and playing board games. We usually enjoy a Christmas lunch at a local restaurant, and a canalboat trip each summer.

We would like to offer church members the opportunity to support Day Care by providing occasional desserts, organising an activity from time to time, or just chatting with our visitors. If you feel you can help in any way, please contact me – we would welcome your support for our really friendly group that means so much to us.

Creativity in Fellowship - Maggie Dodd

Our friendly group meets 10.30-12.00 on the second and fourth Fridays of the month in the Wesley Room. We each bring along a craft or creative project, typically ranging from watercolours to collage and pastels. This past year we've tackled scenic painting, flowers and portraits. We enjoy a cup of tea and a good catch up together. There are usually about four of us, and would be very happy to welcome more to our group so do come along, or contact Maggie (07462 586773) to find out more.

Church Walks – Denise Willingham, Eric Bridgstock

As reported last year, Saturday morning church walks no longer have the interest and support to make the planning and checking of routes worthwhile. Several members organise their own walks with friends on days that suit, and that is a good thing.

We hinted that there could be different styles of walk, including around parts of London. Since then, Lianne Weidmann has qualified as an official City of London Wal**k**ing tour guide, and would be delighted to take church groups into London, and particularly likes leading family friendly tours (but can do others). She can cover the Guildhall art gallery and the Roman amphitheatre. Watch out for announcements in the Notices.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions regarding walks, please contact one of us.

House Groups – Johanna Mason, Coordinator

There are currently four House Groups (HG) with a maximum of 28 members of whom a few cannot attend regularly. Tony Moody, Peter Wallace, Ros Hancock and myself lead a HG fortnightly, offering a choice of either day or evening meetings with breaks for school holidays.

Tony leads a HG via Zoom (courtesy of Evangeline) on a Monday evening with 6 regular participants continuing an extensive study of Isaiah. During Advent a study called 'Forgiving and Forgetting' was followed, resuming the Lifebuilder book on Isaiah at the beginning of 2025. These studies have been well received. In the summer the HG gathered for their annual Garden Party at Tony's together with 'other halves', Lesley, Benson and Marcia.

Following a hip replacement towards the end of 2024, Tony has been unable to regularly hold HG and has only recently been able to attend church. Unfortunately, HG will not be able to meet again this year until Evangeline returns from her holiday in Sri Lanka later in February. Despite the many set-backs, the HG is in good spirits and enjoying meeting when possible.

Peter leads and hosts a HG on a Wednesday evening with a varying number of between 6-9 members. Following an Emmaus Course the HG is now studying 'Finding God in the Psalms: Sing, Pray, Live' by Tom Wright.

Ros leads HG on a Friday morning at the home of Sarah Cox with between 4 and 5 regular participants. Members are able to join the group via Zoom if they are away and unable to attend. 'Learning from the Life of Jesus' is the current study material, suspended over Advent to enjoy the study 'Forgiving and Forgetting'. Over Lent the HG will probably study the Circuit Lent Course as mentioned above in Peter's Report.

My HG meets at my house on a Thursday morning with 8 regular members. Zoom meetings are possible for those who cannot attend. Occasionally when I cannot host or transport is a problem, the group gathers at Church rather than miss a meeting.

In tandem with Tony's HG we have been thoroughly enjoying the Lifebuilder Isaiah studies, taking a break over Advent to study 'Forgiving and Forgetting'. We have now resumed Isaiah which should take us up to Lent. In December our HG had a Christmas 'party' with festive food and a very special cake for Sheila's birthday.

Along with Peter, Ros and probably Tony, our group will most likely join the Circuit Lent Course in our individual House Groups. Lent is from 5th March to 17th April. However, our fortnightly groups will be starting the Circuit Lent Course 'Hope in Hard Places' prepared by the charity 'Embrace the Middle East', from week beginning 27th January 2025.

Last year I emailed MRMC to invite participation in our House Groups but I have not had any interest shown. When possible, details re HG appear in The Notices. Information is also available on the Church Notice Board in the Foyer.

Social & Outreach Events (SOE) – Joanna Rose, Coordinator

This Group has now reformed with several new members and has met to plan a series of events, which may be held in the coming months. It is not the role of the Group to organise the events, but to produce a schedule of recommended events which we feel people from the church, the circuit, or the community will enjoy, and to support others within the congregation to bring them to reality.

If you have any ideas for events, or would be willing to organize or help run an event, please do let Joanna know.

Single Friendly Churches Initiative – Angela Spriggs

The Church continues to work towards Single Friendly Church registration. It is carrying out an Audit of its activities. The group has started regular Sunday lunches at the church and is expanding to other activities such as board games afternoons. It continues to raise its profile and looks out for opportunities for improve the experience of those who are single in the church.

Church Council Members

Current Membership 11th February 2025

Position	Name	Date appointed
Circuit Ministers	Reverend David Jebb (Superintendent) [viii] Reverend J Daniel Yovan (Minister in Pastoral Charge) [ix] Deacon Nigel Perrott [x]	Sep 2022 Sep 2023 Sep 2022
Layworker (observer)	Maggie Dodd, Anna Chaplaincy Lead	Nov 2021
Church Stewards[xi]* (up to six)	Tomáš Cvrček (Senior Church Steward) Noelene Browning Anne Wall Ruth Wallace [Vacancy x 2]	May 2018 Oct 2019 May 2023 Jun 2023
Church Treasurer[xii]	Eric Bridgstock	Jun 2018
Pastoral Committee[xiii]	Jackie Vivian	Sep 2023
Church Council Secretary[xiv]	Peter Wallace	Jun 2023
One Circuit Steward on behalf of the Circuit Stewards[xv]	Pretty Nkiwane [Oxlease]	Sep 2024
Members elected by the Annual General Church Meeting[xvi] (Not less than six representatives nor more than fifteen elected) annually by General Church Meeting	Ros Hancock [Elected by ballot] James Appiah Angela Spriggs (Single-Friendly Churches Denise Willingham (Extended Communion)	May 2015 Jun 2021 May 2024 May 2024

Additional Members appointed by Church Council[xvii]:

Sunday Club and Youth Superintendent	Caroline Tough	Sep 2022
Property & Finance Committee	Eric Bridgstock (Chair of Meeting)	Jun 2019
Mission Secretaries Action Group (Mission in Britain / World Missions / JMA / Christian Aid / Justice & Peace)	[Vacancy]	
Worship Consultation Convenor	Peter Wallace	Sep 2015
Safeguarding Officer	Joanna Rose	May 2009
Other appointed by Church Council	Freda Gray [Catering, Property, Cleaning] Val Parker (lettings)	Aug 2017 Jun 2019

Elected to Circuit Meeting[xviii] (up to five)	Church Steward [Ex Officio]: Tomáš Cvrček Church Treasurer [Ex Officio]: Eric Bridgstock Joanna Rose Ros Hancock Denise Willingham	Sep 2022 Sep 2015 Sep 2017 Sep 2022 Sep 2022

End Notes

[i] https://www.tmcp.org.uk/
[ii] https://my-charity-account.charitycommission.gov.uk/
[iii] https://howcharitieswork.com/transparency-and-accountability/annual-reports/#:~:text=A%20charity's%20annual%20report%20must,assessment%20of%20what%20they%20achieved
[iv] https://www.stepschoolswork.org.uk/
[v] https://www.livingroomherts.org/
[vi] https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/
[vii] https://www.christianaid.org.uk/
[viii] Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD), Volume 2, Standing Order (SO) 610 (1) (i) https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/26649/conf-2022-cpd-vol-2.pdf
[ix] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (i)
[x] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (iv)
[xi] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (vi)
[xii] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (vii)
[xiii] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (viii)
[xiv] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (ix)
[xv] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (xii)
[xvi] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (x)
[xvii] Up to 15 additional persons appointed by the Church Council to ensure that all areas of the church's life are adequately represented and in particular that, wherever possible, young people are included in its membership SO 610 (1) (xi) as follows: 5 & 6
[xviii] (Ex Officio Officers) SO 510 (1) (vii) (plus 3 others) SO 510 (1) (viii)

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST **Church**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

St Albans & Welwyn	**Circuit**	**Circuit no.**	**13**

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1173147
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:

Rev Daniel Yovan

Church Stewards:

Tomas Cvrcek	**Ruth Wallace**
Noelene Browning	**Anne Wall**

Treasurer:

Eric Bridgstock

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST — **Church**

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year	
			£	£	£		£	
a1	**RECEIPTS**	**Note**						
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		77,923	3,000	**80,923**		74,083	
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		9,426		**9,426**		5,403	
a4	Lettings		6,791		**6,791**		4,679	
a5	Other receipts		33,728	34,803	**68,531**		42,479	
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**127,868**	**37,803**	**165,671**	**(a7)**	**126,644**	
	SECTION B							
b1	**PAYMENTS**							
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		53,275		**53,275**		52,800	
b3	Donations							
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		65,586		**65,586**		6,345	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		12,361		**12,361**		14,278	
b6								
b7	Other payments		7,552	39,920	**47,472**		38,822	
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**138,774**	**39,920**	**178,694**	**(b9)**	**112,245**	
	SECTION C							
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	**(a6-b8)**	(10,906)	(2,117)	**(13,023)**		14,399	
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		50,071	153,136	**203,207**	**(c6)**	188,994	
c3	**Sub total**	**(c1+c2)**	39,165	151,019	**190,184**		**203,393**	
c4	Transfers and adjustments					**(c7)**	(186)	
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	**(c3+c4)**	**39,165**	**151,019**	**190,184**	**(c8)**	**203,207**	**(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	589	589
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	4,760	4,531
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	4,760	4,531
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID** (d1+d2-d3)	**589**	**589**

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST **Church**

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 2024 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)**	**165,671** (a7)	**178,694** (b9)	**(13,023)**	**28** (c7)	**203,207** (c6)	**190,212** (c8)
e10	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**165,671**	**178,694**	**(13,023)**	**28**	**203,207** (x)	**190,212** (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 2024	**OPENING BALANCES**		**CLOSING BALANCES**	
f1	Cash in hand				
f2	Bank Current Account	16,071		29,293	
f3	Bank Deposit Account				
f4	Central Finance Board	187,358		161,113	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	367		395	
f6	Other funds				
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**203,796**	(c6)	**190,801**	(c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)
f9	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**203,796**	(x)	**190,801**	(y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	3,200,000	3,357,964
g3	Other Assets	120,000	125,923
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

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 .....**HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH**..... No.....**34/13**.....

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 11/2/2025

Name and address of Treasurer .....**ERIC BRIDGSTOCK**.....

.....16 Evans Grove, St Albans, Herts ..... Post Code.....AL4 9PJ

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on .....

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting .....**Rev Daniel Yovan**..... Date 11/02/2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Hatfield Road Methodist Church

Charity Number 1173147

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the **Hatfield Road Methodist Church** for the year ended 31 **August 2024** set out on **pages 2 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 .....**HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH**..... No ...**34/13**.....

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 .....**JOHN ROBINSON**

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner .....A.C.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address .....**Cedarwood, 5 Harmer Dell, Digswell, Welwyn**

..... Post Code ...**AL6 0BE**

Date .....12/2/25.....

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form Reviewed Aug-24

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST **Church**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

St Albans & Welwyn	**Circuit**	**Circuit no.**	**13**

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1173147
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:

Rev Daniel Yovan

Church Stewards:

Tomas Cvrcek	**Ruth Wallace**
Noelene Browning	**Anne Wall**

Treasurer:

Eric Bridgstock

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST — **Church**

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year	
			£	£	£		£	
a1	**RECEIPTS**	**Note**						
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		77,923	3,000	**80,923**		74,083	
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		9,426		**9,426**		5,403	
a4	Lettings		6,791		**6,791**		4,679	
a5	Other receipts		33,728	34,803	**68,531**		42,479	
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**127,868**	**37,803**	**165,671**	**(a7)**	**126,644**	
	SECTION B							
b1	**PAYMENTS**							
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		53,275		**53,275**		52,800	
b3	Donations							
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		65,586		**65,586**		6,345	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		12,361		**12,361**		14,278	
b6								
b7	Other payments		7,552	39,920	**47,472**		38,822	
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**138,774**	**39,920**	**178,694**	**(b9)**	**112,245**	
	SECTION C							
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	**(a6-b8)**	(10,906)	(2,117)	**(13,023)**		14,399	
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		50,071	153,136	**203,207**	**(c6)**	188,994	
c3	**Sub total**	**(c1+c2)**	39,165	151,019	**190,184**		**203,393**	
c4	Transfers and adjustments					**(c7)**	(186)	
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	**(c3+c4)**	**39,165**	**151,019**	**190,184**	**(c8)**	**203,207**	**(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	589	589
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	4,760	4,531
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	4,760	4,531
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID** (d1+d2-d3)	**589**	**589**

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST **Church**

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 2024 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)**	**165,671** (a7)	**178,694** (b9)	**(13,023)**	**28** (c7)	**203,207** (c6)	**190,212** (c8)
e10	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**165,671**	**178,694**	**(13,023)**	**28**	**203,207** (x)	**190,212** (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 2024	**OPENING BALANCES**		**CLOSING BALANCES**	
f1	Cash in hand				
f2	Bank Current Account	16,071		29,293	
f3	Bank Deposit Account				
f4	Central Finance Board	187,358		161,113	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	367		395	
f6	Other funds				
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**203,796**	(c6)	**190,801**	(c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)
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Signature of Treasurer ..... Date 11/2/2025

Name and address of Treasurer .....**ERIC BRIDGSTOCK**.....

.....16 Evans Grove, St Albans, Herts ..... Post Code.....AL4 9PJ

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Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting .....**Rev Daniel Yovan**..... Date 11/02/2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Hatfield Road Methodist Church

Charity Number 1173147

Responsibilities and basis of report

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* delete or circle as appropriate

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Signature of independent examiner .....

Name of independent examiner .....**JOHN ROBINSON**

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner .....A.C.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address .....**Cedarwood, 5 Harmer Dell, Digswell, Welwyn**

..... Post Code ...**AL6 0BE**

Date .....12/2/25.....

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form Reviewed Aug-24

THE METHODIST CHURCH, HATFIELD ROAD, ST ALBANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1173147

Accounts

The **Methodist** Church

Hatfield Road Methodist Church, St Albans

Serving Christ and the Local Community

Annual Report 2023-2024

Presented to the Annual General Church Meeting, Sunday 19th May 2024

133B Hatfield Road, St Albans AL1 4JX
District 34 Bedfordshire, Essex & Hertfordshire, Circuit 13 St Albans & Welwyn, Church Id 25824 Charity Registration Number 1173147

This report has been compiled and edited by Peter Wallace, Church Council Secretary. Thank you to all who have contributed to this report and to the life of this church.

Any details of web links may be found at the end of the report using 'end note' links[i, ii, iii… like this] ..

If you would like a hardcopy or large print of this Annual Report, please contact the Minister or one of the Church Stewards

Front Cover Watercolour Illustration of the Church by Maureen Carveley (~2012)

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Our Presbyter's Message 6

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Church Council 9

Our Stewardship of Money and Property **10**

Church Treasurer's Report – Eric Bridgstock 10

Property – Eric Bridgstock (Chair of Finance & Property Group) 13

Work of God HRMC as Part of St Albans Section **15**

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Anna Chaplaincy Management Group - Louise Mullins 17

Anna Chaplaincy Lead Maggie Dodd 17

Holiday@Home - Denise Willingham 19

Work of God Hatfield Road Methodist Church **20**

Pastoral Secretary – Jackie Vivian 20

Prayer Ministry – Roy Vivian 20

Music Group – Leader, Joanna Rose 21

Cradle Roll (Baptismal Roll) - Adelita Serwaa-Bonau 21

Sunday Club - Caroline Tough, Sunday Club Coordinator 21

Create & Celebrate – Ros Hancock 22

Junior Mission for All (JMA) – Ruth Wallace, JMA Treasurer 22

Safeguarding – Joanna Rose, Church Safeguarding Officer 23

Warm Welcome Café – Christine Ford, Coordinator 23

Babies and Toddlers – Chris Hancock 24

Day Care Group – Sue Davey, Leader 24

Creativity in Fellowship - Maggie Dodd 24

Church Walks – Eric Bridgstock 25

House Groups – Johanna Mason, Coordinator 25

Social, Events, Outreach (SEO) – Joanna Rose, Coordinator 26

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Introduction

Our Calling

The Methodist Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans is part of the St Albans and Welwyn Methodist Circuit in the Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex District of the Methodist Church in Britain

The Calling of The Methodist Church in Britain is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission. It does this through:

WORSHIP

By increasing awareness of God's presence and celebrating God's love

LEARNING & CARING

By helping people grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

SERVICE

By being a good neighbour to people in need and challenging injustice

EVANGELISM

By making more followers of Jesus Christ

The calling of Hatfield Road Methodist Church, as agreed by its Church Council, includes the commitment to:

'Serve Christ and the Local Community'

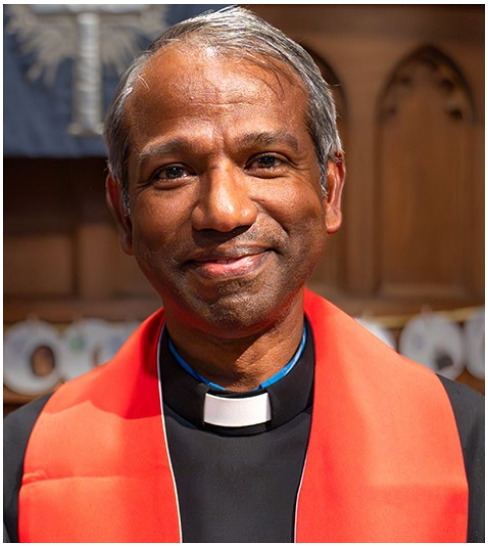
Our Obligations as a Registered Charity

Each Methodist Church is a charity as part of the Methodist Connexion administered by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP[i]). This local church is also registered directly with the Charity Commission[ii] as 'The Methodist Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans (1173147)'.

As a registered charity, our annual report must explain what its charitable purposes are and what it has done during the year to carry out those purposes[iii] and also contain the year's accounts for the charity, which must be submitted to the Charity Commission no later than 10 months after the end of their financial year (31st August for Methodist Churches). These charitable purposes are summarized within each annual Statement of Financial Accounts.

All Church Council members must be eligible and willing to become Trustees.

Our Presbyter's Message



Rev J Daniel Yovan, Minister with Pastoral Charge

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ who promised His presence with us till the end of the age. It is my great joy to be part of what God is doing through the ministry of the Methodist churches in this part of the circuit. Our family has settled down very well and is enjoying life here in St Albans and the support you give through prayers and care is very much appreciated. My family is enjoying the fellowship and worship here at HRMC.

Friends, our calling to this Christian community is for service and mutual support. Worshipping God and bearing each other's burdens are the characteristics of active followers of Christ. By doing so we spread the love of God through Jesus in the community we are part of. We are a living and active church of Jesus Christ.

There are several functioning groups within the church reaching out to the people in the community: House groups; Warm welcome café; Babies and toddlers; Church walks; Sunday Club and Youth Fellowship; Friday Day Care group; Prayer groups (in person, online and by social media); the Creative Fellowship Art group; and the work of Anna Chaplaincy led by Maggie Dodd in various care homes and other churches, including the listening ear at Morrisons. All these activities will not happen without the willing volunteers from our churches and community. There are various social outreach events that have been planned throughout the year to engage with those who are loosely connected with the church and those in the community. Our new Single Friendly Church initiative is being championed by Angela Spriggs. I am ever so grateful to God for raising faithful people to lead the various groups to spread the love of Jesus.

Moreover we, as the St Albans section within our circuit, are also blessed to have the Cornerstone project led by Deacon Nigel Perrott, and to celebrate the commissioning of Maggie Dodd as St Albans Anna Chaplaincy Lead at Marlborough Road Methodist Church (MRMC) in October 2023. Several young families now attend the monthly Create and Celebrate service, another sign of God's work in this place. Well done and thank you to all those who work so hard to make this happen. We have also now started a monthly 'Club Saturday' all age activity at MRMC to reach out to those who are not able to come on Sunday mornings.

The circuit vision day has ignited a conversation in all the churches about the purpose of their existence. The circuit prayer on every Saturday is very well attended. I would encourage you to join whenever you can. During Christmas and Lent season all the churches have used the liturgy that was recommended by Rev David Jebb. We also enjoyed the circuit wide bible study during Lent (loving your neighbour) and hosted the Monday evening sessions.

Ecumenical

I am beginning to get involved in ecumenical affairs. City churches' Clergy meets bi monthly for breakfast and prayers. We at HRMC hosted the Churches together in St Albans' Annual General Meeting last month. I am a volunteer chaplain once a month at the Cathedral and have offered to lead the ecumenical service during November 2024.

Interfaith

I am passionate about getting involved in interfaith conversations. I plan to reach out to the leaders or other faith groups in the coming months.

Children's, Families and Youth work

It is our responsibility as the church to nourish and strengthen the faith of our young people. Recently we have confirmed four of them and another four are getting ready to be confirmed at MRMC on Sunday 14th July 2024. Their preparation for confirmation has happened through the Youth Alpha we have held at HRMC. To continue the youth work we have started, we have planned to engage with them in faith conversations through watching the Chosen film series on a monthly basis. I would like to thank all our Sunday Club and Youth leaders in supporting the work of God in this vital mission of the church. We also celebrated the confirmation (as adults) of Hannah Brown and Sally Newton 21st April 2024. We are already planning to celebrate more baptisms and 'transfers in' over the summer.

Future mission

It is a great joy to hear the testimonies of the work of God through the Cornerstone project and Anna Chaplaincy (see also separate reports from Nigel and Maggie). Working with Nigel and Maggie, we, as Churches in St Albans, will be able to strengthen the bond between both churches and contribute to the life of the local community. To carry out this vital mission of the church we also need new stewards and church council members so please put yourself forward if you are able.

While we focus on the mission of the church in terms of reaching out, we should also remember the vital pastoral work that is being carried out daily by our wonderful pastoral visitors. I am ever so thankful for all those who worked to make the name of Christ known in St Albans through various ways. I would like to encourage all of you to continue the work of Christ until He returns.

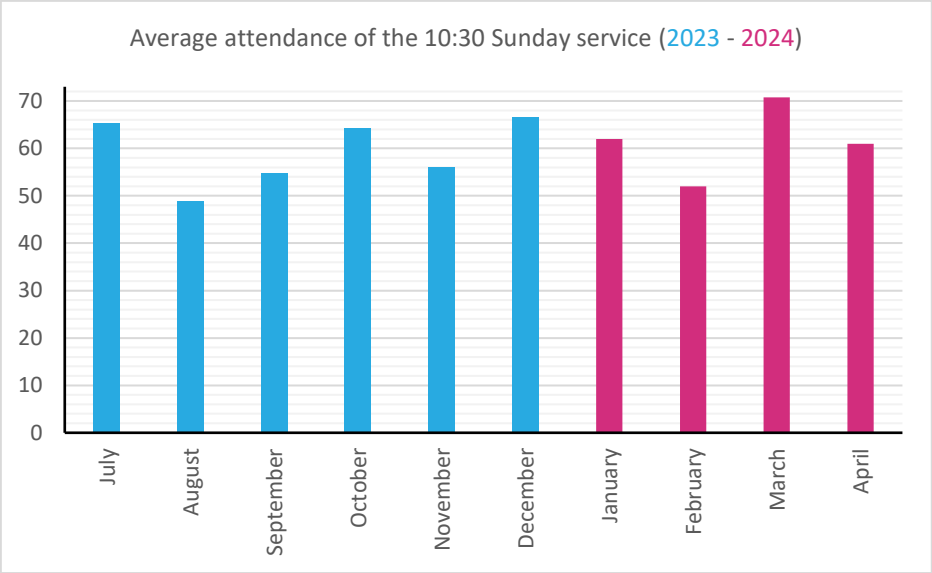
O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works (Psalm 105: 1-2).

Church Stewards' Report - Tomáš Cvrček (Senior Steward)

This was my second and penultimate year as Senior Steward at our church. The roster of stewards includes three other church members: Noelene Browning, Anne Wall and Ruth Wallace. For Anne and Ruth, this was their first year of stewarding. I am happy to report that they learned the stewarding routine quickly and immediately became full-fledged members of the team. In our work, we also rely on the contribution of our group of Sunday Assistants, currently consisting of Evangeline Selverajan, Jan Kitchin, Angela Spriggs and Sue Davey. Their commitment and hard work, too, have been exemplary throughout the year. It is thanks to the dedication of all the stewards and assistants that we have been able to successfully staff all the Sunday services as well as various weekday and special-occasion services, such as over Christmas and Easter. Apart from the regular Sunday services, the stewards have also led, or contributed to, organizing the Youth Alpha courses for our class of four confirmands January to March 2024 and hosting the Monday evening Circuit Lenten Study, put updates on our Church website, and are currently active in undertaking a Risk Assessment, which is due for the Church Council meeting 26th June 2024. We also maintain a close and productive cooperation with the stewards from the Marlborough Road Methodist Church, with whom we hold joint steward meetings every other month of the year.

Overall, I would describe the operation of the steward team as smooth and effective. I believe that we managed the transition of ministers from Rev Andrew Prout to Rev Daniel Yovan without any major problem. At the same time, a few instances in past year have highlighted the need for efficient communication, especially when it comes to resolving potential scheduling conflicts in our liturgical calendar, for example, when our Covenant Service in January fell on the first Sunday of the month, which is reserved for the much-beloved and well-attended Create & Celebrate service.

The following graph summarizes the average attendance at our main, 10:30am Sunday service over the last year, by month:



The overall average also includes about 8 children & youth. Over the same period, the 9:00am Holy Communion service on the first Sunday of the month served an average of 18-19 communicants. Our best attended services over the last year were Sunday 2nd July 2023 (97 attendees), the Easter Sunday 31st March 2024 (96 attendees) and 16th July 2023 (93 attendees).

Going forward, both **I and the rest of the stewards feel strongly the need to expand our ranks**. While we have managed as a four-member team this past year, we did face challenges at particular times, such as during the summer when I was away for all of August or during January and February when Noelene was away. But if any one of us were suddenly unable to continue in the role, for example, for health reasons, then our ability to serve effectively would be jeopardized. Increasing our number to 5 or 6 stewards would greatly increase our scheduling flexibility while also making the stewarding duty less intense for each member. **In line with this need, the stewards have approached at least 12 church members, inquiring whether they would be willing to start a three-year term as church stewards - all declined. However, I am delighted to report that Napoleon Yorke-Andrews and Sally Newton have agreed to become Steward Assistant.**

While the thin ranks of the stewarding team continue to be a source of concern, looking into the future, I am cautiously confident that we will be able to continue to serve the church as we have in the past. In contrast to the high demands of minister transition last year, I expect this coming year to be somewhat more predictable and quieter, although I believe that, with God's guidance, we are ready for whatever challenges may come our way.

I am grateful for the contributions of all who are in positions of responsibility in the church, which includes not only the stewards but also the finance team, the sound & projection team, the catering &

refreshments team, the music group and everybody else. May we all continue to faithfully answer God's call to service in whatever role we are needed.

Church Council

The Church Council is responsible for the affairs of our church and usually meets three times a year. Members, who may normally serve for up to 6 years, are appointed automatically because of their role, such as Ministers and Church Stewards, or elected each year as representatives of the Annual General Church Meeting (AGCM), or appointed by the Council itself to ensure that all areas of the church's life are adequately represented.

Church Council meetings are open to any church member although only Church Council members may vote. Non Council members may speak with the permission of the meeting and the prior knowledge of the Minister with Pastoral Charge or Church Council Secretary. Meetings are publicized in church notices and papers about the meetings can be found on the notice board opposite the kitchen and on the church website.

Since the last AGCM in May 2023 the Church Council has met three times for routine business on 28th June 2023, 6th November 2023, and 27th February 2024. The next meeting is planned for 26th June 2024.

The Church Council of 28th February 2023, last year, confirmed the church would support the following specific charities, to be reviewed after two to three years:

Local	**The Living Room**[iv] which works locally to support people through addiction
National	**Alzheimer's Society**[v] which works national to support people with Alzheimer's
International	**Christian Aid**[vi] which internationally seeks to alleviate poverty through direct support and structural change.

Our Stewardship of Money and Property

Church Treasurer's Report – Eric Bridgstock

Accounts for Year Ending 31st August 2023

The 2022-23 Accounts were examined by an Independent Examiner, John Robinson, and fully signed off on 28th February 2024.

[*Note:* The 2022-23 Statement of Financial Accounts for year ending 31st August 2023 will be uploaded to the Charity Commission website separately. Its preamble includes a summary of church purposes].

Review of Current Year Ending 31st August 2024 – 01Sep23-29Feb24

Giving during the first six months of the current Methodist Year (Sep 23 to Feb 24), is markedly higher than the same period last year. We continue to benefit from high (5%-6%) interest rates on our deposit account (Methodist Central Finance Board – CFB), yielding over £800 interest each month.

The Anna Chaplain project continues in good financial health. Expenses are higher than planned but we are granted Employment Allowance, which means we do not pay the employer's National Insurance contribution. We receive annual grants from District and Connexion, as well as donations from other churches and some organizations visited by Maggie, plus about £100 a month from ongoing member pledges.

Financial responsibility for administration of Cornerstone funds on behalf of the Circuit has been transferred smoothly from MRMC to HRMC. Funding is provided by the Circuit.

Energy costs remain a significant expenditure, much the same as a year ago, but within budget. The gas supplier changed bank at the start of 2024, leading to an unexpected Direct Debit holiday, but billing since February is now back on track.

Income from church groups and activities (such as Babies & Toddlers and the Warm Welcome Café) and from external lettings, are on budget and beginning to approach pre-COVID levels.

Our CollecTin[vii] card machine has been used for about three months and is proving particularly popular with Babies & Toddlers as most subs are paid by this method. We are also routinely taking payments during Sunday services and the Warm Welcome Café.

Our Gift Aid claim is normally submitted around Christmas, with the resulting monies arriving in our CFB account in April/May. This year, the submission was still being prepared in April but we should get the payout by August.

Charities: £660 was raised for Methodist World Mission through Junior Mission for All (JMA); £870 for Hatfield Housing (Perrott Appeal); and £285 for Herts Young Homeless - all funds disbursed. £901 has been raised (Quorum concert and Pancake Party) for our Church's Chosen Charities (see Church Council section) and £488 (Christmas and Curry Night) for All We Can. We continue to hold £589 on behalf of a Gambian charity, collected during a 2015-16 World Missions event, pending resolution of a charity law-compliant means of passing it to the beneficiary.

A detailed review of income and expenditure against budget, for the first six months of Methodist Year 2023-24 (year ending 31st August 2024), is presented in Table 1 overleaf.

Hatfield Road Methodist Church Annual Report 2023- 2024

	ACTUALS 2022-23 1/9/22 - 31/8/23		BUDGET 2023-24 1/9/23 - 31/8/24		ACTUALS 2023-24 1/9/23 - 29/2/24		Proportion of budget	Comment
RECEIPTS								
Collections		£59,130		£60,000		£38,409	64%	
Gift Aid		£15,243		£12,000		£0	0%	GA expected May 24
Interest & Endowment Income		£5,403		£3,000		£4,863	162%	CFB Deposit rate remains over 5% (interest averaging £800pm)
Lettings		£4,439		£5,000		£3,915	78%	includes £1200 for Circuit Office
Donations for Church		£2,838		£2,000		£265	13%	
Sunday Coffee		£384		£350		£269	77%	
Café		£949		£1,000		£508	51%	
Babies & Toddlers (Net of costs)		£1,752		£1,500		£752	50%	
Sundry		£1,212		£1,000		£92	9%	
Cornerstone		NONE		£2,000		£4,182	209%	Funds received from Circuit
Lay Workers		£34,913		£30,000		£2,413	8%	*Grants of £18.7k scheduled for Q3. £500 received from St Paul's in Oct*
TOTAL		**£126,263**		**£117,850**		**£55,668**	47%	
		£91,350		***£87,850***		***£53,255***	*61%*	***if Anna & Cornerstone excluded***
PAYMENTS								
Circuit Assessment		£52,800		£52,800		£26,400	*50%*	
Repairs & Renewals		£6,345		£80,000		£2,786	*3%*	Small Hall planned for this Methodist Year
Gas	£7,741		£7,000		£1,601		23%	
Electricity	£2,564		£2,500		£1,005		40%	
Water Rates	£303		£380		£179		47%	
Utilities		£10,608		£9,880		£2,785	*28%*	
Insurance		£2,640		£2,800		£2,695	*96%*	Buildings and Contents Ins fully paid in Q1
Cleaning & supplies		£417		£500		£122	*24%*	
Staff costs (not Lay Workers)		£1,573		£1,200		£644	*54%*	
Licences and Subscriptions		£774		£800		£607	*76%*	One Licence will renew in Q3
Biffa Waste Disposal		£1,030		£2,000		£0	*0%*	Still in credit from BIFFA invoicing error
Youth/Sunday Club		£391		£500		£263	*53%*	
Stationery/copying (net)		£756		£500		£197	*39%*	Not invoiced by Circuit yet
Bible notes (net)		£65		£0		-£100		More income than expenditure
Organists & Music		£207		£100		£0	*0%*	
Donations		£0		£500		£0	*0%*	
Benevolence Fund		£47		£250		£0	*0%*	
Equipment & Furniture		£1,045		£1,000		£666	*67%*	Chair Trolley and CollecTin
Sundry		£893		£1,000		£222	*22%*	
Catering		-£64		£200		£121	*61%*	
Evangelism & Outreach		£912		£500		£277	*55%*	
Cornerstone				£2,000		£1,256	*63%*	Soft Play Area
Lay Workers		£31,308		£34,200		£17,391	*51%*	
TOTAL		**£111,747**		**£190,730**		**£56,332**	*30%*	Distorted by Lay Workers and delays to Small Hall
		£80,439		*£154,530*		*£37,685*	24%	*if Anna & Cornerstone excluded*
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		**£14,516**		**-£72,880**		**-£664**		
		£10,911		*-£66,680*		*£15,570*		*if Anna & Cornerstone excluded*

Table 1 Income & expenditure against budget 01Sep23-29Feb24

Supporting Notes for Table 1

Income from collections is healthy - monthly giving exceeding £5500
We continue to benefit from large reserves and high interest rates on deposit account.
Income from Lettings, Café, Babies & Toddlers are all on budget or better
Energy costs look like remaining well within budget.
Major expenditure planned for refurbishment of Small Hall was delayed - builders expect to start in April
Lay Worker project: The relief from Employer NI and additional donations (from other churches) mean within budget
Monthly expenditure (excluding LW & Cornerstone) has averaged £5,976 over the period, ***amounting to £56 per member per month (106 members)***
The bank balances held at ***29/2/2024*** *were £200,363. This includes £82,001 Restricted (Bequests and Gifts), and £59,176 ring-fenced for the Lay Workers project.*
The Church's reserves policy is to hold a sum equal to 6 months' expenditure, which was £55,481 in Methodist Year 22-23.
Charities: £1,825 raised for World Mission (JMA), Hatfield Housing (Perrott) and Herts Young Homeless - all disbursed. *£901 has been raised for our Church's Chosen Charities, and £488 for All We Can.* *£589 for a Gambian charity from 2015-16 World Missions collection remains unresolved.*
Eric Bridgstock, Treasurer, 25/3/2024

Property – Eric Bridgstock (Chair of Finance & Property Group)

Buildings

Small Hall Refurbishment

The Property Review & Oversight of Development (PROD) group has continued with plans to make the Small Hall a more attractive, usable and accessible space leading to an agreed solution that improves integration with the rest of the church, while meeting accessibility and other requirements, simplifying approvals and consents, and keeping the cost down. The design limits any external changes to the appearance of the building to new doors to the car park and replacement windows, thus avoiding the need for Planning Permission and its associated costs and possible delays. It also reduces cost and risk associated with significant changes to the footprint of the building. The project was endorsed by Church Council 27th February 2024, and signed off by the District in March 2024. Since then, we have had meetings with the builder and the architect and expect work to begin in May 2024.

Other Issues

The old gas boiler in the back storage area became troublesome – not igniting. Thanks to Peter Wallace who sourced a replacement circuit board and arranged its fitment. As a precursor to a possible replacement, Peter has been monitoring the performance of that old boiler and the new main heating system installed three years ago.

Two generous donations facilitated the replacement of the projector and screen with a large TV monitor, at no cost to the church. Problems with reflections off the new monitor resulted in the supplier Creative Audio-Visual Solutions acknowledging that they had supplied an unsuitable monitor and replaced it, again at no cost to the church. The old projector and screen have been retained for possible use in the Large Hall or Small Hall.

The WiFi system has been upgraded (a Circuit responsibility). Thanks to Chris Hancock for fortitude and patience when dealing with the supplier and also with Royal Mail, who did not recognise 133B Hatfield Road as a valid delivery address!

Smaller Jobs

- A trolley was procured for the storage and movement of folding chairs between the Lounge and the Sanctuary.
- A low rail has been fitted across the back of the dais to prevent feet or chair legs dropping down in the gulley.
- Door closers on the exit from the Sanctuary to the toilets, and on the front door, have been adjusted to prevent slamming.
- The broken rail in the accessible toilet has been replaced.

Other

A review of plans and photographs concluded that there is no reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in the church buildings.

As noted last year, it is recognised that parts of the entrance to the church (eg the rails on the steps and the canopy) are in need of repainting. The main windows to the Sanctuary need treatment, and this will be included in this refurbishment. This will be progressed this year.

Ruth Wallace is now the Steward attending the Property & Finance Committee.

Update on the break-in during the night of Friday 26th April 2024

The need for police forensics to investigate caused the postponement of the Cleaning & Maintenance morning planned for Saturday 27th April. The only item thought to be missing is a recently purchased 'sound box' for the Music Group corner. Damage included: a smashed window; damage during the forced opening of the door to the Epworth Room and several metal filing cabinets and cupboards. Replacement of those items will cost a few thousand pounds. Methodist Insurance was informed 28th April 2024.

Environment

Ros Hancock is our 'eco-champion' and is guiding us through the 'A Rocha UK' eco-church questionnaire. A Rocha operates a scheme of bronze, silver and gold awards and, based on our responses to the Buildings and Land sections, we achieved Bronze in June 2023 - the plaque is displayed in the Foyer. We continue to replace incandescent and fluorescent lighting with low energy Light Emitting Diode (LED) units as part of routine maintenance, and look for other ways to improve our 'eco' footprint.

Our 'mixed dry recycling' bin is getting well used, reducing the material going into the general waste bin.

A Legal Matter

The formal agreement regarding the boundary between the church and our neighbour at 135A, and the discrepancy in the Land Registry, has not progressed and will be prioritised in the coming months.

Finally, as always, huge thanks to those who:

- undertake the cleaning of our church premises
- tend the gardens and
- maintain and repair the buildings and fixtures

Work of God HRMC as Part of St Albans Section

Cornerstone Project - Deacon Nigel Perrott

I am not sure where the time has gone since my last annual report to Hatfield Road!

Hatfield Road now has full oversight of the project, and Eric Bridgstock and Denise Willingham have joined the support group. Things continue to move on and we now feel very much part of the community here in Salisbury Village. I have learnt so much more about this community, some sad and some good.

We have seen quite a number of families who move here and six months later move on again. The very high rents are clearly a factor. That said, those who have remained have become friends. We are constantly looking at new ways to reach out and have certainly had some success. I think that as we approach the two year mark, Cornerstone has reached a plateau. This gives us time to build on the relationships already made and look ahead to what we can do more of moving forward.

Schools Work

After-School Club – "Cornerstone Kids"

We now have a regular 10 children who attend our after-school club. This has very much become a family of kids, and they look out for each other and they certainly keep us on our toes. The club always begins with food. They love to make their own pizzas. During this time, we chat about their week and hear their good and bad news. This is often followed by more baking! Chocolate Brownies and tray bakes are a firm favourite. There is always a craft activity too and, if the weather is good, some time in the garden is always appreciated. Some of the kids will move into year six in September 2024 and we are planning an extra day especially for them. We hope to help make the transition from primary into secondary school a less scary process.

School Chaplaincy

We have now had our first outing as 'School Chaplains'. We have been joined with friends from St John's Church of England in Hatfield. Onslow School has welcomed us and are very pleased that we can engage with parents and children at the end of a school day. We are present at the school gate as they leave and are joined by some of the staff. I will give some further updates on this work as we become more established.

Howe Dell School

I have now taken up my role as Governor. There are a number of meetings and I have the opportunity to meet staff and other parents. This is going to prove invaluable as we continue to forge relationships in the area. Jane has also been in the school along with Young Life International, who we continue to work closely with.

Young Life international.

Young Life International now use the community room for various meetings. Jane and I often join the leaders' meetings for prayer and support. Over the May half-term they will run their three day club and some of our kids will be joining them.

Coffee Morning and Open house

We held an open day during the last February half-term and the house was filled. It is a joy when all those we have connected with all come together. It is slightly hectic but great fun. More recently The Vice President, Deacon Kerry Scarlett, visited and again we had a full house. Kerry spent some time with the kids and told them all about her role.

We also now have our baby soft play area up and running. We have had two new babies joining us with their mums. We continue to advertise this and hope more will come along.

Faith Talk

We continue to meet informally and enjoy a time of fellowship and discussion. At our last meeting we watched a film, "God's not Dead", a film about a student who was challenged by his tutor to prove the existence of God. We had a good discussion and will no doubt repeat this idea again.

Of course, we also have had the joy of seeing Hannah be confirmed and become a member of the church. Both and Hannah and Carol enjoy joining the monthly Create and celebrate services.

Future events.

Last year I had the joy of baptizing little Evelyn in a hot tub. How could I beat that! Well this summer, I will be doing a wedding blessing in a marquee in our neighbour's garden. Pictures will no doubt follow!

Over the summer, we will be making a return visit to LEGOLAND - hopefully the weather will be drier this year. We actually needed a boat rather than a coach last year! We are also planning a trip to the seaside and a local farm. Some of the kids are planning to do a sponsored walk to help raise some funds for this. Look out in the weekly notices for more information.

Craft workshop.

Over the next couple of months we will be having a new craft workshop, catering for the older age group. It looks like this may be a large group and we are looking at using the local community hall for this - more information coming soon.

Sunset-to-sunrise prayer

Cornerstone is hosting an ecumenical prayer space. The community room will be open from sunrise on Friday 13th September until 4pm on Sunday the 15th. This will be an opportunity for small groups or individuals to come and pray for Hatfield. The idea is based on the 24/7 prayer idea. There is an online sign-up page available and I will advertise this in due course. We have met leaders from the other churches in Hatfield and the idea has been welcomed by all. The weekend will close with a time of worship on the green at the front of Cornerstone.

* * *

So finally, I hope you get a flavour of what is going on and, of course, a warm welcome is always waiting should you like to come and visit. It is always good to remember that Christianity is a relationship, we strive to build strong relationships that allow us to share the good news of Jesus.

Anna Chaplaincy Management Group - Louise Mullins

As a management group we are so pleased to see how Maggie has developed the Anna Chaplaincy (AC) role and we are excited to see how the next stages develop in our combined Christian journey in St Albans. We believe we are very fortunate and blessed to have Maggie working with us at this time. She is an inspiration!

We meet quarterly, most recently 23rd April 2024. The members of the committee are Rev Daniel Yovan (chair), Catherine Meredith and Andrew Johnstone (MRMC) and Denise Willingham, Joanna Rose and Louise Mullins (line manager) (HRMC).

Maggie has now come to the end of her third year in her role and she is fulfilling her current Anna Chaplaincy (AC) role whilst acting as AC lead to other members of the team including Anna Friends (AF). In terms of succession planning, Maggie is completely on track with the 5-year plan given in her job description/contract. Maggie continues to demonstrate her developmental, creative, and entrepreneurial attributes in the new initiatives recently established - just read the next section! Maggie also continues to have very good working relationships with ecumenical colleagues across St Albans

Anna Chaplaincy Lead Maggie Dodd

The past year with you at HRMC has been a positive and busy one. Since our last AGCM, I was able to host a stand at the first **St Albans Community Showcase** event at the Cathedral in June 2023. I managed to update and publish ready for the event, the **Seniors' Guide to events, groups and services** in churches across St Albans. This time 22 churches were included and now 7 GP surgeries' Social Prescribers send them out to their patients and referrals.

After another wonderful **Holiday at Home** during the summer, I started to plan for the **Commissioning Service** for new Anna Chaplains and an Anna Friend (and recommissioning my own role too) held at MRMC 22nd October 2023. It was a super Commissioning Service and we were very fortunate to have Debbie Thrower, the Anna Chaplaincy Pioneer, preach for us - Debbie retired less than a month later. It was a really special event. Since then, two more people are exploring whether to become Anna Chaplains and I hope one will be commissioned in Hatfield, and one in Harpenden, within the coming months. Denise Willingham will also join me as an Anna Friend, which is very exciting. She has been a great help with a number of events in the past year and she will be a real asset. I continue to work alongside Peter Curtis and Rev Canon Dr Ruth Goatley, the Anna Chaplains here in St Albans. Peter shares many of the care home services I organize, and we hope to work on some larger projects together in the coming year.

Over the summer and early autumn, I led a **Spiritual Care Course** in Hitchin. It's a new initiative by Anna Chaplaincy and comprises a series of eight two hour sessions. It was really rewarding, with us all sharing personal experiences of ministry and the challenges that effect the people we care for as they age. The course was attended by a Deacon, two care home Chaplains, two pastoral visitors, and Peter Curtis who was soon to become and Anna Chaplain alongside me in St Albans. I was able to share some of the material we had used at a morning session of the **Pastoral Visitors Group** at SS Albans and Stephen for a session on 'How to be a good listener' January this year.

Last Christmas saw the annual '**sending love to care homes'** project take off, with over 800 angels knitted, painted, crafted and stitched. It was an amazing response with so many examples of collaboration across church communities and with schools and uniformed organizations too. 17 care homes had gifts to give each resident, and I spoke about the incredible response on **BBC 3 Counties**

Radio on Christmas Eve. There were also many **wonderful care home services over the Christmas period**, including members from a variety of different churches in St Albans, a really ecumenical effort.

The new year has started at a pace, with a new collaboration alongside the Salvation Army – **New CAMEO** meets once a month at the Salvation Army Hall and includes a light lunch followed by an activity (I have lined up speakers on health, and well-being, the Police, and some flower arranging and craft activities). We hope it'll be a fruitful new collaboration and will replace the group I was running at MRMC which had only a very small number of attendees.

Afternoon Worship at HRMC continues to be a lovely gathering, regularly have 12+ people attending, and a highlight of my month. I am advertising this more on the St Albans Anna Chaplaincy FaceBook (FB) page and hope we can reach more people beyond those who now regularly attend.

Care home services have continued to be well received and relationships grown with the various providers in St Albans. I have led two funerals in the past 6 months for residents from The Orchard, a care home I know well and whose staff and residents I have built a good relationship with. I am able to offer **Messy Vintage** services to some settings. Denise and I had planned for 4 in January and February but illness in the homes meant we only ran 2 in the end, though gratefully received.

As I approach this year's AGM I have just published this year's update to the **Seniors' booklet**, which I hope will reach 2,000 local people when it goes out in April/May. I am also organizing a community art project with The Orchard, Hatfield Road Day Care Group, Sharing Stories at St Luke's and Samuel Ryder Academy, culminating in an exhibition of some artwork at The Mayor's Reception in May.

I have also recently started a project collaborating with Rev Peter Crumpler at St Paul's church, it's called '**a chance to chat'** and we have negotiated an area in Morrisons café every Monday morning for 2hrs (9.30-11.30am), for people to come and chat, and be with others. There is a rota of people from five different churches who listen and chat to anyone who fancies popping along. We hope to tackle loneliness and isolation, and offer a regular friendly presence at the store.

I've been fortunate to have been invited to speak at various events this past year. In October I went up to London to Methodist Central Hall with Debbie Ducille from the Anna Chaplaincy Network. We spoke at the London District Circuit Stewards Gathering about Anna Chaplaincy; it was a super evening. I also spoke at our National Anna Chaplaincy Gathering as (still) the only full-time salaried Anna Chaplain in the country. I led a Vision Morning in October for Wey Valley Methodist Circuit which was great fun, and will be speaking in May to a Deanery Synod in Windsor. Late last year, Ruth Goatley, Peter Curtis and I were interviewed by St Albans Diocese about our roles, and a News Story was published online in January. It was good to finally have something about Anna Chaplaincy in the Diocese on their website, I hope it will signpost us as positive examples of tailored ministry to older people.

Thank you to everyone at HRMC who continue to support what I do, out in the community, working with other churches, in care settings, and within our church community - wherever God takes me. I am incredibly grateful for your kindness and prayers. Do get in touch if you would like me to visit, or have any ideas or feedback on my role, I always like to hear from you.

Holiday@Home - Denise Willingham

We had our best ever Holiday@Home last August 2023!

Running across four days and two venues, involving three churches (HRMC, MRMC and St Peter's), we were able to entertain 50 guests with our band of 40 helpers. Guests and helpers came from the local community as well as the churches. There were crafts, games, musical entertainment and quizzes a plenty, as well as delicious lunches and teas.

This year we chose a different holiday theme for each day: A Day by the Sea; City Breaks; A Day in the Country; and, finally, A Day at the Seaside, complete with fish and chips for lunch and ice cream cones. A great time was had by all. Thank you to all the many helpers who made it all possible.

Work of God Hatfield Road Methodist Church

Pastoral Secretary – Jackie Vivian

The Pastoral Care Team comprises the Rev. Daniel Yovan, Deacon Nigel Perrott, Anna Chaplain Maggie Dodd, the Church Stewards, me as Pastoral Secretary, 11 members of the Church who are Pastoral Visitors, four House Group Leaders, and Caroline Tough who maintains contact with our young families.

I took over late last year as Secretary from Gina Woodhead who for many years had been a wonderful Secretary, supporting the visitors and many families and individuals in the Church. She has been guiding me despite having had major surgery herself, and I am truly grateful to her for all her help.

The work of the Pastoral Care Team goes on throughout the year. We aim to meet twice a year to share concerns and receive guidance from our Minister. Every member of the Church, of whom there are 112 plus adherents, is assigned a visitor. At our last meeting it became very clear that we needed more visitors. If anyone feels that they would like to get involved in Pastoral Care or have concerns or suggestions, please speak to me or Daniel. It is so important that everyone looks out for each other and if you know someone who would welcome that extra contact, please let me know.

We acknowledge with thanksgiving those who have died in this past year, including two members, Pam Riddick and Jean Hewitt.

Four members have transferred out or ceased to meet: Mary Groves, Jenni Mullins, and Peter and Angela Ellam.

We welcome two members who have transferred in: Hannah and Jebisha Daniel.

We welcome six new members: Zuzana, Barbora and Magda Cvrčková; Goldy and Honor Asamoah; and Sally Newton (and Hannah Brown at Cornerstone).

Prayer Ministry – Roy Vivian

Pre-Covid, we were able to roster two members of the Prayer Team to offer to remain within the Sanctuary to pray with members of the congregation at the end of each 10.30 Service. We would like to re-introduce this service but need new recruits as only two of the original prayer team are still able to help.

The weekly publication of the Prayer Diary, which is overseen by Peggy Liffen, has continued to be included in Sunday's Notices. In this way all the people and families who are listed can be remembered in our prayers during the following week.

For more than a decade Ros Hancock has led a prayer group to pray for the needs of our Church. The meetings take place on Tuesday mornings (via WhatsApp) and are supported by members of Ros's house group and a few other Church members. Please contact Ros if you would like to join.

The early morning prayer initiative originally introduced in 2009 by Graham Smith and Chris Hancock has resumed post-Covid. Chris the session 07.00-08.00 at church on Tuesdays.

Following his appointment last year as our new Superintendent, the Rev. David Jebb introduced a weekly Circuit Prayer Meeting which continues to take place at 9.00am on Saturday mornings via Zoom.

The Prayer Tree cascades out urgent prayer requests and updates by email to a team of 30 volunteers. The knowledge that many people are offering prayers provides comfort and support to those who have requested them. Please contact Roy Vivian if you would like to join.

Music Group – Leader, Joanna Rose

The Music Group meets to rehearse at church each Thursday evening at 20.00, preparing to support worship on Sunday mornings and at the monthly Praise & Worship service. The group enjoys making music together, singing and playing a variety of instruments. We sometimes select or recommend hymns for the preacher, and we like to spend time in our rehearsals looking out and learning new hymns or tunes that we will then introduce to the congregation in Sunday services. For special events such as the Christmas carol service, Harvest, or Easter we often put out an invitation for additional singers or players to join us. We continue to add to our library of recorded hymns which was started during the Covid lockdown – we now have over 250 hymns performed by the Music Group available for use from our website.

We also try to support circuit events where we join with musicians from other churches in our circuit to sing and play at special services during the year. In the past year we have supported circuit services for Rev Andrew Prout's farewell and Rev Daniel Yovan's welcome, and joined with the Music Group at St John's, Potter's Bar, to lead worship when the District Synod was held in St Albans in the autumn.

We welcome new members of any age from secondary school upwards. If you enjoy singing, or can play an instrument and would be interested in joining us for special events or on a regular basis, please speak to Joanna Rose. If you are a competent pianist and would be interested in playing the piano or organ for any services (monthly 09.00, weekly 10.30 or monthly 19.00 services), again please contact Joanna.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the members of the Music Group for their dedication in providing such wonderful support to the worship every week.

Cradle Roll (Baptismal Roll) - Adelita Serwaa-Bonau

The Cradle Roll is a register of all the children who have been welcomed into the church through Baptism or a Service of Thanksgiving. Their names are proudly displayed in the Children's corner. The children remain on the Cradle Roll until they are three years old when they are promoted into the Sunday Club. There have been two new baptisms since our last AGCM. On the 27th of August 2023 we welcomed Everlyn Esther Dickinson to the Cradle Roll at Cornerstone to the delight of her mother Amy. We also welcomed Peony Rose Hall Smallhorne on the 2nd July 2023 to the delight of her parents James Smallhorne and Claudette Hall. There are now seven children on the Cradle Roll – Luca Kindrat, Julia and Evelyn Gomes, Charles Woodhead, Cobey Zac Johnson, Peony Rose Hall Smallthorne, and Everlyn Dickinson. Each child receives a card from the church on the anniversary of their baptism.

Sunday Club - Caroline Tough, Sunday Club Coordinator

Sunday Club meets on the second and third Sundays of each month. The children in the younger group (4-11 years old) meet in the Wesley Room and have been working through a series of Old Testament characters and have now moved on to learn about the miracles that Jesus performed. The sessions include stories, games, crafts and wordsearches prepared by a team of three leaders and two helpers. The older group of young people (11-18 years old) meet in the Upper Room for sessions that Tomas leads with Ruth and Alison assisting. The older group have prepared and led two services in the past year which were inspiring and demonstrated that we can share God's message effectively at any age.

A Youth Alpha course took place between Christmas and Easter and was open to young people from Hatfield Road, Marlborough Road and Cornerstone and any other young people who wished to attend. It included watching short talks on the screen, discussions, time for questions and, of course, pizza! It was well attended and culminated in four of our young people being confirmed and made members on Easter Day 31st March 2024.

On the weeks when we do not have Sunday Club, there are plenty of activities to interest children and adults of all ages at the Create and Celebrate Services on the first Sunday of every month. On the fourth Sunday it is all age worship, a service designed to be accessible for children. In addition, there is the table at the back of the church which has a selection of activities suitable for younger children and some story bags which are available for any child who would like to use them. The activities out on the table and in the bags are changed regularly to reflect the church seasons.

There was a garden gathering open to all the families connected with our church in June 2023 blessed by dry weather, allowing us to play lots of outdoor games and enjoy the company.

We had a holiday fun morning in October half term where the theme was “God’s Treasure” and included making a fantastic treasure chest which then went onto the board in the foyer.

The December Create and Celebrate was a “pop up Nativity” where children came and decided which part they would like to play and chose costumes from the selection provided. It proved a great way to start the Christmas season and was followed later by the Christingle Service on 22nd December 2023.

Sunday Club is grateful for the prayer support offered to all the leaders, helpers and most especially for the children and young people as they explore the Bible and develop their Christian Faith.

Create & Celebrate – Ros Hancock

Our Create & Celebrate service continues to be held on the first Sunday of every month. The first hour in the hall 10.00-11.00 focuses on crafts and other activities, with a link to the theme for the day including: treasure hunts; quizzes; wordsearches; discussions; and games – all accompanied by refreshments. At 11.00 we move into the church for a short 30 minute celebration service when all the activities are admired, brought together and explained within their context of the story that week. We continue to get new families turning up and it seems to be enjoyed by all ages.

Junior Mission for All (JMA) – Ruth Wallace, JMA Treasurer

JMA (Junior Mission for All) is a network of children, supported by adults, who support and learn about the mission of the church all over the world. The JMA promise is to ‘Learn, pray and serve with the worldwide church of Jesus Christ’. 20% of money raised is allocated to the Methodist Mission in Britain Fund and 80% to the Methodist World Mission Fund.

At HRMC we currently have 3 collectors, Simon, Jacob and Joel. We are always keen to recruit new collectors. Just ask Ruth Wallace for more information and a collection pot.

The total raised for JMA for the year ending 31st August 2023 was £202.69.

The JMA Barbecue took place for the first time since Covid in September 2023 at Anne Wall’s beautiful garden and raised an additional £524.29.

Collections from September 2023 to date are £211.21.

Having been the JMA secretary / treasurer for 10 years, Ruth would like to hand over the mantle to someone else. Job description:

- Distribute the magazine to JMA collectors and other children in the church (three times per year)
- Support the young people with their collecting – receiving and replacing boxes when full
- Administer the money: count, bag cash received; record details on a spreadsheet; and hand over to the financial stewards/treasurer for banking
- Receive confirmation from the church treasurer that the JMA money has been deposited at the bank
- Order and Award badges and certificates for presentation to collectors, once per year
- Organise/ delegate events such as the barbecue or book sale

Please talk to Ruth if you are interested.

Safeguarding – Joanna Rose, Church Safeguarding Officer

The Methodist Church takes safeguarding very seriously, and we follow the rules of 'safer recruitment', ensuring that all those working with children, young people or vulnerable adults within Hatfield Road Methodist Church are subject to appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. All these people, and others in position of responsibility are also required to undertake the Methodist Church's Creating Safer Spaces training every four years, with preachers and leaders trained to an advanced level. All those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church should be able to identify signs of various types of abuse, know how to react, and who to inform of any concerns they may have.

We do all we can to create a safe space for everyone within Hatfield Road Methodist Church and for those with whom we have contact virtually, either online or by phone. If you ever have any concerns about something you see or hear in relation to children, young people or vulnerable adults at the church, however small that may be, you can speak in confidence to me, our Minister, or the circuit safeguarding officer. Full contact details can be found on the church noticeboard.

Warm Welcome Café – Christine Ford, Coordinator

The Café first opened its doors twelve years ago as the Aldersgate Café and, through the past year, we have opened every Tuesday morning from 09.30 until 11.30 as the Warm Welcome Café.

We have several very loyal and regular customers from both the local community, and our own Church community. The café continues to be a witness in Fleetville. There is no charge for tea, coffee and cake but donations are very welcome.

The Café is run by a group of dedicated volunteers. We are very grateful to the volunteers who regularly help with setting up and clearing away, they are a very important part of our team. Our cake-makers continue to produce and donate wonderful cakes. Thank you all, the café could not run without your help.

As always, we value your prayers and support. Please come along and enjoy your Café

Babies and Toddlers – Chris Hancock

Louise Bourton from Shenley continues to lead the team. Chris Hancock has recently become a co-leader following the retirement of Freda Gray and Gina Woodhead from the leadership team with much thanks after many years of wonderful service. We look forward to the special occasions when Freda will be able to come to do painting with the children.

Wednesday morning sessions continue to be well attended and are valued by parents and carers. As well as toys and books, we continue to provide a craft activity each week, thanks to the hard work of Margaret Quinn and Mary Gotts. We close each session by sharing story time and singing, which is always great fun.

Needless to say, we are extremely grateful to the many folk who help with the setting up, serving tea and coffee, assisting during the session and in clearing and cleaning up afterwards.

Day Care Group – Sue Davey, Leader

This is a wonderful social and lunch group which will have been running for 36 Years in June 2024. It is set up to remove barriers that might otherwise deter vulnerable and frail elderly folk from leaving their homes, by providing transport, accessible space and practical care and support, so that they can enjoy some hot food, warm fellowship and fun. Visitors come from within our church and the wider local community. We have close links with St Paul's church and the Fleetville Community Centre and are grateful for the volunteers and practical and financial support they provide.

At the present time, we have seven elderly ladies most weeks, having recently lost three people through bereavement or illness. However, we continue to have a very happy time each week.

There are nine helpers who come each week and four very willing ladies who share the job of transporting our visitors week by week. The wife of one of our helpers also collects our lunches from SS Alban & Stephen Primary School in Cavendish Road.

We try and entertain our visitors each week with quizzes, music from David Amos, much conversation, various items or craft work, and occasional flower arranging.

We also try and have a day out somewhere in the summer and, most years, also for Christmas lunch.

This is a very loveable group, loved by all of us.

Creativity in Fellowship - Maggie Dodd

This group meets 10.30-12.00 on the second and fourth Fridays of the month in the Wesley Room. We each bring along a craft or creative project, typically ranging from watercolours to collage to pastels. We enjoy a cup of tea and a good catch up together. We would be happy to welcome more members, so do come along, or contact Maggie (07462 586773) to find out more.

Church Walks – Eric Bridgstock

Church walks have continued, led by Eric Bridgstock or Denise Willingham, usually on the morning of the fourth Saturday of the month, following both new and well-tried routes. Some months have been skipped due to bad weather, either on the day or during the run-up, or simply insufficient effort to prepare. We always need to 'recce' the route a few days before to check general accessibility. 'Guest leaders' are encouraged, as has been the case a couple of times this year. The walks planned are usually 5-6 miles and take about 2- 2½ hours to complete. Opportunities for coffee or lunch are sometimes available. With or without refreshments the walks provide ample time in which to share fellowship whilst enjoying the local countryside.

Looking ahead, we are looking at different styles of walk, including around parts of London.

House Groups – Johanna Mason, Coordinator

There are currently four House Groups (HG) with up to 32 members. Tony Moody, Peter Wallace, Ros Hancock and I lead fortnightly House Groups, offering a choice of either day or evening meetings with breaks for school holidays.

Tony's HG meet via Zoom (courtesy of Evangeline) on a Monday evening with six regular participants studying the Book of Isaiah. Unfortunately, one of the members has difficulty using Zoom and is unable to join the group at present.

Peter leads and hosts a HG on a Wednesday evening from 20.00-22.00. Six to nine attend from a group of 11 members. Written, video and internet study materials have included: the Bible Course; Connexional Advent Course 'History of the Early Church'; US Reformed Church studies 'Women in the Bible' and 'Let Justice Flow' a Lent course from the London District. Members are welcome to suggest and lead their own sessions and willing to cover when the leader is away. The group can meet via Zoom or as a hybrid. New members are always welcome.

Ros leads HG on a Friday morning at the home of Sarah Cox. There are normally four to five who meet regularly with one further participant who joins when possible, Members are able to join the group via Zoom if they are away and able to do so. The Methodist Lent course 'Woven' is the current study material.

I lead and host HG on a Thursday morning. We are also studying the Book of Isaiah. There are eight regular members and a further member who joins when possible. Members are able to join the group via Zoom when necessary. Whenever I am unable to host or transport is a problem, the group gathers at Church rather than miss a meeting.

Each HG can choose its own study material, having first asked every member for their choice of study which can sometimes run alongside specific church-run studies such as Advent and Lent.

At the moment, MRMC is short of HG Leaders so I have been in touch with the church inviting those interested to join one of our study groups. I am yet to hear back. When space is available, details re HG appear in the Notices. Information is also available on the Notice Board in church foyer.

Social, Events, Outreach (SEO) – Joanna Rose, Coordinator

This Group has now reformed with several new members and has met to plan a series of events, which may be held in the coming months. It is not the role of the Group to organise the events, but to produce a schedule of recommended events which we feel people from the church, the circuit, or the community will enjoy, and to support others within the congregation to bring them to reality.

Earlier this year we held our first Pancake Party since 2020, which was enjoyed by adults and children alike. Numerous pancakes were fried to order and consumed with a variety of toppings! Future plans include a quiz night, afternoon tea, a barbecue, folk dancing, film nights and a board games evening – we hope there will be something for everyone!

If you have any ideas for events, or would be willing to organize or help run an event, please do let Joanna know.

Single Friendly Churches Initiative – Angela Spriggs

HRMC is looking into registering as a Single Friendly Church, with the charity of the same name [viii].
In April 2024 we formed a group to explore how well we support single people of all ages within the Church. Those who are single include those who are never married, divorced, widowed and 'single in church'. We will start by finding out the needs of those who are single, and will look at all aspects including the language used on the website, inclusivity in preaching, and the strength of the welcome given to those attending church on their own. We welcome views of all members of the congregation.

Church Council Members

Current Membership 27th February 2024

Position	Name	Date appointed
Circuit Ministers	Reverend David Jebb (Superintendent) [ix] Reverend J Daniel Yovan (Minister in Pastoral Charge) [x] Deacon Nigel Perrott [xi]	Sep 2022 Sep 2023 Sep 2022
Layworker (observer)	Maggie Dodd, Anna Chaplaincy Lead	Nov 2021
Church Stewards[xii]* (up to six)	Tomáš Cvrček (Senior Church Steward) Noelene Browning Anne Wall Ruth Wallace [Vacancy x 2]	May 2018 Oct 2019 May 2023 Jun 2023
Church Treasurer[xiii]	Eric Bridgstock	Jun 2018
Pastoral Committee[xiv]	Jackie Vivian	Sep 2023
Church Council Secretary[xv]	Peter Wallace	Jun 2023
One Circuit Steward on behalf of the Circuit Stewards[xvi]	Guy Fenner	Sep 2023
Members elected by the Annual General Church Meeting[xvii] (Not less than six representatives nor more than fifteen elected) annually by General Church Meeting	Ros Hancock [Elected by ballot] James Appiah	May 2015 Jun 2021

Additional Members appointed by Church Council[xviii]:

Sunday Club and Youth Superintendent	Caroline Tough	Sep 2022
Property & Finance Committee	Eric Bridgstock (Chair of Meeting)	Jun 2019
Mission Secretaries Action Group (Mission in Britain / World Missions / JMA / Christian Aid / Justice & Peace)	[Vacancy]	
Worship Consultation Convenor	Peter Wallace	Sep 2015
Safeguarding Officer	Joanna Rose	May 2009
Other appointed by Church Council	Freda Gray [Catering, Property, Cleaning] Val Parker (lettings) Denise Willingham (Extended Communion) Angela Spriggs (Single-Friendly Churches)	Aug 2017 Jun 2019 Sep 2023 Feb 2024

Elected to Circuit Meeting[xix] (up to five)	Church Steward [Ex Officio]: Tomáš Cvrček Church Treasurer [Ex Officio]: Eric Bridgstock Joanna Rose	Sep 2022 Sep 2015 Sep 2017

Position	Name	Date appointed
	Ros Hancock	Sep 2022
	Denise Willingham	Sep 2022

End Notes

[i] https://www.tmcp.org.uk/
[ii] https://my-charity-account.charitycommission.gov.uk/
[iii] https://howcharitieswork.com/transparency-and-accountability/annual-reports/#:~:text=A%20charity's%20annual%20report%20must,assessment%20of%20what%20they%20achieved
[iv] https://www.livingroomherts.org/
[v] https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/
[vi] https://www.christianaid.org.uk/
[vii] https://collectin.com/
[viii] https://www.singlefriendlychurch.com/
[ix] Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church (CPD), Volume 2, Standing Order (SO) 610 (1) (i) https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/26649/conf-2022-cpd-vol-2.pdf
[x] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (i)
[xi] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (iv)
[xii] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (vi)
[xiii] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (vii)
[xiv] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (viii)
[xv] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (ix)
[xvi] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (xii)
[xvii] CPD Vol 2 SO 610 (1) (x)
[xviii] Up to 15 additional persons appointed by the Church Council to ensure that all areas of the church's life are adequately represented and in particular that, wherever possible, young people are included in its membership SO 610 (1) (xi) as follows: 5 & 6
[xix] (Ex Officio Officers) SO 510 (1) (vii) (plus 3 others) SO 510 (1) (viii)

19/5/2024

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST	**Church**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

St Albans & Welwyn	**Circuit**	**Circuit no.**	**13**

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1173147
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 Daniel Yovan

Church Stewards:

Tomas Cvrcek	**Ruth Wallace**
Noelene Browning	**Anne Wall**

Treasurer:

Eric Bridgstock

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST — **Church**

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year	
			£	£	£		£	
a1	**RECEIPTS**	**Note**						
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		70,083	4,000	**74,083**		71,286	
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		3,283	2,120	**5,403**		605	
a4	Lettings		4,679		**4,679**		3,604	
a5	Other receipts		7,566	34,913	**42,479**		46,399	
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**85,611**	**41,033**	**126,644**	**(a7)**	**121,894**	
	SECTION B							
b1	**PAYMENTS**							
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		52,800		**52,800**		52,800	
b3	Donations						300	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		6,345		**6,345**		14,941	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		14,278		**14,278**		7,623	
b6								
b7	Other payments		7,514	31,308	**38,822**		66,791	
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**80,937**	**31,308**	**112,245**	**(b9)**	**142,455**	
	SECTION C							
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	**(a6-b8)**	4,674	9,724	**14,398**		(20,561)	
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		45,582	143,412	**188,994**	**(c6)**	209,555	
c3	**Sub total**	**(c1+c2)**	50,256	153,136	**203,392**		**188,994**	
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(185)		**(185)**	**(c7)**		
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	**(c3+c4)**	**50,071**	**153,136**	**203,207**	**(c8)**	**188,994**	**(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	589	589
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	4,710	4,531
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	4,710	4,531
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID** (d1+d2-d3)	**589**	**589**

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST Church

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 2023 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)**	**126,644**	**(a7)**	**112,245**	**(b9)**	**14,398**	**(185)**	**(c7)**	**188,994**	**(c6)**	**203,207**	**(c8)**
e10	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**126,644**		**112,245**		**14,398**	**(185)**		**188,994**	**(x)**	**203,207**	**(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 2023	**OPENING BALANCES**		**CLOSING BALANCES**	
f1	Cash in hand				
f2	Bank Current Account	55,983		16,071	
f3	Bank Deposit Account				
f4	Central Finance Board	133,602		187,358	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	383		367	
f6	Other funds				
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**189,968**	(c6)	**203,796**	(c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)
f9	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**189,968**	(x)	**203,796**	(y)

SECTION G

	OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES	At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1	Investments (include Endowments)		
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	2,824,205	3,200,000
g3	Other Assets	149,336	120,000
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

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 .....**HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH**..... **No.....34/13.....**

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 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 27/2/2024

Name and address of treasurer .....**ERIC BRIDGSTOCK**

.....**16 Evans Grove, St Albans**..... Post Code.....**AL4 9PJ**.....

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were/~~will be~~* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 27/2/2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting .... **Rev DANIEL YOVAN**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Hatfield Road Methodist Church

Charity Number 1173147

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the ....HATFIELD RD METHODIST Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 2 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 .....**HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST**..... No **34/13**.....

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 .....**JOHN ROBINSON**

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner A.C.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address .....**Cedarwood, 5 Harmer Dell, Digswell, Welwyn**

..... Post Code .....**AL6 0BE**.....

Date 28/2/24

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form Review May-23

Name of Church .....**HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST**..... No **34/13**.....

Independent Examiner's Statement

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Signature of independent examiner .....

Name of independent examiner .....**JOHN ROBINSON**

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner A.C.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address .....**Cedarwood, 5 Harmer Dell, Digswell, Welwyn**

..... Post Code .....**AL6 0BE**.....

Date 28/2/24

* delete or circle as appropriate

Form Review May-23

THE METHODIST CHURCH, HATFIELD ROAD, ST ALBANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1173147

Accounts

Hatfield Road
Methodist Church
St Albans

The Methodist Church

Hatfield Road Methodist Church

'Serving Christ and the Local Community'

Annual Report 2022/2023

The Methodist Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans is part of the St Albans and Welwyn Methodist Circuit in the Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Essex District of the Methodist Church in Britain

The Calling of The Methodist Church in Britain is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

It does this through:

WORSHIP
By increasing awareness of God's presence and celebrating God's love

LEARNING & CARING
By helping people grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

SERVICE
By being a good neighbour to people in need and challenging injustice

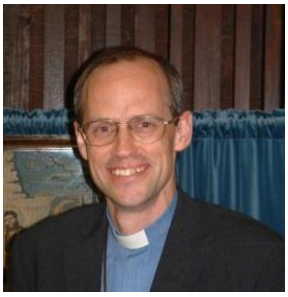
EVANGELISM
By making more followers of Jesus Christ

The Calling of Hatfield road Methodist Church as agreed by its Church Council and within these terms is to **'Serve Christ and the Local Community'**

If you would like a hardcopy or large print of this Annual Report, please contact the Minister or one of the Church Stewards

CONTENTS	CONTRIBUTOR
Our Minister's Message	Rev Andrew Prout
Church Stewards' Report	Thomas Cvrcek
Church Council Report	Andrew Prout
Church Treasurer's Report	Eric Bridgstock
Anna Chaplain (Shared with MRMC)	Maggie Dodd
Cornerstone (Shared with MRMC)	Deacon Nigel Perrott
Lay Workers Group (Shared with MRMC)	Eric Bridgstock
Safeguarding	Joanna Rose
Warm Welcome Café	Christine Ford
Babies & Toddlers	Freda Gray
Christian Aid	Anne Wall
Church Walks	Denise Willingham
Cradle Roll (Baptismal Roll)	Sally Crowther
DayCare	Sue Davey
Holiday at Home (Shared with MRMC)	Denise Willingham
House Groups	Johanna Mason
JMA (Junior Mission for All)	Ruth Wallace
Music Group	Joanna Rose
Pastoral	Gina Woodhead
Prayer Ministry	Roy Vivian
Property & Finance Committee	Eric Bridgstock
Social, Outreach & Events Group	Rev Andrew Prout
Sunday Club	Caroline Tough

OUR MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Rev Andrew Prout, Minister with Pastoral Charge

Since our last AGM we have continued as a Church to seek to **'Serve both Christ and the Local Community'** in keeping with our Mission Statement as can be seen from the contents of this report.

I begin my own contribution with recognition of our members and friends who these last twelve months we have commended into God's eternal keeping (see pastoral report). We give thanks to God for their lives and witness, remembering especially their particular contribution to the life of the Church. We continue to think of their families and loved ones, and also others in the Church known to us who have been recently bereaved. We think equally as we approach our annual meeting of our housebound members and those within our fellowship in various kind of need. Our support of and concern for each other is and remains a key expression of all that it means to be a community of Christ's disciples. It has also been our delight this last year to welcome six people into membership through transfer, and our privilege to offer our good wishes to those who through work and circumstance have moved away from St. Albans.

This report finds the Church and the Circuit in a period of transition. Last summer the Circuit said farewell to Rev Rosemary Fletcher, Rev Ali Facey, Rev Bruce Anderson and Deacon Linda Kinchenton. In September the Circuit welcomed **Rev David Jebb** as the new Superintendent, **Rev Rosemary Mutopo** and **Deacon Nigel Perrott**. This coincided with a reorganisation of the Circuit given the reduced number of staff, with David taking responsibility for the new Hertsmere section, Rosemary the four Churches in Welwyn and Hatfield, and myself with assistance from Nigel and **Maggie Dodd (Anna Chaplain)** the new **St. Albans section**. This section has brought together into shared oversight, Marlborough Road and Hatfield Road Methodist Churches, and the Cornerstone Project in Salisbury Village. It has been my privilege to be the Presbyter Minister in oversight of this section in what will be my final year in the St. Albans & Welwyn Circuit. In the summer, after nine years both in the Circuit and as Minister of Hatfield Road Methodist Church, I will be moving to the Somerset Mendip Circuit where I will be based in Frome. In September we look forward to welcoming to the Circuit and to the St Albans section my successor **Rev Daniel Yovan** together with his wife Hannah and family.

It is encouraging to see in this first year as a new section how we are working together, all building on the groundwork which has been laid down in recent years. **Maggie** is now approaching the commencement of her third year as an **Anna Chaplain** for St. Albans. The support of Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road Methodist Churches has been integral to this appointment, which gives prominence to those in later life both in our Churches and in the City. It is intended at the end of Maggie's five year appointment to have established a sustainable and ecumenically supported 'Anna Chaplaincy' ministry that will serve and support people in this stage of life across St. Albans. In addition the August **'Holiday at Home'** continues to be a great success, with input from both Churches together with a few additional volunteers from St. Peter's in the City Centre. Equally both Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road Methodist Churches have come together not only to support Nigel in his work at **Cornerstone** in Salisbury Village, but also to deliver a **Holiday Fun Morning** for 5-11 year olds during each of the Half Term Holidays.

At Hatfield Road we continue to further engage with the community and wider issues of peace and justice through our commitment to be an **'Eco Church' having recently achieved the Bronze award**, support of three charities (one local, one national and one international), the weekly Babies & Toddlers Group, the weekly 'Day Care' Group for older members in the community, and the weekly **'Warm Welcome Café'**. In addition our premises provide a home and place to meet for a number of community groups including two Al Anon Groups, the W.E.A, and Living Waters Fellowship.

At the centre of all this activity is our **Weekly Worship** including our Sunday Club, all made possible by our preachers, church stewards and their assistants, AV operators, musicians, Sunday Club staff and the Create & Celebrate team. Alongside our weekly worship are four House Groups, several prayer meetings and opportunities for new learning such as the Bible Course which it had been my privilege to lead over the last twelve months with six participants. We give and exercise pastoral care through our dedicated and trusted team of pastoral visitors, who with the Pastoral Secretary work closely with myself, Maggie, Nigel and the Church Stewards to ensure due care is given to all our members and friends. This includes support during times of bereavement and when facilitating funerals and other life events.

All this should give us reason to be thankful. Yes there are challenges, with rising costs especially in relation to energy impacting on finances, and several key vacancies to fill, among these someone to act as Secretary of the Church Council. But there is much to celebrate. Over the next twelve months we hope to bring the Small Hall back into working use through a major renovation scheme which will both improve the ambience and access, and link it more easily with the rest of the premises. One area of notable success has been the **'Create & Celebrate'** services which commenced in September 2021, and which are now are most well attended. Another has been achieving the **Bronze Award as an Eco-Church**. The challenge now begins to work our way through to the silver.

Past successes have also been marked, most notably the combined work of the **Boys' Brigade and Girl's Brigade** in the Church over 150 years. The 1st St. Albans GB was founded at the Church in 1914 and the 3rd St. Albans BB founded in 1972. A service to retire the colours took place on 14th May 2023 with thanks being offered for all the officers who had served over the years, and all the girls and boys who had come through the ranks which would have no doubt numbered several thousand.

This all speaks to me of our calling as Christian people to be salt and light in the world as set out by Jesus and recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. We may be just over a 100 in terms of membership but we can have a big impact in the community and on people's lives. What the report does not cover of course is all that each person does in terms of Christian work and witness outside the Church in their daily lives. In and outside the Church we continue to sow seeds of grace and live out the Good News of the Gospel, building on the work of our forebears who founded the Church in 1894.

In its long history the Church would have seen many ministers, and this year, as previously indicated it is my turn to move on. It has been my great privilege to serve the Church over the last nine years, and together with my previous appointments in Launceston and Bristol, I will always speak of St. Albans and the Church as a place that became my home and where I was privileged to meet and serve so many wonderful people. I will always hold the Church and its members in my thoughts and prayers and know equally that the same welcome and support will be given to Daniel, who I wish every success.

I record my thanks to everyone for their support and hard effort over this past year, not least our team of Church Stewards headed by **Tomas Cvrcek**. I also wish to record the Church's grateful thanks to **Denise Willingham, Lianne Weidmann, and Angela Andrews** who are stepping down as Church Stewards this year after seven, six and five years of service, and to all who have served the Church in all manner of roles, not just this last year but over my nine years as minister. I invite you to find strength and encouragement in the reading and digesting of this annual report. The various reports show in different ways not only how we seek to continue to fulfil our calling, but also to touch the lives of people with the love and grace of God, in the Church, in the community and around the world. Times may not be easy. They were not always easy for Jesus, but with Him we are invited to work unceasingly for a kingdom that will last, a kingdom where faith, hope and love abide, and where justice flows like a river and peace like a never ending stream.

Tis Jesus, the first and the last
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
We'll praise Him for all that is past
And trust Him for all that's to come

Peace and blessing, and thanking you most sincerely,

Rev Andrew Prout

CHURCH STEWARDS' REPORT

This has been my first year as a Senior Steward at HRMC. During this time, our group of Stewards has consisted of five members: Noelene Browning, Angela Andrews, Lianne Weidman, Denise Willingham and myself. Throughout this time, we have been meeting regularly either as HRMC stewards or jointly with MRMC stewards. The stewards have been greatly helped on Sundays by the Sunday Assistants. The Pastoral Team has provided unstinting support throughout the year. I would describe the operation of the steward team as fairly smooth and effective. We have been able to staff our Sunday duties well, taking into account the varying availabilities and life situations of all serving stewards.

The monthly pattern of worship that has now become settled and standard involves a Holy Communion Service (at 9am) and Create and Celebrate service (at 11am) on the first Sunday of the month, followed by Morning Worship and Communion service on the second and third Sunday, with an All-Age worship coming at the end of the month. In case there is a fifth Sunday in a month, we allow for a flexible format, as needed by congregation. Throughout the year, we have been able to organize a full programme of both Christmas and Easter services. In the Spring 2023, we also welcomed a series of external preachers, some of whose visits were planned considerably in advance. During the Autumn half-term (October) and during the Spring half-term (February), we were able to organize a half-day Holiday Club for local children. The events were well attended, including many children from Hatfield (through Nigel's ministry at Cornerstone) – they are gradually coming to form a regular part of our outreach and mission in the community.

As every year, the composition of the steward team will change, as Lianne's and Angela's terms are ending. Denise, who has served an extra year, is also stepping down. We are all most grateful for their service and we are hopeful that they will continue to be a source of practical advice and deep institutional memory, without which no community can function and thrive. In the coming year, we are excited to welcome Ruth Wallace and Anne Walle to the roster of Stewards. The matter has been discussed with both of them and they are happy to answer the call.

Over the course of the next twelve months, the steward team is prepared, together with the rest of the church, to navigate the changes that are upon us. The most important will be bidding farewell (in July) to Andrew Prout after nine years of service and the welcome (in September) of our new minister, J Daniel Yovan. I am confident that the transition will be as smooth as possible, not least thanks to the fact that our church has managed to settled into a stable pattern since the pandemic ended. I continue to be thankful to all who are involved in contributing to the smooth operation of the church, which includes not only the stewards but also everyone on the finance team, kitchen & refreshments team, the flower rota and everybody else that I am forgetting to mention explicitly. May God's grace guide our steps going forward, making us good and faithful servants of Our Lord and His gospel.

Thomas Cvrcek - Senior Church Steward

CHURCH COUNCIL

The duties of the Church Council are to **A**ct together and in person and not delegate control to others; **A**ct strictly in accordance with our governing documents; **A**ct only in the church's interests; **M**anage the church's affairs prudently and take a long term as well as a short-term view; **N**ot derive any personal benefit or gain for the trustees; **T**ake professional advice on matters in which they are not themselves competent.

The Church Council is responsible for the affairs of our church and usually meets three times a year. Members, who may normally serve for up to 6 years, are appointed ex officio (e.g. the Minister and Church Stewards), elected by the annual Church General Meeting, or appointed by the Council itself to ensure that all areas of the church's life are adequately represented.

Church Council meetings are open to any church member but only Church Council members may vote. Non Council members may speak with the permission of the meeting and, if the wish to do this, should speak to the Minister or Church Council Secretary in advance. Papers about the meetings can be found on the notice board opposite the kitchen and on the church website (www.hatfieldroadmethodist.org/index.htm) under the heading "*Resources*" then "*Church Council papers*".

The Charities Act 2006 makes clear that charities including churches are accountable to the public for the resources they control and need to demonstrate that they have observed the trust placed in them in the handling and use of those funds.

Hatfield Road Methodist Church is a Registered Charity (Registration No. 1173147). The process of registration with the Charity Commission was completed in 2017 after the Churches income in the previous year rose above the threshold set by the Commissioners which would have allowed 'excepted' status. The Charities Act 2006 makes clear that charities including churches are accountable to the public for the resources they control.

Since the last AGM in May 2022 Hatfield Road Methodist Church Council has met three times for routine business on 29th June 2022, 7th November 2022, and 28th February 2023.

At the Church Council in February we chose the three charities as a Church we would support over the next 2/3 years, one local, one national, and one international, these being:

The Living Room which works locally to support people through addiction.

The Alzheimer's Society which works national to support people with Alzheimer's

Christian Aid which internationally seeks to alleviate poverty through direct support and structural change.

Details of all these charities can be found on their various websites:

www.livingroomherts.org

www.alzheimers.org.uk

www.christianaid.org.uk

CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT
ACCOUNTS 2021-22 / BUDGET 2022-23 / ACTUALS SEPT 2022 – FEB 2023

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH - FINANCE SUMMARY, Q2 Sept 2022 - Feb 2023

2021/22 ACTUALS Full Year
2022/23 BUDGET agreed by CC 7 Nov 2022
2022/23 ACTUALS Q1 & Q2

	ACTUALS 2021-22 1/9/21 - 31/8/22		BUDGET 2022-23 1/9/22 - 31/8/23		ACTUALS 2022-23 1/9/22 - 28/2/23		Proportion of budget	Comment
RECEIPTS								
Collections		£59,894		£60,000		£28,681	48%	Improved from Q1 but down on same period a year ago.
Gift Aid		£11,393		£11,500		£0	0%	Expected April/May
Interest & Endowment Income		£605		£1,000		£2,189	219%	CFB Deposit rate increased monthly since 1 Sep; now 3.47%
Lettings		£3,604		£5,000		£1,662	33%	
Donations for Church		£1,517		£2,000		£1,908	95%	Includes £500 for Garden
Sunday Coffee		£75		£200		£139	70%	
Café		£306		£1,000		£446	45%	
Babies & Toddlers (Net of costs)		£794		£1,000		£441	44%	
Sundry		£428		£1,000		£495	50%	
Lay Workers		£42,408		£50,900		£3,964	8%	Budget assumes grants (£17,500), which are expected in Q3. Includes £1500 donation
TOTAL		**£121,024**		**£133,600**		**£39,925**	30%	
		£78,616		***£82,700***		***£35,961***	*43%*	***if Lay Workers excluded***
PAYMENTS								
Circuit Assessment		£52,800		£52,800		£26,400	50%	
Repairs & Renewals		£14,941		£60,000		£3,206	5%	Small Hall planned for 2023
Gas	£2,784		£8,300		£2,709		33%	
Electricity	£1,209		£3,000		£942		31%	
Water Rates	£280		£300		£101		34%	
Utilities		£4,273		£11,600		£3,752	32%	
Insurance		£2,374		£2,500		£2,640	106%	
Cleaning & supplies		£216		£500		£205	41%	
Staff costs (not Lay Workers)		£2,145		£1,200		£930	78%	Pay' reduced but later than planned
Licences and Subscriptions		£786		£800		£566	71%	CCLI renewed. One License (£180) due in Q3
Biffa Waste Disposal		£976		£2,000		£728	36%	Opting for recycling bin has reduced costs
Youth/Sunday Club		£148		£500		£178	36%	
Stationery/copying (net)		£483		£500		£546	109%	Use of Circuit copier still seems expensive
Bible notes (net)		-£49		£0		-£85		Subs exceed costs
Organists & Music		£70		£100		£206	206%	Piano wheels for piano in Small Hall
Donations		£300		£500		£0	0%	
Benevolence Fund		£44		£250		£0	0%	
Equipment & Furniture		£1,207		£1,000		£0	0%	
Sundry		£784		£700		£367	52%	
Catering (less Sunday		£177		£250		£181	72%	
Evangelism & Outreach		£697		£500		£314	63%	Holiday at Home Aug 22, and Oct Half-Term Hol Club
Lay Workers		£59,280		£42,800		£13,382	31%	Anna Chaplain only
TOTAL		**£141,652**		**£178,500**		**£53,516**	30%	Distorted by Lay Workers
		£82,372		***£135,700***		***£40,134***	30%	***if Lay Workers excluded***
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		**-£20,628**		**-£44,900**		**-£13,591**	30%	
		-£3,756		***-£53,000***		***-£4,173***	8%	***if Lay Workers excluded***

Income from collections is down (£2,100 less than 2021-22 Q2), but the response to the appeal in the Notices on 5 March has been positive.

Income from Lettings, Café, Babies & Toddlers are continuing to recover. B&T have recently increased their charges.

Energy costs remain a concern, although costs this winter have not been as high as expected. Major expenditure planned for refurbishment of Small Hall, is delayed.

Lay Worker project: Only one employee has reduced costs and grants received.

Monthly expenditure (excluding LW) has averaged £6,689 over the period, ***amounting to £60 per member per month (111 members)***

The bank balances held at ***28/02/2023*** *were £188,701. This includes £88,151 Restricted (Bequests and Gifts), and £55,012 ring-fenced for the Lay Workers project.*

The Church's reserves policy is to hold a sum equal to 6 months' expenditure, which was £70,826 in Methodist Year 21-22.

£589 for a Gambian charity from 2015-16 World Missions collection remains unresolved.

Eric Bridgstock, Treasurer ***21-Apr-23***

The 2021-22 Accounts were examined by an Independent Examiner, John Robinson, and were fully signed off on 10 March 2023. Giving was slightly down during Sep 22 to Feb 23 compared to the same period a year before but an appeal in the Notice Sheet yielded a positive response, with several people increasing their standing orders, or creating new ones. Our account is with CAF Bank…

Sort Code **40-52-40** Account No: **00033760** Account Name: **Hatfield Road Methodist Church**.

The departure of Children & Families Worker, Emma Williams, in May 2022 (after just under two years of her three-year contract), and our inability to replace her, has meant reduced expenditure, but also no more CFW-related grants. The realisation that we could claim Employment Allowance resulted in a rebate of all National Insurance payments to date. This situation is expected to apply to our NI payments for the foreseeable future. The implications are that the overall Lay Workers project (Maggie as Anna Chaplain until April 2026) will come in under budget. All LW monies (grants, pledges and church funds) have been

ring-fenced in a restricted fund. Those who have donated through pledges will be offered a refund on unused donations.

The legacy of the pandemic has continued to impact income from church groups and activities (such as Babies & Toddlers and the Aldersgate Café) and from external lettings, but those areas are starting to pick up. Energy costs are much higher than a year ago, but not quite as high as expected (and hence as included in the budget for 2022-3). The interest rate on our Deposit Account (with Methodist Central Finance Board – CFB) has increased every month since January 2022 (when it was 0.1%). It is now 3.89%, yielding about £400 interest each month.

In March 2023, the church chose three new charities to sponsor over the next 2-3 years:

Local - THE LIVING ROOM,
National - ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY,
International - CHRISTIAN AID.

The excellent Quorum Singers concert that same month raised £665.50, which will constitute our first donations to these causes.

A review of income and expenditure against budget, for the first six months of Methodist Year 2022-23, is presented separately.

Eric Bridgstock Church Treasurer

ANNA CHAPLAIN (Joint Project with Marlborough Road Methodist Church)

This past year has been dominated by forging new relationships with care homes. After so many restrictions in 2021 when I started my role, 2022 was the year of opening-up to worship and pastoral care. In May I began meeting with care homes with whom I had no previous connection, and over the following months I managed to organise regular services in five new care homes. One of these connections has led to a number of special services at Fosse House to which I have invited Prae Wood's Primary School choir to sing at, and a recent Thanksgiving Service at the home, for the life of a longterm resident. I have also run a Messy Vintage session there with volunteers from various churches. There's scope to organise more services at care homes, and provide additional pastoral support, but I will need to have more volunteers on board before I can commit to these opportunities. My hope is this year I'll be able to recruit some Anna Friends to help me.

The past year has seen the continuation of Afternoon Services at MRMC, and HRMC, along with a new service at St Julian's called Mags Group (Meet And Greet Service), supported by volunteers from St Stephen's and from the Cottonmill area. I've also run Messy Vintage sessions at The Salvation Army and St Luke's Cell Barnes Lane, and hope to do more with those two communities. I also continue to take services in turn with Canon Margaret Tinsley from St Peter's, at Beaumonds and Eleanor House retirement flat complexes, which I really enjoy.

Some of my work involves talking to groups and churches about Anna Chaplaincy, this year has been a busy one for speaking at events. Locally I've given talks to St Albans Deanery Synod, Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church (twice on 2 different topics Anna Chaplaincy and Messy Vintage), St Luke's Sharing Stories Group, St Mark's Gathering, Barnet Deanery Synod, Rickmansworth Deanery Synod, St Albans Cathedral Women's Group, The Salvation Army CAMEO group, St Paul's Lunch Club and St Albans Diocese

Vocations Morning, Thinking Lunch, Redbourn Churches Together (RCT) and also lead a service at Redbourn's care home, St Matthew's, alongside people from RCT. Beyond St Albans/Herts I also attended both Methodist Church Superintendents Conferences with Rosemary (Fletcher) and hosted a stand about Anna Chaplaincy, talking to ministers from across the Connexion about older people's ministry. In October I was able to contribute to the Connexional Webinar arranged to talk about Anna Chaplaincy, alongside the AC Network team – I had been asked as the only full-time Anna Chaplain in the country, to talk about my role and what it involves. It was a valuable evening with people joining us from across the Connexion. I also spoke in February at a Walton-on-Thames Methodist church service about Anna Chaplaincy.
All these connections are beneficial and lead to new connections and in some cases volunteers to help me at services and events. I hope to continue this over the coming months and years.

In the summer I published the second (St Albans Churches) Groups, Services & Events for Seniors. This 2022 20-page edition featured 20 churches (up from last year's 17) and I also worked alongside a local charity (St Albans Old Peoples Trust) to add a 4-page section about accessing winter fuel support. I distributed 1,500 copies throughout the city, with churches listed taking 50 copies each. The directory was well-received. It has enabled me to advertise Anna Chaplaincy locally, and it has encouraged groups, like lunch clubs, to invite me to speak at their events. I have also recently found out it is being given out by The Maltings Surgery's Social Prescriber to older people. She contacted me to ask for additional copies to keep up with demand, which I'm incredibly happy about.

At Christmastime I led a second successful campaign to 'send love to care homes' in St Albans by creating knitted/felt and wooden hearts. Each care home received enough for each resident to receive one. 13 churches were involved, including both MRMC and HRMC, the Cathedral, seven C of E churches, the Baptist and URC churches, as well as various Rainbow and Brownie units and craft groups. We collected and wrapped over 600 hearts which went to 12 care homes in St Albans and the surrounding villages. Some lovely posts were shared by care homes on their Facebook pages about the hearts – they were cherished and often hung alongside the stars we created last year for them.

Pastorally, I visit members of both MRMC and HRMC, taking Communion to a number, and also visiting a few people with no connection with either church, some at home and some in care settings. Time constraints make it difficult for me to visit as many people as I'd like to, but I do try to see about 15+ per month if I can. Please do let me know if you'd like a visit from me and I'll do my best to come and see you.

I have a great deal to be thankful for this past year - growing relationships with care homes, exploring new forms of worship and working with churches and clergy across the city, sharing the model of Anna Chaplaincy with groups and churches locally and further afield, and being a community presence with the 'sending love' Christmas campaign and Seniors' booklet. I hope this coming year will see the development of Anna Friends and a consolidation of the new services and connections made this past year. Thank you all for your continued support of all I do, and your prayers, which I am hugely thankful for.

Maggie Dodd

CORNERSTONE (Joint Project with Marlborough Road Methodist Church)

As I write this short report, I am also preparing for an all age service for April 23rd. By the time this report arrives into an inbox, the service will have been and gone! I am praying it will be a success! I have said in previous reports that it feels as though we have started from scratch here at Cornerstone. Over the last 8 months we have encountered new people and also new challenges. Jane and I very much known as

"Relational Evangelists" In short, this means that we believe that it is through relationships that we can share our faith and also bring hope into the lives of those we meet.
Many who come across our path are in real need of hope, God brings those people to us and I am reminded what Jesus said, *"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick*.

A number of those who visit the house have complex needs and I am building good relationships with outside agencies, such as Social Services and Debt Advice. It is imperative that we work with other groups to ensure the right level care of care is given.

Our faith talk meals continue to be a success and through these informal meals we are able to invite people along to those informal services that take place in St Albans. I am also leading an informal service at Marlborough Road at the end of the month, and will again bring some people along to join in. It is these more informal services that help those unfamiliar with church, an opportunity to put their toes in the water and experience what being part of a Christian community is like. It is very important to see Cornerstone become very much part of our Churches and I will continue to seek new opportunities to see a strong a lasting link made between the three of us.

In the summer this year, I will be baptising one of our children in a hot tub. Yes, you did read that correctly! Again this will be an informal service held at the home of the family. Chris and Ros Hancock will be the representatives from the Church, and also God Parents to the little girl. The little girl is seven years old, and has made this decision for herself with the blessing of her family. People often ask, "What does a fresh expression of church look like"? Well it is life events like this that show how we as church, can adapt to the modern world, with an age old Gospel which is relevant in the 21st century.

Coronation BBQ

For the Coronation we will be opening the house for a screening and a BBQ. One of our dads who is originally from South Africa will be looking after the Braai. A Braai in South Africa is similar to our BBQ and we look forward to a fun time and lots of meat! Don't worry, vegetarians will be well cared for! If you would like to join us, you would be most welcome, just let me know in advance.

Young Life International

Young Life continue to be a good link and a group of young people will be attending their spring and summer camps. We also meet regularly with other Youth workers from the churches in Hatfield. It has been through this networking that we have been asked to assist with some work at Onslow School. There have been some problems at the school gates and I have suggested that we form a "School Pastors" team. School Pastors were set up through the Accession Trust, the charity responsible for "Street Pastors" The school received the idea and are very keen that we go ahead. Volunteers will come from various churches in Hatfield, and we are hoping to have this set up by the start of the autumn term. Many of the young people here in Salisbury Village attend the school so it makes sense that we get involved.
I have now also been asked to join the board of Governors at Howe Dell Primary School on the estate, so this will be of great advantage to our presence on the estate.

Summer Fun

Over the summer this year we aim to hold some informal play days on the green and also have some drop in times for parents. As part of this we will be taking a group of families to Lego land in August. This trip has been opened to families attending both toddler groups in St Albans.

More information on this will come soon.

House Improvements

We have made a number of improvements over the last few months which has made the space a little more welcoming and more efficient. We are now in the process of having the roof of the conservatory insulated. This will enable the space to be cooler but also much more useable in the winter months. The work on this is due to start in the middle of May. Once the roof is finished, we aim to purchase some miniature soft play equipment so that parents with small babies can come along and enjoy some much needed time out. The front of the house has now been renovated and is looking tidy and more welcoming. A fresh coat of paint on the door will finish the job!

Looking Ahead.

We are still very much working with other churches and agencies and hope that our plans to be a foodbank collection point come to fruition very soon. Links with community groups such as the Shaw Trust, and Project 267 are also coming along well.

We are already looking forward to the winter and I hope that this year we can create a stable in our Conservatory and hold some informal Christmas Services. I would really like to organise a nativity play at Marlborough Road and will be asking for volunteers from all the churches! Watch this space!

The past 8 months have been quite a whirlwind but Jane and I are very happy with progress so far. Thank you for your continued support and prayer, Special thanks go to all those who sit on the support group. Do please do continue to pray for all those involved in the work of Cornerstone, and of course all the families who are now getting involved.

Deacon Nigel Perrott

Lay Workers Group (Joint with Marlborough Road Methodist Church)

The group has met through the year. Its main work over the last 12 months has pertained to the departure of Emma Williams (formerly Haggis) in May 2022 for a new post in Chesterfield. Emma was engaged by Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road Methodist Churches as a full-time Children and Families Worker (CFW) from August 2020 on a three-year contract, funded by a combination of congregational pledges, reserves, and grants from the District, Circuit and the Joseph Rank Trust.

In September/October, an initial attempt to recruit a part-time replacement over a two year period failed to yield any suitable candidates. In November the post was advertised a second time. As before, no applicants were deemed appropriate for interview. In the meantime, energy costs have soared, particularly affecting Marlborough Road where the heating bill for the current year is expected to reach £18,000, way in excess of the annual budget for any recent year. In a similar way, the Hatfield Road budget for gas in the current year (Sep-Aug) is £8,300, compared to an actual spend of £2,220 in 2020-21. MRMC has also been hit by recent large expenditure on boiler replacement and external painting.

At the meeting of the Lay Workers Group in February, it was felt that recruiting a full or part-time worker would incur unacceptable risk to the Marlborough Road finances. Another factor is the Joseph Rank Trust

(JRT), who generously awarded £30,000 to the CFW project spread over three years. We received the first two tranches of £10,000 each, and JRT were flexible in terms of supporting a replacement for Emma (full-time for a year, or part-time for two years) but their offer expired as at March 2023.

The situation is extremely disappointing, but the combination of a challenging recruitment market and severe pressures on MRMC finances mean we need to pause the search for someone to fill the CFW vacancy, and consider other means of supporting this work in the interim. The good news is that a number of the initiatives that Emma helped to establish (Half Term Holiday Club across both Churches, and Create and Celebrate at Hatfield Road) have been able to be sustained. Concern however particular lies in ensuring sufficient leadership and volunteers are in place to sustain the Babies and Toddler Groups in both Churches which remain very popular, and much appreciated by all who attend. All the above was reported to the spring Church Councils at both Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road who concurred with the group's analysis.

The Lay Workers Group has also been pleased to hear, through Maggie Dodd's Management Group, how Maggie's role as an Anna Chaplain is developing, as she comes to the end of her second year in post. The post, fully funded by both St. Albans Methodist Churches, is a five year appointment. The aim at the end of this five year term is to have a fully sustainable Anna's Chaplaincy serving the City of St. Albans and its Churches. Anna Chaplaincy provides a means for Churches to exercise a ministry to those in the later stages of life.

Eric Bridgstock – Chair Lay Workers Group

SAFEGUARDING

The Methodist Church takes safeguarding very seriously, and all those working with children, young people or vulnerable adults within Hatfield Road Methodist Church are subject to appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. All these people, and others in position of responsibility are also required to undertake the Methodist Church's Creating Safer Spaces training. All those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church should be able to identify signs of various types of abuse, know how to react, and who to inform of any concerns they may have.

We do all we can to create a safe space for everyone within Hatfield Road Methodist Church and for those with whom we have contact virtually, either online or by phone. If you ever have any concerns about something you see or hear in relation to children, young people or vulnerable adults at the church, however small that may be, you can speak in confidence to me, our Minister, or the circuit safeguarding officer. Full contact details can be found on the church noticeboard.

No alcohol is allowed on the premises. The Methodist Church has a policy not to do so.

Joanna Rose Safeguarding Officer

WARM WELCOME CAFÉ

In May 2022 the Aldersgate Café re-opened on a twice a month basis, having been closed since December 2021. This continued until the end of July 2022. After a summer break, and a meeting of volunteers, the Café re-opened as the Warm Welcome Café at the beginning of October. The café now continues to be open every Tuesday morning from 9.30 to 11.30 a.m. There is no longer a charge for tea, coffee and cake but donations are very welcome.

We have regular customers from the local community and our own Church community. Thank you to all our volunteers, those serving customers, setting up and tidying away and of course those who bake the delicious cakes. Thanks also go to those who designed and printed our new Warm Welcome logo. As always, we value your prayers and support. Please come along and enjoy the Café.

Christine Ford - Warm Welcome Café Coordinator

BABIES AND TODDLERS

Emma Williams, appointed Children & Families Lay Worker at our Church, as well as at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, left us in May 2022, having made a considerable positive contribution to the leadership of Babies & Toddlers, since appointment. The post was then advertised, but no suitable response was forthcoming. The leadership has continued with Gina W. and Freda G. sharing the role. We are grateful to Louise Bourton, from Shenley Methodist, who has played a key part in the running of the group, when available. We are sorry to have lost the help of Pip D. this year alongside the recent loss of parent Mhairi and son Sam who each week helped set up activities on Wednesdays before the group opened. The increased commitments of our Minister have also resulted in rare, but very welcome appearances.

We are pleased to have Mary Gotts and Margaret Quinn behind the scenes, organising craft for each week. Once a month 'messy' craft is also on offer, if staffing permits. We are grateful to Joe Quinn setting up the Hall for sessions on Tuesday afternoons, joined more recently by nanny Amanda and young Arthur. Clearing away following the Wednesday sessions requires further adult help with additional support from all the visitors and toddlers. Margaret L's contribution of cleaning the kitchen, toilets and area carpets has been much appreciated. Our main team of reliable adults – Linda D., Brenda Q., Patsy S. and Carolyn M. continue to contribute towards the welcoming atmosphere of the group…at the door, supporting activities and talking with our visitors, a number of whom have English as a second language. The leaders 'dip' into areas where needed, with overall responsibility for safety etc.

Our numbers have risen from the safety of around 30 when Covid was prevelant, with a limit of 40/45. We have recently abandoned on-line booking, which was problematic for some, to return to 'first come first serve'. Entry payment by card is available, when the machine functions! We reach entry limit most weeks with many regulars and new people to welcome. Our visitors have expressed enjoyment in coming and like the atmosphere. The recent installation of sound absorption panels in the Hall ceiling has resulted in a calmer feeling in the room. Communication is easier to hear.

We continue to conclude each session with a Bible or moral story and song time. We currently have support from Chris H. with his guitar for the singing – a welcome addition. We are still in need of more help, especially with listening and talking to our adult visitors and as it's difficult to cover sudden illness or appointments of our helpers, when this leads to unexpected absence. Please speak to Andrew, Gina or myself if you would like to be involved.

Freda Gray (Acting leader with Gina Woodhead)

CHRISTIAN AID

2022 like 2021 proved a challenging year. The door to door collection, long the mainstay of Christian Aid Week in St Albans, was once again cancelled. Though Covid restrictions had been reduced, many volunteers were uneasy about resuming face to face contact with potential donors. They also queried the value of giving out envelopes as it seems so many people no longer use either cash or cheques. Committed supporters often gave on-line.

In 2021, to counterbalance the decline in money raised from street collections, the church had organised a sponsored walk round 26 of the churches in St Albans - a distance of 17.5 miles. The event proved to be a very successful one, raising over £6,500. Hence it was decided to repeat the walk and to invite members from other churches within the city to join us. Sadly only one or two churches, apart from MRMC, decided to get involved but 12 hardy souls donned their walking boots and strode as far north as St. Leonards in Sandridge and as far south as Greenwood URC in Chiswell Green. The weather was fortunately kind and the walk was as enjoyable - and as tiring as the previous year. Less money was raised in 2022 than in 2021, but this was to be expected. The fact that the walk was a repeat event thus lacking novelty value undoubtedly played a part, but so did the downturn in the economy which meant many people had to cut back on their charity giving. Nevertheless, £3225 was raised, money which will be used in the Developing World to help fund projects such drilling water wells, vaccination programmes and building schools.

Anne Wall

CHURCH WALKS (PREVIOUSLY GROWMORE RAMBLERS)

This year it was decided to rename the rambling group as "Church Walks". The name "Growmore" was chosen over 30 years ago but it was felt that it wasn't immediately obvious to new folk what it did. "Church walks" does exactly what it says on the tin! The walks have continued on a monthly basis, taking place usually on the 4th Saturday of the month. There are lower numbers than in the past (pre-Covid) as folk have discovered other walking groups and their commitments have changed. Nevertheless there is a core group of about 10-12 keen walkers and new people are always welcome. This season different members of the group are taking it in turns to plan and lead walks which ensures a variety of routes and paths. The walks planned are usually 5-6 miles and take about 2- 2 1/2 hours to complete. Opportunities for coffee or lunch are sometimes available. With or without refreshments the walks provide ample time in which to share fellowship whilst enjoying the local countryside.

Denise Willingham – Co-ordinator

CRADLE ROLL (BAPTISMAL ROLL)

The Cradle Roll is a register of all the children who have been welcomed into the church through Baptism or a Service of Thanksgiving.

Their names are proudly displayed in the Children's corner. The children are kept on the Cradle Roll until they are three years old when they are promoted into the Sunday Club. There have been two new baptisms since our last AGM.

On the 18th of September 2022 we welcomed Luca Frank Kindrat to the Cradle Roll, to the delight of his older brother, Logan, his mother Brooke, and his father Andrew. On the 15th of April 2023, Agnes' grandson Cobey Zac Johnson was baptised and welcomed to the Sunday Club. There are currently four children on the Cradle Roll – Luca Kindrat, Julia and Evelyn Gomes, and Charles Woodhead. Each child receives a card from the church on their anniversary of their baptism.

Adelita Serwaa-Bonsu - Cradle Roll Secretary

DAY CARE GROUP

Day Care which operates independently of the Church but is none the less closely affiliated continues to be grateful to all its Helpers for their continued support and appreciated the help given each week. It can be quite busy at times and consequently, even though enjoyable, very tiring.

Visitors: There are now 9 regular Visitors each week and contact remains with past members now unable to attend such as Jean and Bert Hewitt. All the visitors meet the aims and criteria of the group which was set up to support local elderly residents.

Helpers: There are now 10 regular Helpers each week with Janet recently volunteering when work permits. Thanks to Maggie Dodd, Joanna Rose, Lesley Saunders and Denise Willingham who all share in the collection of our Visitors.

The Canal Boat Trip with 'Waterways Experience' last July went well and everyone had a great day out. PPH Coaches provided the transport. This was the last get-together before the summer break.

Following a short meeting held in October, a 3 course Christmas Lunch was booked at The Stanborough Grill for Friday, 9th December 2022. The church pianist together with singers from the church sang for us and presents were given to each of our elderly visitors.

Day Care resumed on 13th January, 2023 after the Christmas break. Thanks to Maggie Dodd for holding craft afternoons and to David Amoss for playing the organ for a fun sing-song. Flower arranging and quizzes have also been enjoyed. Special thanks to Peter Jones' wife, Liz, for collecting the lunches and then taking back the empty trays.

Since the start of the New Year, Frances Massey is no longer involved with Day Care having moved out of the area. We wish both her and her husband, Richard, all the very best. Thanks to Caroline Moore and Patsy Spaven for their sterling work in the kitchen and in welcoming our Visitors. Pam Parkes' creative talents with the flowers is also much appreciated.

This year on 30th June we celebrate the 35th Birthday of Day Care. To mark the occasion we plan to invite members of Fleetville Community Centre and certain local councillors who have supported us with grants to join us in a Day Care Party. A Canal Trip is planned for 8th September 2023. It was felt that thanks to everyone involved, Friday Day Care is running very well.

Sue Davey, Co-ordinator

HOLIDAY AT HOME (Joint Project with Marlborough Road Methodist Church)

The idea of holding a Holiday at Home for older people in the community was started in 2016 at MRMC, working with St Peter's Church. Since 2018 this has been a joint venture between HRMC, MRMC and St Peter's and now takes place over 4 days, 2 hosted by HRMC and 2 by MRMC. The planning team is: Idy Osibodu and Simon Parker (for MRMC), Denise Willingham (for HRMC) and Maggie Dodd (Anna Chaplain to St Albans). Deacon Nigel Perrott and his wife Jane will join the team in 2023. Work starts in spring with initial meetings and ideas for that year.

Invitations (beautifully designed by Maggie) are distributed through HRMC (including the Day Care group), MRMC, St Peter's, other local churches, St Albans Age Concern, the Salvation Army and local residential homes. In her role as Anna Chaplain Maggie is able publicise the event around St Albans.

In 2022 over 40 guests attended on some or all of the 4 days. Over thirty wonderful helpers from HRMC, MRMC and St Peter's made the whole venture possible. Volunteers were involved with everything from providing lifts to preparing and serving food, from talking to guests to serving tea and coffee. Activities included board games, craft activities and quizzes. Last year there were 2 visits from the popular ukulele band "Katie's Jumping Fleas" and HRMC Music Group, ably accompanied by Mike Sheehan, sang songs from shows. Large quantities of homemade cakes were consumed as well as delicious hot lunches. A thoroughly good time was had by all.

Denise Willingham, Co-ordinator

HOUSE GROUPS

There are currently 4 House Groups with a total of 32 members of whom 7 cannot commit regularly due to a variety of reasons. A further 4 people have expressed an interest in joining a HG in the near future.

Tony Moody, Peter Wallace, Ros Hancock and myself hold a HG every 2 weeks offering a choice of day or evening study groups with breaks for school holidays,

Tony's HG meet via Zoom (courtesy of Evangeline) on a Monday evening and they have been looking at 'The Cross' by John Stott. Peter has been leading and hosting his HG on a Wednesday evening, using a video-based Bible Course. On a Friday morning Ros leads her HG whilst Sarah Cox hosts and they have been studying 'Fruit of the Spirit' by Hazel Offner. I lead and host a meeting on a Thursday morning and like Tony, we have also been studying 'The Cross'.

Following a HG Leaders' meeting on 26th March it was decided that we should find study material that would take us through from May to the end of September. Each HG can decide what they would like to study but in the meantime, I have made 2 suggestions and am waiting for feedback before ordering any books.

From October onwards, we decided that we should source material that would take us to the end of November and prepare us for Advent. I have suggested a possible study with the intention that all 4 HGs study the same material, leaving December set aside for any studies that our new Minister may have in mind. We are hopeful that future Zoom House Group meetings may be set-up via the Church Zoom account.

Johanna Mason – House Group Co-ordinator

JUNIOR MISSION FOR ALL - JMA

JMA is a network of children, supported by adults, who support and learn about the mission of the church all over the world. The JMA promise is to 'Learn, pray and serve with the worldwide church of Jesus Christ'. Money raised is allocated 1 fifth to the Methodist Mission in Britain Fund and 4 fifths to the Methodist World Mission Fund. At HRMC, following the "retirement" of 2 collectors at the JMA service in September 2022 there is currently 1 collector. There have been no events this year. The barbeque planned in September had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the Queens passing.

Collections from September to date total £106.89
The total raised in 2021 -2022 was £445

Ruth Wallace – JMA Treasurer

MUSIC GROUP

The Music Group meets to rehearse at church each Thursday evening at 8pm, preparing to support worship on Sunday mornings and at the monthly Prayer & Praise service. The group enjoys making music together, singing and playing a variety of instruments. We like to spend time in our rehearsals looking out and learning new hymns or tunes that we will then introduce to the congregation in Sunday services. For special events such as the Christmas carol service, Harvest, or Easter we often put out an invitation for additional singers or players to join us. We also try to support circuit events where we join with musicians from other churches in our circuit to sing and play at special services during the year.

We welcome new members of any age from secondary school upwards. If you enjoy singing, or can play an instrument and would be interested in joining us for special events or on a regular basis, please speak to Joanna Rose. If you are a competent pianist and would be interested in playing the piano or organ for any services (monthly 9am, weekly 10:30 or monthly 7pm services), again please contact Joanna.

Joanna Rose

PASTORAL TEAM

The Pastoral Care Team at Hatfield Road Methodist Church comprises Rev Andrew Prout, Deacon Nigel Perrott, Anna Chaplain Maggie Dodd, the Church Stewards, myself as Pastoral Secretary, 12 members of the church who are Pastoral Visitors, 4 House Group Leaders, and Caroline Tough who maintains contact with many of our young families.

The work of members of the Pastoral Care Team goes on through the year. We meet up as a group twice a year at the church. Notice is given of the meetings in the church notices. We meet to receive support from our minister and to share in any concerns. Each member of the church has a named individual who gives pastoral support. It is hoped that each one of us considers the pastoral needs of each other, members and non-members. Currently there are 110 members of the church and approximately 50 adherents. The pastoral secretary maintains the directory of membership, which is reprinted annually, as well as adherents' and newcomers' lists. Please let me know if your contact details change. We acknowledge with thanksgiving those who have died this last year, and other changes to our membership and community roll over the course of the year.

Members of the Church who have died: Sheila Morley
Friends of the Church who have died: Teresa Brooks, Jean Powell and Sylvia Robertson
Members Transferred Out: Joe Kinchenton
Members Transferred In: Rob and Claire Debnam, Justine Akowuah, Agnes Duah, Sheila Agyeman and Tom Cushney

You are welcome to contact myself or Andrew if you feel you would like to get involved in Pastoral Care or have any concerns or suggestions you would like to share. Finally it is my intention to step down this Summer and I would be pleased to speak to anyone interested in taking on this role. Please pray for the work of the Pastoral Care Team at HRMC.

Gina Woodhead, Pastoral Secretary

PRAYER MINISTRY

In last year's report it was pointed out that the Prayer Ministry's activities associated with our Sunday Services had continued to be impacted by the pandemic. Pre-Covid two members of the Prayer Team were available at the end of the 10.30 a.m. Service to pray with Church members in the Sanctuary. Although the Covid threat has eased the opportunity for prayers has yet to be re-introduced. Significantly, of the original Team members, very few are now in the position to help.

The weekly publication of the Prayer Diary, which is overseen by Peggy Liffen, has continued to be included in Sunday's Notices which are circulated every week either on line or by hand to all Church members and adherents. In this way all the people and families who are listed can be remembered in our prayers during the following week.

Almost ten years have elapsed since a prayer meeting was started by Ros Hancock's house group initially to pray for the success of the first Cliff College Mission and then, subsequently, to pray for the needs of our Church as a whole. The meetings take place on Tuesday mornings (via WhatsApp) and are supported by

members of Ros's house group and a few other Church members. The WhatsApp approach is likely to be maintained because it allows those who are unable to participate in the meeting when it takes place to gain access to the transmission at a later time.

The prayer initiative originally introduced in 2009 by Graham Smith and Chris Hancock re-started in the Autumn of 2021 following the relaxation of the pandemic restrictions. The meetings are held at Church between 7.00 a.m. and 8.00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings. People are free to come and go as suits them best.

Following his appointment as our new Superintendent, the Rev. David Jebb has introduced a weekly Circuit Prayer Meeting which takes place at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday mornings (via Zoom). The Prayer Tree continues and there are now 33 of us who are members of it. Prayer requests are normally emailed out to members and this is particularly useful in urgent cases. The knowledge that many people are offering prayers provides comfort and support to those who have requested them.

Roy Vivian

PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

The general upkeep of our premises has continued throughout the year. The measures taken to mitigate the risks associated with COVID (layout, cleaning, ventilation, and restricted use of the church building) were gradually eased, guided by official guidance and our own risk assessments. COVID was last mentioned in the Notice Sheet on 4 Sep 22, the Sunday before the Queen died.

FIRE SAFETY

Fire has been a major focus this year. Apart from annual servicing of fire extinguishers and a new fire door, very little had been spent on fire safety in recent years. We conducted a fire risk assessment using the Methodist Insurance checklist. A key finding was the need to keep records of servicing, tests, drills, etc. and it also highlighted the lack of servicing of the **Fire Alarm System**, which was obsolete**. The Control Panel** in the Foyer has been replaced and a mains isolator switch has been installed, as required by law. The **call points** (glass alarm buttons) were replaced with modern ones that can be tested. A **Fire Safety Log** has been obtained, populated and is maintained – it's mounted on the side of the cupboard in the Vestry. In January, we were visited by a Risk Management Surveyor from Methodist Insurance. As a result of his survey, he was able to prompt a £62 refund of our annual buildings insurance premium. He was complimentary about the church buildings and, especially, the gardens. His report included recommendations on policy documents for fire and health & safety, which the Property & Finance Committee have in hand.

THE BUILDINGS

SMALL HALL: The PROD (Property Review & Oversight of Development) group has continued with plans to make the Small Hall a more attractive, usable and accessible space. A number of options remain under consideration, and the architect who oversaw the Large Hall refurbishment in 2019 has been engaged, which has highlighted some issues such as the party wall, planning permission, structural matters, and drains! There have also been a number of meetings with the preferred builder.

The leaky **skylight** over the back corridor near the toilets has received a permanent fix. It is recognised that parts of the **entrance to the church** (e.g. the rails on the steps and the canopy) are in need of paint. Also, the **clock** over the church entrance is not working and our electrician could not fix it. A like-for-like replacement would cost about £1000 but any decision (by Church Council) would need to consider possible future redevelopment of the front of the church.

Cleaning & Maintenance Mornings were held in July 22 and March 23. Among the various jobs undertaken was the Sanctuary chairs being checked for damage and, where appropriate, swapped for better ones from those stored in the Small Hall. This left about 70 chairs in good but less-than-perfect condition. Ros Hancock had had dealings with Farley Hill Methodist Church in Luton and was aware that they were in desperate need of chairs, so we subsequently delivered 50 surplus chairs them.

ENVIRONMENT

Ros Hancock is the HRMC 'eco-champion' and is guiding us through the ***A Rocha UK*** **eco-church questionnaire**. *A Rocha* operates a scheme of bronze, silver and gold awards and, based on our responses to the Buildings and Land sections, we have been awarded Bronze. In support of that, we have continued to replace high-wattage lighting with low energy units, notably the display board spotlights in the Foyer. The fluorescent tubes in the corridors and Vestry will be phased out in due course. On a related matter, we now have a bin for 'mixed dry recycling' in addition to our general waste bin – a move which has reduced our waste disposal costs, as well as being more environmentally friendly.

LEGAL MATTERS

We believe we have an understanding with our neighbour at 135A relating to triangles of land on the boundary between us. Following our meeting with them in May, we planned to draft a suitable form of words for agreement, but that has not yet been completed. Ongoing.

Finally, as always, grateful thanks to those who:

- undertake the cleaning of our church premises
- tend the gardens
- maintain and repair the buildings and fixtures

Eric Bridgstock, Chair

SOCIAL, EVENTS & OUTREACH GROUP

This Group has not met during the period but nonetheless events have been planned as we emerge out of the pandemic such as the Concert with the Quorum Choir in March in which over £600 was raised for our three new Church Charities, namely Christian Aid, the Alzheimer's Society, and the Living Room, and the recent livestreaming of the Coronation of King Charles III where over 30 people gathered both to watch the event and to share in a special lunch.

Rev Andrew Prout

SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday Club continues to run on the second and third Sundays of each month. This is working well with the Create and Celebrate service on the first Sunday, which many additional families have attended, and a family service on the fourth Sunday. Tomas leads the older group from year 7 upwards with help from Ruth and Alison. Helen Jeffery and I lead the younger group from age 4 to 11 with help from Lesley, Pip and Helen Fulton. Younger children are welcome to come and join our session if accompanied by an adult. We also have a table at the back of the church, well stocked with a changing range of topical activities for the younger children to use during any of the services. We continue to be small in number but always have fun as we develop our faith and explore the Bible together through music, stories, interactive activities and crafts. Highlights for Sunday Club this year were the garden party held in July, attended by many of the families connected with our church and the Christmas Create and Celebrate service which was a very joyful occasion as the children took part in telling the story of the Nativity. There have also been two holiday activity mornings held in October and February half term weeks which have been well attended and great fun.
Plans are underway for the older group to lead a service in June and we also plan to hold another garden party. I am very grateful to all the people who help with Sunday Club to enable us to offer this vital part of our church ministry.

Caroline Tough (Sunday Club Co-ordinator)

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN GREAT BRITAIN - SOME FACTS ABOUT US

Constitution

The constitution of the Methodist Church in Britain is contained in the Deed of Union conferred by the Methodist Union Church Act 1929. That Act was replaced by the Methodist Church Act 1976 and its statutory Model Trusts.

The Deed of Union (Part 1 Section 4 Government) provides for the governing body of the church to be the Methodist Conference. The constitution and powers of the Conference are stated and include the power to make standing orders.

The Methodist Church Act 1939 constituted and incorporated a single body of trustees called the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposed (TMCP and known as the custodian trustees) to hold all real, leasehold and other personal estate of the Methodist Church. Various other church courts in the Methodist Church, and accountable to the Methodist Conference and constituted in accordance with those standing orders, act as "local managing trustees".

The Methodist Church Funds Act 1960 provides for the investment of funds of the Methodist Church.

The Sharing of Buildings Act 1969 makes provision for the sharing and using of church buildings in England and Wales by different churches.

Purposes

The purposes of the Methodist Church are set out in Section 4 of the 1976 Act. They are the advancement of:

(a) *the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church*
(b) *any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church*
(c) *any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church*
(d) *any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.*

The details are contained in a publication called The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church Volumes 1 and 2 published by Methodist Publishing, Norwich Books and Music, 13a Hellesdon Park Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR6 5DR Tel: 0845 017 8220 and orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk.

In England and Wales all Methodist churches, circuits and districts with a gross annual income of over £100,000 per annum need to register with the Charity Commission.

Methodist charities with an income under £100,000 per annum continue to be excepted from registration.

This exception is provided by the Statutory Instrument 2014 No. 242.

Charitable status

The Methodist Church in Britain (referred to as the Connexion) is made up of over 6000 separate charities and is not a single entity. A separate registration exists in the name of the Methodist Church in Great Britain with the Methodist Conference as the trustee body. Its registration number applies only to the connexional charity and the main connexionally-held funds. Local churches, circuits and districts cannot use that number.

All Methodist churches, circuits and districts are charities whether or not they are registered with the Charity Commission. The Charities (Exception from Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 extended the exception for religious charities in England and Wales with an income under £100,000 per annum until 31 March 2021.

All charities (excluding excepted charities) must keep accounting records and make the annual report and financial accounts available to the public on request.

Structure, governance and management

The whole of the Methodist Church in Britain is referred to as "the Connexion". It operates through 31 Districts in Great Britain which are divided, with a few exceptions, into circuits. Those circuits normally include several churches and ministers. See the Methodist Districts map at the end for further details.

The local church mainly manages its own affairs (including church property) through the Church Council where its members are the managing trustees. It is connected by representative membership to others in the circuit, and more widely to the district and the Connexion.

The Methodist Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans is part of the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit. Three of its church council members represent it at the circuit meeting. Each year church council members complete the Trustee Eligibility Declaration and receive an induction on appointment and further training when needed.

The Church Council comprises ministers, ex officio members and members elected once a year by the general church meeting. On election, members serve from 1 July for one year and may be eligible for re-election for a further year up to a normal maximum of six years.

The Church Council meets between three and four times a year and undertakes much of its work through a number of committees with delegated authority.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy is to aim to hold a sum equal to six months' normal expenditure. Any funds above that figure are held pending anticipated major property work and the development of local mission and ministry. This was adopted by the Church Council on 11 October 2016 and is reviewed annually.

Church Council Members

Church Council membership is confirmed at each meeting and at 01 May 2023 was as follows. The references here to Standing Orders (SO) are those of The Methodist Church contained in The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of The Methodist Church Volume 2.

Meetings are chaired by the Minister with Pastoral Charge unless otherwise advised by the Superintendent.

Position	Name	Date Appointed
Circuit Ministers SO 610 (1) (i)	Rev David Jebb (Superintendent)	09/2022
	Rev Andrew Prout (Minister Pastoral Charge)	09/2014
SO 610 (4) (iv)	Deacon Nigel Perrott	09/2022
Church Stewards SO 610 (1) (vi)	Tomas Cvrcek (Senior Church Steward)	05/2018
	Angela Andrews	05/2018
	Denise Willingham	05/2016
	Lianne Weidmann	06/2017
	Noelene Browning	10/2019
Church Treasurer SO 610 (1) (vii)	Eric Bridgstock	06/2018
Pastoral Committee SO 610 (1) (viii)	Gina Woodhead	01/2009
Church Council Secretary SO 610 (1) (ix)	Vacancy	10/2019
One Circuit Steward appointed by the Circuit Stewards SO 610 (1) (xii)	Stuart Johnson	09/2020
Not less than six representatives nor more than fifteen elected annually by General Church Meeting SO 610 (1) (x)	Caroline Tough [Elected by ballot]	05/2012
	Ros Hancock [Elected by ballot]	05/2015
	James Appiah	06/2021
Plus up to 15 additional persons appointed by the Church Council to ensure that all areas of the church's life are adequately represented and in particular that, wherever possible, young people are included in its membership SO 610 (1) (xi)		
Sunday Club and Youth Superintendent	Caroline Tough	09/2022
Property & Finance Committee	Eric Bridgstock (Chair of Meeting)	06/2019
Mission Secretaries Action Group (Mission in Britain / World Missions / JMA / Christian Aid / Justice & Peace)	To Be Appointed	-
Worship Consultation Convenor	Peter Wallace	09/2015
Safeguarding Officer	Joanna Rose	05/2009
Other	Freda Gray [Catering & Property] Val Parker Maggie Dodd (Anna Chaplain, observer)	08/2017 06/2019 11/2021
Elected to Circuit Meeting (Ex Officio Officers) SO 510 (1) (vii) (plus 3 others) SO 510 (1) (viii)	Church Steward [Ex Officio]: Tomas Cvrcek Church Treasurer [Ex Officio]: Eric Bridgstock Joanna Rose Ros Hancock Denise Willingham	09/2022 09/2015 09/2017 09/2022 09/2022

Custodian Trustees

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JQ
Tel: 0161 236 5194 & legal@tmcp.methoidst.org.uk

Bankers

CAF Bank

Appointed advisers

The Church Council employed a quantity surveyor to provide professional oversight of a refurbishment project. It also appointed an Independent Examiner Mr John Robinson (contact details available on request) to examine the accounts for the financial year 2021-2022.

Websites

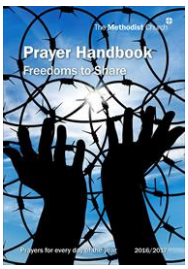
www.hatfieldroadmethodist.org
www.stalbanswelwyncircuit.org.uk
www.methodist.org.uk
www.tmcp.org.uk

Registered address and Charity Number

The Methodist Church, 133b Hatfield Road, Fleetville, St Albans, AL1 4JX
Charity Registration No. 1173147,

Why not keep in touch with the wider Methodist Church in Britain...

- **the connexion**, regular magazine, copies in the Foyer *www.methodist.org.uk/theconnexion*
- **Methodist Prayer Handbook** from Methodist Publishing & Rev Colin Rowe
- **Regular e-news**: *www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/sign-up-for-e-newsletters*
- **Leadership Blogs**: *www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/leadership-blogs*
- **Latest news**: *www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/news-releases*
- **Sharing good news stories**: *www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/sign-up-for-e-newsletters*
- **Safeguarding**: www.methodist.org.uk/ministers-and-office-holders/safeguarding
- **Further resources** from Methodist Publishing *www.mph.org.uk*



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The Methodist Church

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THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST	**Church**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2022

St Albans & Welwyn	**Circuit**	**Circuit no.**	**34/13**

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	**1173147**
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 Andrew Prout

Church Stewards:

Tomas Cvrcek	**Denise Willingham**
Angela Andrews	**Lianne Weidmann**
Noelene Browning	

Treasurer:

Eric Bridgstock

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST Church

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
			£	£	£		£
a1	**RECEIPTS**	**Note**					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		71,286		**71,286**		73,503
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		605		**605**		267
a4	Lettings		3,604		**3,604**		1,301
a5	Other receipts		3,991	42,408	**46,399**		55,959
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**79,486**	**42,408**	**121,894**	**(a7)**	**131,030**
	SECTION B						
b1	**PAYMENTS**						
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		52,800		**52,800**		52,800
b3	Donations		300		**300**		540
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		14,941		**14,941**		36,343
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		7,623		**7,623**		6,373
b6							
b7	Other payments		7,370	59,421	**66,791**		43,128
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**83,034**	**59,421**	**142,455**	**(b9)**	**139,184**
	SECTION C						
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	**(a6-b8)**	(3,548)	(17,013)	**(20,561)**		(8,154)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		49,130	160,425	**209,555**	**(c6)**	218,471
c3	**Sub total**	**(c1+c2)**	45,582	143,412	**188,994**		**210,317**
c4	Transfers and adjustments					**(c7)**	
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	**(c3+c4)**	**45,582**	**143,412**	**188,994**	**(c8)**	**210,317** **(c6)**

Check Res+Unres total	TRUE	
c6 totals	FALSE	

	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	589	1,363
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	4,531	1,709
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	4,531	2,483
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID** (d1+d2-d3)	**589**	**589**

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 2022 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)**	**121,894** (a7)	**142,455** (b9)	**(20,561)**	**2** (c7)	**210,144** (c6)	**189,585** (c8)
e10	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**121,894**	**142,455**	**(20,561)**	**2**	**210,144** (x)	**189,585** (y)

Check TRUE

Check TRUE

Check TRUE

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 2022	**OPENING BALANCES**	**CLOSING BALANCES**
f1	Cash in hand		
f2	Bank Current Account	36,061	55,983
f3	Bank Deposit Account		
f4	Central Finance Board	174,413	133,602
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6	Other funds		
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**210,474** (c6)	**189,585** (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**210,474** (x)	**189,585** (y)

Check bals FALSE

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 1 September 2021	At 31 August 2022
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	409	383
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	2,632,046	2,824,205
g3	Other Assets	130,175	149,336
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

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 **HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH No 34/13**

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2022 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 ..... E Bridg Date 28/2/2023

Name and address of treasurer ..... **Eric Bridgstock**

..... **16 Evans Grove, St Albans, Herts AL4 9PJ**

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on **28 Feb 2023**

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 28/2/23

Name of the Chair of the meeting .... **Rev Andrew Prout**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Hatfield Road Methodist Church

Charity Number 1173147

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hatfield Road Methodist Church Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 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 **HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST No 34/13**

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 **JOHN ROBINSON**.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner M.A. A.C.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address ..... **Cedarwood, 5 Harmer Dell, Digswell, Welwyn**

..... Post Code **AL6 0BE**.....

Date 10/3/23

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-22

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST	**Church**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2022

St Albans & Welwyn	**Circuit**	**Circuit no.**	**34/13**

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	**1173147**
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 Andrew Prout

Church Stewards:

Tomas Cvrcek	**Denise Willingham**
Angela Andrews	**Lianne Weidmann**
Noelene Browning	

Treasurer:

Eric Bridgstock

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST Church

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year
			£	£	£		£
a1	**RECEIPTS**	**Note**					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		71,286		**71,286**		73,503
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		605		**605**		267
a4	Lettings		3,604		**3,604**		1,301
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c6 totals	FALSE	

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Check TRUE

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TOTAL RECEIPTS

TOTAL PAYMENTS

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

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Signature of treasurer ..... E Bridg Date 28/2/2023

Name and address of treasurer ..... **Eric Bridgstock**

..... **16 Evans Grove, St Albans, Herts AL4 9PJ**

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Signature of the Chair of the meeting 28/2/23

Name of the Chair of the meeting .... **Rev Andrew Prout**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Hatfield Road Methodist Church

Charity Number 1173147

Responsibilities and basis of report

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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 **HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST No 34/13**

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 **JOHN ROBINSON**.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner M.A. A.C.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address ..... **Cedarwood, 5 Harmer Dell, Digswell, Welwyn**

..... Post Code **AL6 0BE**.....

Date 10/3/23

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-22

THE METHODIST CHURCH, HATFIELD ROAD, ST ALBANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1173147

Accounts

Hatfield Road
Methodist Church
St Albans

The Methodist Church

Hatfield Road Methodist Church

Serving Christ and the Local Community

Annual Report 2021/2022

The Methodist Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans is part of the St Albans and Welwyn Methodist Circuit in the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District of the Methodist Church in Britain.

The Calling of The Methodist Church in Britain is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

It does this through:

WORSHIP
By increasing awareness of God's presence and celebrating God's love

LEARNING & CARING
By helping people grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

SERVICE
By being a good neighbour to people in need and challenging injustice

EVANGELISM
By making more followers of Jesus Christ

If you would like a larger print version of this Annual Report, please contact the Minister or one of the Church Stewards

CONTENTS	CONTRIBUTOR
Our Minister's Message	Rev'd Andrew Prout
Church Stewards' Report	Denise Willingham
Church Council Report	Rev'd Andrew Prout, Angela Spriggs
Safeguarding	Joanna Rose
Property and Finance Committee	Sue Davey, Eric Bridgstock
Church Treasurer's Report	Eric Bridgstock
Aldersgate Café	Christine Ford
Anna Chaplain	Maggie Dodd
Babies & Toddlers	Emma Williams
Childrens and Families Worker's Report	Emma Williams
Christian Aid	Anne Wall
Cradle Roll (Baptismal Roll)	Adelita Serwaa-Bonsu
Day Care Group	Sue Davey
Growmore Ramblers	Denise Willingham
House Groups	Johanna Mason
Junior Mission for All (JMA)	Ruth Wallace
Music Group	Joanna Rose
Pastoral Team	Gina Woodhead
Prayer Ministry	Roy Vivian
Sunday Club and Youth Fellowship	Emma Williams

OUR MINISTER'S MESSAGE

I find myself writing this report just ahead of Palm Sunday and Holy Week. Drawing from the Gospel of Luke we are reminded of how Jesus entered Jerusalem as an announcer and an ambassador of God's kingdom of justice and peace. This was in sharp contrast to the authoritarian rule of Rome and the practices of some of the civic and religious rulers in the city. These leaders seemed to have forgotten they were in the service of God and the people, and not themselves. Luke movingly records how Jesus wept as he approached the city. Such a vivid image draws us into events in Ukraine. How Jesus must equally weep today for the suffering and devastation inflicted on and within other cities all the result of an unjust war. I am minded how Jesus called Herod a fox and have no doubt such a description is suitable today for Vladimir Putin. The invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Army on February 24th 2022 came on the back of two years when the world and the Church has had to respond to the global pandemic caused by the Covid-19 virus. Alongside this we all followed intently the COP26 Summit held in Glasgow last November as leaders and representatives of governments from around the world met to discuss the next steps in addressing what is now widely accepted to be a climate emergency. The Church and Jesus' message of a kingdom where peace and justice reign alongside the pursuit of the common good is needed more than ever. Let us be inspired by the change wrought by one man entering Jerusalem on a humble donkey accompanied by a small band long ago. The kingdom of God indeed is like a small seed planted in the ground. Jesus reminds us we should never underestimate what can be done and how things can be turned around.

The last twelve months have witnessed the Church continue to adapt in order to retain and move forward in its work and mission against the backdrop of the pandemic. Services in person have returned allowing us recently, and with great rejoicing, to gather together on the premises for Holy Week and Easter for the first time in three years. Throughout we have continued to live-stream our main service every Sunday mindful of those not able to attend but also beginning to see how this could become a developing area of mission. At the end of April last year we welcomed Maggie Dodd in her appointment as an Anna Chaplain for St. Albans based at Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road Methodist Churches. Maggie's work with those in later years has complemented Emma's work as a Children and Families Worker across both Churches. In October whilst I was on Sabbatical we launched our monthly 'Create & Celebrate' whereby on the first Sunday of every month opportunity is offered to all ages to engage in craft and conversation before a shared time of worship.

Our work with Marlborough Road Methodist Church will be further cemented in September when changes in the Circuit will see the formation of a new St. Albans Section. The section will include the 'Cornerstone Project' in Salisbury Village. I will be relinquishing my oversight of Shenley Methodist Church and Radlett United Free Church to head this new section. The change coincides with the retirement of Rev Rosemary Fletcher and the departure from the Circuit of Rev Bruce Anderson, Rev Ali Facey and Deacon Linda Kinchenton. We wish them all well with especial gratitude to Rosemary for all she has undertaken as Superintendent over the last ten years. We look forward in September to welcoming Rev David Jebb who will succeed Rosemary as Superintendent and oversee the new Hertsmere section, Rev Rosemary Mutopo who will succeed Bruce in the Welwyn/ Hatfield section, and Deacon Nigel Perrott who will be working alongside me in the St. Albans Section whilst overseeing the Cornerstone Project and supporting some of the work at Ludwick Way.

We find ourselves therefore both looking back and looking forward. Never far from our thoughts are those who have died. We continue to remember all whose place is now with the saints and to uphold them and each other, and each of their loved ones and families in our thoughts and prayers. We especially remember Helen Harris who died in November and most recently Eileen Holt. We have given our good wishes to Betty Burdett on her move to be nearer family in Cheshire and been pleased to welcome by transfer into membership of the Church Hugo Gomes and Ivy Tavershima with their young family, and Pat Maziane.

These remain times of change as we further emerge from the pandemic thankful for the roll out of the vaccine and other advances in treatment that give a greater degree of confidence and security. Some of our activities have resumed although not all, among them the Wednesday Network Meeting. However we have, with Maggie's support, been able to launch a Mid-Week Service on a Wednesday Afternoon every fortnight mindful especially of those in later years or who are unable to easily attend Church on a Sunday. In all things we endeavour to remain true to our mission of 'Serving Christ and the Local Community'.

I record my thanks to everyone for their support and hard effort over this past year, not least when I was on my Sabbatical between September and November. I wish to especially thank Denise Willingham who will be stepping down as the Senior Church Steward at the end of June. Denise has had to undertake more than she could have ever imagined not least because of the demands caused by the pandemic. And to thank Angela Spriggs who will be stepping down as Church Council Secretary in September after three years. I invite you to find strength and encouragement in the reading and digesting of this annual report. The various reports show in different ways not only how we seek to continue to fulfil our calling but also to touch the lives of people with the love and grace of God, in the Church, in the community and around the world. Times may not be easy. They were not easy for Jesus as He entered Jerusalem. But with Him we are invited to see the bigger picture, of a lasting kingdom that will emerge victorious, a kingdom where faith, hope and love abide, justice flows like a river and peace like a never ending stream.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!
Hark all the tribes 'Hosanna' cry;
Your humble beast pursues its road
With palms and scattered garments strowed.

Together with Christ we journey forth as brothers and sisters on the same road. In doing so it my great privilege to serve you and to be alongside you as your minister.

Yours in Christ

Rev Andrew Prout, Minister with Pastoral Charge

CHURCH STEWARDS' REPORT

Two years on from the start of the Covid pandemic the world has been gradually returning to something nearer normal. This has also been reflected in the life of the church. The Church Stewards have continued to meet regularly each month with Andrew by Zoom. This has enabled us to respond flexibly to both the needs of the church and to the ever changing Covid regulations. Since Easter 2021 it has been possible to maintain a regular pattern of weekly worship and it has been a joy to see more and more people attending live worship once again. The various church teams have ensured that this has been done in ways to keep folk safe, including those who are more vulnerable. In this regard particular thanks are also due to the Worship Consultation team, the Music Group, the Covid Group and the Property Committee. The stewards have been greatly helped on Sundays by the Sunday Assistants. The Pastoral Team has provided unstinting support throughout the year. Sunday Club, Babies and Toddlers, Friday Day Care and the Aldersgate Café have all been able to continue throughout the last year.

A new pattern of worship was introduced in October which includes Create and Celebrate on the first Sunday of the month. The C&C services are now well established and are proving very popular, particularly with young families, but also with folk of all ages. They afford an enjoyable and more informal way both to meet and share fellowship as well as worship. Thanks are due to the team who meet regularly under the guidance of Emma Williams (our Children and Families Worker) to plan and deliver these. Evening services have resumed for Lent with an excellent series of reflections on the psalms. Fortnightly services led by our Anna Chaplain, Maggie Dodd, on Wednesday afternoons are also now well established and are much appreciated. A full programme of both Christmas and Easter services has been possible once again. A united service was held on the Sunday after Christmas with MRMC. Our thanks are due to Joanna Rose, Mike Sheehan and the Music Group for their regular input in all our services. The church is also deeply indebted to Chris Hancock

who has devoted much time and his considerable gifts to developing all the many aspects of online worship. Recording of music and live streaming have enabled those at home, both near and far, to participate in worship.

There are regular, bimonthly, joint meetings of HRMC and MRMC stewards. The latter is enabling the two churches to draw closer together in fellowship and mission. This is has been greatly aided by the work across the two churches by the two lay workers, Emma Williams and Maggie Dodd. Holiday@ Home was able to take place again after a gap of two years. Careful planning and great team work, involving volunteers from both churches, enabled all the guests to have a very enjoyable time. Activities included table top games and crafts, some excellent quizzes and musical entertainment provided by Katie's Jumping Fleas (a local ukulele band) and the HRMC Music Group. As always there was lots of delicious food! In the October half term a very successful Holiday Club for children aged 5-12 was held at HRMC. Organised by Emma Williams, this also involved volunteers from both Methodist churches. Holiday@Home and Holiday Club will both be run again in the coming year. Ways of dovetailing our patterns of worship are being established. This is of particular importance as from August there will be one minister in St Albans covering HRMC and MRMC. It is also planned to have a joint communications team working together across both churches.

My thanks once again to the church stewards for all their hard work behind the scenes. In particular we wish Joe well as he and Linda move to take up a new appointment.

Denise Willingham, Senior Church Steward

CHURCH COUNCIL

The duties of the Church Council are to act together and in person and not delegate control to others; act strictly in accordance with our governing documents; act only in the church's interests; manage the church's affairs prudently and take a long term as well as a short-term view; not derive any personal benefit or gain for the trustees; take professional advice on matters in which they are not themselves competent.

The Church Council is responsible for the affairs of our church and usually meets three times a year. Members, who may normally serve for up to 6 years, are appointed ex officio (e.g. the Minister and Church Stewards), elected by the annual Church General Meeting, or appointed by the Council itself to ensure that all areas of the church's life are adequately represented.

Church Council meetings are open to any church member but only Church Council members may vote. Non Council members may speak with the permission of the meeting and, if they wish to do this, should speak to the Minister or Church Council Secretary in advance.

Hatfield Road Methodist Church is a Registered Charity (Registration No. 1173147). Registration with the Charity Commission was completed in 2017 after the Church's income in the previous year rose above the threshold set by the Commissioners which would have allowed 'excepted' status. By the Charities Act 2006 charities including churches are accountable to the public for the resources they control.

Since the last AGM in June 2021 Hatfield Road Methodist Church Council has met four times. It met for normal Church Council business on 30th June 2021, 8th November 2021, and 15th March 2022. On 16th February 2022 it held a joint Church Council meeting with Marlborough Road Methodist Church, its sister Church in St Albans, to discuss and vote on the registration of each Church for same sex marriage. The 8th November meeting fell during Rev Andrew Prout's sabbatical and was chaired by the Superintendent Minister, the Rev Rosemary Fletcher in his absence. After over 18 months of meetings held on Zoom during the COVID crisis the Church Council was relieved to resume face to face meetings from November, taking appropriate COVID secure measures.

Rev Andrew Prout; Angela Spriggs, Church Council Secretary

SAFEGUARDING

The past year has seen an opening up of events for our children, young people and vulnerable adults, and we maintain a safeguarding policy which ensures that those who can work with them are subject to appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, and undertake the Methodist Church's Creating Safer Spaces training, with a refresher course every four years. All those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church should be able to identify signs of various types of abuse, know how to react, and who to inform of any concerns they may have. We do all we can to create a safe space for everyone within Hatfield Road Methodist Church and for those with whom we have contact virtually, either online or by phone.

No alcohol is allowed on the premises. The Methodist Church has a policy not to do so.

Joanna Rose, Safeguarding Officer

PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE: PROPERTY

The general upkeep of our premises has continued throughout the year. The layout, cleaning and use of the church building have continued to evolve in line with COVID guidance and our own risk assessment.

The sanctuary radiators and main boiler were replaced in May 2021, providing quieter, reliable and more efficient heating of much of the church.

The refurbishment of the Wesley Room was completed, with the fitting of new curtains and track.

The Fire Alarm system has been serviced (first time for several years) and the call points replaced with ones that can easily be tested. The Fire Door next to New Room (or Prayer Room) was replaced. Our own fire risk assessment identified the need to create and maintain a log of all fire-related activities (servicing, tests, faults, drills, etc) and the need to raise awareness – such as a "what to do in event of fire/alarm" announcement as part of Steward's introduction, say, once a month.

We were successful in bidding for a Herts County Council grant for a Defibrillator, which was fitted and installed in early April.

Acoustic panels are being fitted to the ceiling of the Large Hall in early May, creating a better ambience for activities and events.

The perimeter wall was repaired (several loose/missing bricks, pointing, etc). Paving slabs have been installed by the gardening team, including under the main external notice board, making it easier and cleaner to maintain the display.

The outside and Foyer lights have been replaced by low energy units.

Each toilet is now twinned with one in Uganda, Nigeria or Zambia.

We are engaging with the owner of the neighbouring property (135A) regarding our ownership of a triangular strip of land at the east-side boundary of the church (recorded erroneously by the Land Registry).

The PROD (Property Review & Oversight of Development) group reconvened in September, while Andrew was on sabbatical, and met with an architect in November and again in February. Its current focus is the Small Hall, to make it a more attractive, usable and accessible space. A briefing paper has been generated, for engagement with builders.

Finally, grateful thanks to those who:

- undertake the cleaning of our church premises
- tend the gardens
- maintain and repair the buildings and fixtures

Sue Davey, Secretary; Eric Bridgstock, Chair (April 2022)

CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT

The 2020-21 Accounts were examined by an Independent Examiner, John Robinson, and were fully signed off on 30 March 2022.

Giving remains healthy, and there was a heart-warming response to the Tonga disaster appeal.

The pandemic has continued to nullify most income from church groups and activities (such as Babies & Toddlers and the Aldersgate Café) and from external lettings, but the energy bills have also been lower due to reduced heating and a more efficient boiler.

The energy crisis, with alarming cost projections coupled with our current energy plans expiring, has led to a change of Gas and Electricity suppliers and new one-year contracts, with tariffs considerably higher than the existing ones. Our credit with BIFFA, resulting from them charging monthly rental for our own bin for about eight years, finally expired after a year – the "payment holiday" was welcome!

Building insurance was renewed with a lower premium than last year, through electing to increase our excess from £50 to £500. The interest rate on our Deposit Account (with Methodist Central Finance Board – CFB) had fallen to 0.01% but was raised in January, February and March of this year and is currently 0.25%. It was 0.72% before the March 2020 lockdown and we were earning about £100 a month interest; interest is now about £17 each month.

The Lay Workers project remains in good financial health. All lump-sum pledges have been received, and an average of £200 a month continues to be received through pledged standing orders. In January, £500 was received from St Paul's Church for the Anna Chaplaincy. The District has confirmed that their next £10,000 Anna grant will be paid in April.

Eric Bridgstock Church Treasurer (March 2022)

See finance summary on next page.

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH - FINANCE SUMMARY, SECOND QUARTER Sept 2021 - Feb 2022

2020/21 ACTUALS Full Year

2021/22 BUDGET agreed by CC 8 Nov 2021
2021/22 ACTUALS Q2

	ACTUALS 2020-21 1/9/20 - 31/8/21	BUDGET 2021-22 1/9/21 - 31/8/22	ACTUALS 2021-22 1/9/21 - 28/2/22	Proportion of budget	Comment
RECEIPTS					
Collections	£61,209	*£60,000*	£30,768	51%	
Gift Aid	£12,293	*£14,000*	£0	0%	Expected in Q3
Interest & Endowment Income	£261	*£20*	£34	170%	Since 1 Sep, CFB interest rate has risen from 0.01% to 0.25%
Lettings	£1,301	*£2,000*	£1,558	78%	includes £1000 for Circuit Office
Donations for Church	£3,494	*£3,000*	£1,804	60%	includes £1200 grant from Herts CC for Defibrillator
Sunday Coffee	£0	*£200*	£4	2%	
Café	£0	*£1,000*	£202	20%	
Babies & Toddlers (Net of costs)	£0	*£1,000*	£153	15%	Costs incurred at restart, not expected to continue
Sundry	£1,149	*£1,000*	£344	34%	
Lay Workers	£50,456	*£13,500*	£10,227	76%	includes the final (and significant) Lump Sum pledge
TOTAL	***£130,163***	***£95,720***	***£45,094***	47%	42% if Lay Workers discounted
PAYMENTS					
Circuit Assessment	£52,800	*£52,800*	£26,400	50%	
Repairs & Renewals	£36,343	*£40,000*	£1,159	3%	LH acoustics (£11.6k) in Q3, plus SH refurb planned.
Gas	£2,220	*£3,000*	£863	29%	
Electricity	£988	*£1,400*	£657	47%	
Water Rates	£80	*£100*	£97	97%	
Utilities	£3,288	*£4,500*	£1,617	36%	
Insurance	£2,585	*£2,700*	£2,374	88%	increased excess, reduced premium
Cleaning & supplies	£152	*£500*	£122	24%	most COVID related supplies donated
Staff costs (not Lay Workers)	£2,324	*£2,145*	£1,072	50%	
Licences and Subscriptions	£683	*£700*	£532	76%	CCLI paid; One License in Q3
Biffa Waste Disposal	£500	*£1,500*	£0	0%	Still in credit from being charged for own bin since 2013
Youth/Sunday Club	£568	*£500*	£115	23%	
Stationery/copying (net)	£106	*£100*	£180	180%	
Bible notes (net)	-£38	*-£40*	-£227	568%	Subs exceed costs
Organists & Music	£0	*£100*	£0	0%	
Donations	£0	*£500*	£300	60%	Toilet Twinning
Benevolence Fund	£81	*£250*	£0	0%	
Equipment & Furniture	£918	*£2,000*	£1,200	60%	Defibrillator (see Herts CC Grant above)
Sundry	£666	*£700*	£573	82%	
Catering (offset with Coffee)	£50	*£250*	£0	0%	
Evangelism & Outreach	£59	*£500*	£39	8%	
Lay Workers	£36,697	*£35,000*	£32,252	92%	Half recoverable from MRMC
TOTAL	**£137,782**	***£144,705***	**£67,708**	47%	Distorted by Lay Workers - 32% if LW discounted
SURPLUS	**-£7,619**	***-£48,985***	**-£22,614**	46%	£589 loss if LW discounted

COVID continues to impact figures
Income lost from Lettings, Café, Babies & Toddlers, Cash Collection.
Giving (Offering) healthy.
Expenditure will be incurred from Large Hall (acoustics) and works to the Small Hall.

Lay Worker project in good shape.

Monthly expenditure has averaged £11,285 over the period, amounting to £94 per member per month (120 members).

*The bank balances held at **28/2/2022** were £188,191. This includes £78,456 Restricted (Bequests and Gifts), and £59,277 ring-fenced for the Lay Workers project.*

The Church's reserves policy is to hold a sum equal to 6 months' expenditure, which was £68,891 in Methodist Year 20-21.

*The balance held at 28/2/2022 for **chosen charities** (none currently chosen) is £0 (plus £589 for a Gambian charity from 2015-16 World Missions collection). Since September, £2,548 has been raised and passed on to All We Can, Salvation Army, World Mission, and Open Door*

Eric Bridgstock, Treasurer 22 Mar 2022

ALDERSGATE CAFÉ

In March 2021 our wonderful team of cake bakers resumed deliveries of Café2U, delivering cakes and keeping in touch with some of our customers. They continued to provide this much appreciated service until September 2021.

In October we were able to re-open the Aldersgate Café, with a few adjustments, to make things as COVID secure as possible. It was good to be back. Unfortunately, by mid-December the situation with the COVID virus had deteriorated and the Café had to close once again.

For various reasons we no longer have enough volunteers to open the Café on a weekly basis. However we plan to re-open on the first and third Tuesday of each month commencing on the 3rd May 2022.

We look forward to welcoming our customers back and look forward to seeing you there.

Once again thank you to all our volunteers, those serving customers, setting up and tidying away and those who bake the cakes. New volunteers would be very welcome.

This April will be the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Aldersgate Café. We value your prayers and support. Do come along and enjoy the Café.

Christine Ford, Aldersgate Café Coordinator

ANNA CHAPLAIN

It's been an interesting and rewarding time since I started the role as Anna Chaplain on 26th April 2021.

Initially I tried to get to know members of both churches by organising Afternoon Teas – in the end 17 were held and I met more than 80 people at the various parties. Good connections were made and have endured from these initial meetings.

I also met and engaged with churches across St Albans when I began my role. After I met with Rev Peter Crumpler of St Paul's he facilitated a Herts Ad article I wrote and the interview with BBC Three Counties radio. I've recently written a second article for the Herts Ad and have another one lined up for the summer.

Both HRMC and MRMC successfully hosted Holiday at Home during the summer which I helped with. It was a great experience and encouraged people to get involved with church again as we emerged from Covid restrictions.

In the summer I contacted various ministers and clergy with a questionnaire asking about older people's ministry and whether older church members were returning to church activities. This culminated in a booklet being produced in October, which details the different weekday offerings churches across the city offer older people. I distributed around 1000 copies to churches, homes, and public buildings across St Albans.

I attended the Older People's Roadshow in the Civic Centre in October, and was able to meet various reps from Age UK, Communities 1st, Age Concern, Herts Help etc, and handed out my booklet and spoke to the public. I also have regular Zoom meetings with stakeholders in Older People's Care, so am in the loop when they meet regularly to hear updates from people.

I am involved with Friday Day Care at Hatfield Road providing transport for guests, and sometimes activities in the afternoons.

I regularly attend the Anna Chaplaincy Network Gatherings on Zoom. This is always very worthwhile and I hear from and shared with other ACs in the Network. I continue to spread the word about AC in St Albans and further afield. In September I hosted a Zoom Café for St Albans Diocese about Older People's Ministry, working with their Flourishing Churches Team.

In February 2022 I gave a reflection at the Cathedral's Free Church Service, and gave a talk later in the month at a Hemel Hempstead's Churches Together meeting. In March I gave a reflection at St Luke's church Sunday service and introduced members of The Gathering at St Mark's church in Colney Heath to Anna Chaplaincy.

I have started a weekly Coffee Morning at St Stephen's after a Said Communion service on a Wednesday morning, which has encouraged that small congregation to stay and chat with one another, hoping to grow this and have the occasional speaker or themed event, and I have initiated a Crafting Moring at St Julian's which now runs itself with a monthly larger gathering which I help to organise. This encourages a mixed attendance, ages range from 35 to over 70.

Worship in Care Homes restarted later in 2021 and I am now working alongside Sandridge's new Vicar, Rev'd Wendy Sellers, helping lead worship at Tara's Retreat. I also recently started to go in with another Lay Leader of Worship from St Julian's church, into Vesta Lodge every month for a service of Holy Communion.

I support services at local retirement flat complexes and with Christine Hucker's help we have started a regular Communion service at Eleanor House on London Road. The service takes place monthly and we share the service rota with Canon Margaret Tinsley from St Peter's.

In December the Sending Love to Care Homes star project reached 587 residents in the 12 residential Care Homes across St Albans. I was amazed by the wonderful response from both church communities and St Albans residents, young and old, who wanted to create a star and send some love. Twelve churches of different denominations got in touch to help, Rainbows and Brownies across the city took part, Sandringham School KS3 Art Club, Sandridge Primary School, Knit and knitter groups, local crafts people, so many people came forward to help that I have been able to reach the target number with a few to spare. Not only did the little stars bring a lot of joy to those who received them, the project also helped me to engage with some of the care homes I've not had contact with so I hope to build on those connections over the coming months.

Afternoon Worship sessions have been running since September 2021 at both MRMC and HRMC. Both services regularly have over 10 people attending, some of the congregation can't manage Sunday services but enjoy the shorter and more informal style of the afternoon worship. I hope as these become more established to advertise the services more widely.

Since December 2021 I've taken Communion to the housebound from HRMC and MRMC. There's also been an opportunity to gather a couple of households together for the Home Communion which has been very rewarding, enabling both fellowship and sharing of the sacrament. I regularly visit older people in their homes who have contacted me via booklets or local info, who value a visit and a chat. I have at least five people I visit every couple of weeks, this number is slowly growing.

I've very much enjoyed my first year as Anna Chaplain supported by the HRMC and MRMC communities and hope to create and sustain new connections and growth in the coming year.

Maggie Dodd, Anna Chaplain

BABIES AND TODDLERS

Towards the end of September, we were delighted to be able to reopen our Babies and Toddlers group for the first time since the first lockdown in March 2020. I don't know who was more excited, the volunteers, children or the parents/carers. Of course, the reopening brought some changes, both in format and in staffing.

I took on the role as leader which has mainly involved managing bookings and ensuring we have necessary materials for the session. I am very grateful to Freda and Gina who have continued to help as well as provide me with guidance as we have restarted.

It goes without saying that we have missed the familiar faces who have stepped down or tragically passed away since March 2020 but we were also grateful that Mary Gotts has continued to work behind the scenes and alongside Margaret Quinn has been organising the crafts for each week. We are also very grateful to Joe Quinn and Joe Kinchenton who come down to the church on Tuesday afternoons to help us set up for the sessions and then return on Wednesday morning to help clear away afterwards. Margaret Livesey has also been a great help as she comes to help us clean up after each session.

Pip Davies joined our team early this year and along with Linda Daldry, Brenda Quick, Patsy Spaven, and Carolyn Moody. They have continued to contribute to the welcoming atmosphere of the group and although Louise Bourton stepped down from leading the group she has still been willing to come and help us out every so often.

As we acknowledge that Covid has not gone away we did have to adapt how we did things to minimise the risk of spreading the virus. This has included capping our numbers each week to around 30 and introducing an online booking system. These however did not deter people from coming back and new people wanting to come along. Each week we have been booked up and had many on our waiting list. Parents and carers have commented how much they enjoy coming along to our group and how they enjoy the welcoming and community atmosphere which is sometimes lacking at other groups.

We did have to postpone reopening the group after Christmas but were able to restart after February half term.

We continue to conclude each session with a story and song time but we have also introduced a mini service once a month. This takes a similar format to our story and song time but our story is usually from the Bible or we explore a theme from the Bible (love, thanksgiving, etc). We sing some songs, some of which are the classic Sunday school choruses and then we finish by doing a craft which reinforces the message of the story.

We are still in need of more help with the group, particularly people who can help us set up on a Tuesday afternoon and clear away on a Wednesday morning. It would also be great to have more people who are willing to talk with the parents/carers during the session.

Please talk to Andrew, Freda Gray, Gina Woodhead or myself if you would like to be involved.

Emma Williams, Babies and Toddlers Coordinator

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER'S REPORT

During the summer holidays I organised a few garden gatherings with the intention of providing an opportunity for families to come together, perhaps for the first time since the pandemic began. I was also able to visit all our families in November which was a great opportunity to catch up with a few people we hadn't seen in a while as well as delivering some Advent calendars which were gratefully received.

In September we were able to restart our Sunday Club sessions on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Further information about this is given in the Sunday Club and Youth Fellowship report. Throughout the year I have also continued to meet with the young people who are at University. I meet with the students once a month over zoom. During our time together, we spend time catching up on what has been going on in the previous week, talk about anything we have coming up and share areas for which we would appreciate prayer. This has been a great way to support our young people in this next phase of their life while also maintaining links with them.

As well as our Sunday groups restarting in September, we were thrilled to be able to restart our Babies and Toddlers group after 18 months. You can read more about our group in the Babies and Toddlers report.

At the beginning of October, we launched a new model of All Age Worship with our Create and Celebrate services. This is a fantastic opportunity for people of all ages to come together in the hall to create, build,

play and reflect in a number of different ways all while enjoying a relaxed atmosphere and a cup of tea/coffee. This time is then brought together with a short service. It has been so encouraging to see this time bring people together and encourage new families to come along.

During the October half term, we joined with Marlborough Road to host a Holiday Club for those in school years 1-6. It was a week filled with fun and activities. See the Holiday Club report for full details.

As can be expected, Advent and Christmas brought a period of busy-ness but also some great opportunities to share the Christmas story as well as the hope and light brought by the infant Jesus. At the beginning of December, I was invited to lead the Nativity service. This which was one of our Create and Celebrate services which we concluded with a short sketch of improv interviewing of some of the key characters. I was also able to lead the Christingle service at Marlborough Road and we were delighted to be able to have our Christingle service at Hatfield Road in person once again.

Following on from the links I made with St Peter's Primary and Oakwood Primary last year, I have been able to go into the schools to lead assemblies on a regular basis. I was invited to lead a Year 6 lesson at Oakwood Primary one afternoon about Christmas. We were also delighted to welcome the year 2s from St Peter's Primary to come and spend some time with us at Marlborough Road for the afternoon and have a tour around the church. We hope to have a year group from Oakwood Primary come along to Hatfield Road in the next term. I have also been volunteering with Step and helped to lead a Youth Alpha at Sandringham as well as leading lessons in Beaumont and Sandringham.

I have really enjoyed being able to start groups up again and connecting with children, young people and their families.

Emma Williams, Children and Families Worker

CHRISTIAN AID

Traditionally Christian Aid has received most of its donations through door to door collections. These collections stopped during the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the congregation were encouraged to make online donations. Some regular collectors leafleted nearby roads to make people aware of this option. However it became clear that the church was unlikely to raise as much money as it would normally (£1,000 per year).

For the year 2021-22 the Church decided to organise a sponsored walk to make up for the lost income. A route was devised around 27 of the churches in St Albans. The walk took place on 15th May 2021. Twelve members from HRMC, two from MRMC and five people from three other churches took part in the event, including our own minister and Rev Rosemary Fletcher from Marlborough Road. We were able to publicise the walk with an article in the local paper, contact friends and family via social media to ask for donations and also set up an online account with Just Giving.

The day of the walk turned out to be a day of mixed weather with waterproofs being donned on a number of occasions. Exercise, good fellowship and exploring St Albans made for a thoroughly enjoyable day. The whole route spanned 17.5 miles but each of the participants opted for a distance that suited them. Some walked five miles, some ten, while others completed the full distance. The most important aspect of the day was the money raised for Christian Aid. This came to a grand total of £6,641.25. (£565.00 in cash donations, £5,025 online donations and £1,051.25 in Gift Aid). Many thanks to all who took part.

The change in patterns of giving, particularly as society moves towards being cashless, suggest that door to door collections may well be a thing of the past. Hence events such as sponsored walks will assume greater importance. Another walk is planned for 21st May 2022. All that remains is to decide whether we should continue to repeat this event in years to come or investigate alternative options.

Anne Wall, Christian Aid coordinator

CORNERSTONE HOUSE REPORT

Christmas in Salisbury Village

Cornerstone house had a successful Christmas of outreach. The Christmas Window Hunt involved 34 children from Salisbury Village finding 24 windows, each with a different picture or ornament connected to Christmas. Their reward was the contents of a Christingle to make at Home, some sweets, and a Christmas Those who found all 24 windows were placed into a draw and 3 lucky winners received an extra prize of a craft pack. Alongside this was the Cornerstone House Posada consisting of a knitted Mary, Joseph, and Donkey (made lovingly by Peter and Ruth Wallace from HRMC) accompanied by a flock of lambs, chocolates, and a storybook of the nativity. 20 families hosted Mary and Joseph for 24 hours on their way to Bethlehem. (Lambs are now in short supply). Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Christmas Eve Family Craft Café due to high numbers of families in Salisbury Village with Covid.

Looking Forward to Easter

As the Howe Dell Community Hall still cannot be hired, Easter will once again be based at Cornerstone House. Cornerstone House are planning an Easter Egg Trail on 16th April 2022 between 2pm & 5pm, with laminated 2d eggs placed around the play area off Chipmunk Chase with letters to find. The prize for joining will be a 'real easter Egg'. At the same time an Easter drop-in Craft Cafe will be in the Cornerstone House Community Room, where there will be an opportunity for refreshments and a craft, as well as handing in the completed Easter Egg trail forms and receiving their prizes. Help is needed on the day and with cakes for both activities.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Cornerstone house is hoping to plant some trees on the Chipmunk Chase playground area as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. I have asked the Borough Council's help on this via Councillor Duncan Bell. At present Councillor Bell is approaching the Hatfield Town Council and the Welwyn/Hatfield Borough Council for permission and help to plant 15 saplings from the woodland trust. Cornerstone House would then have a gathering with cupcakes in April to officially plant and put plaques to commemorate the year. Then on Saturday 4th June there will be a Jubilee Park Party on the Chipmunk Playground. A group of Cornerstone House attendees has convened for planning this event and will be meeting on the 8th of March to start planning this in detail. But will probably include the following and more; local choirs, HRMC music group, and a dad from the project as a DJ, one or two entertainers, bouncy castles, a cake tent, a refreshment and tuck tent, face painting, a craft tent and an opportunity to have a selfie with the Queen (cardboard cut-out). Help is needed on the days with setting up, supervising areas and clearing up as well as cakes for both activities.

Deacon Linda Kinchenton (February 2022)

CRADLE ROLL (BAPTISMAL ROLL)

The Cradle Roll is a register of all the children who have been welcomed into the church through Baptism or a Service of Thanksgiving. Their names are proudly displayed in the Children's corner. The children are kept on the Cradle Roll until they are three years old when they are promoted into the Sunday Club. There are six children on the Cradle Roll: George, 4; Lilly-Rai, 4; Charles, 2; Evelyn, 3 and Julia, 3. There have been three baptisms since our last AGM in June 2021. Each child receives a card from the church on their anniversary of their baptism.

Adelita Serwaa-Bonsu, Cradle Roll Secretary

DAY CARE GROUP

This Group has been running since 1988 and is much loved by those who attend.

We re-started on Friday October 1st 2021 following a time of uncertainty for everyone. However as the weeks have gone by we are at a time of great happiness. We have been blessed with the support of Maggie Dodd and those who have offered to collect our visitors each week. We all, of course, continue with lateral flow tests before arriving.

Under the guidance of Maggie, myself and others we have craft work (most weeks) quizzes, conversation (non stop), much enjoyment and laughter. We also have great lunches, tea, coffee, and of course the occasional birthday cake.

At this present time we have 6 elderly visitors and 8 helpers, plus those who provide transport each week. We are extremely thankful to the kitchen staff of St. Alban and St. Stephen Junior School, who supply our lunches, and to the wife of one of our helpers who collects and returns containers each week for us. This Group is a joy to all of us who attend each week and we are hoping to increase slightly our number of visitors and helpers.

Sue Davey, Daycare Coordinator

GROWMORE RAMBLERS

It was with great pleasure that the Growmore Rambles restarted in January this year, following an almost two year gap necessitated by Covid restriction and regulations. The walks have resumed on the 4th Saturday of the month. This season different members of the group are taking it in turns to lead which is allowing us to explore some of the new routes and paths that we followed during lockdown. The walks planned are usually 5-6 miles and take about 2- 2 1/2 hours to complete. New walkers are always welcome.

Denise Willingham

HOUSE GROUPS

Since taking over the role of House Group Co-ordinator from Roy Vivian in September 2021, thanks to the easing of 'Lockdown' rules we have been able to meet in person should we choose rather than via Zoom. In practice, most groups seem to have a mix of both and will probably continue to meet in this way for the foreseeable future.

We now only have 4 House Groups meeting every two weeks hosted by Ros Hancock, Tony Moody, Peter Wallace and myself. Chris Hancock's House Group (mainly from Marlborough Road) has sadly had to be disbanded due to a number of members' ill health, making the meeting unviable.

House Group Leaders met on 8th December and 30th March, deciding that each House Group could ask their members what they would like to study and then choose their own material. It was felt that this would broaden the style of the studies, breaking away from simply a question and answer format if that was what most members wanted.

Over the last 7 months 2 groups looked at 'Hope' and 'Hospitality' both of which are Lifebuilder Studies. The remaining 2 groups sourced their own material, including ‘Psalms’, 'Watching & Waiting' and 'Living in Isolation'. We are currently looking for new study material for the summer and will meet to confirm our choices later in July.

In an effort to encourage more of the congregation to join a House Group, I asked each Pastoral Visitor to contact those under their care to make sure that everyone is aware of House Groups, when they are and to emphasise that all are welcome. So far 2 new members have joined a group whilst others may consider joining at a later date. I shall follow up when appropriate.

The House Group Notice in the foyer has been updated but the information on the church's website re House Groups needs updating, an issue that will be sorted by our clever techies when time permits.

Johanna Mason, House Group Co-ordinator

JUNIOR MISSION FOR ALL (JMA)

JMA is a network of children, supported by adults, who support and learn about the mission of the church all over the world. The JMA promise is to 'Learn, pray and serve with the worldwide church of Jesus Christ'. Money raised is allocated 1 fifth to the Methodist Mission in Britain Fund and 4 fifths to the Methodist World Mission Fund.

At HRMC we now have 3 collectors, Goldy and Honor and our new collector Simon. Many thanks to Jonathan and Rebecca who have now retired but who over the past 7 years have raised almost £1000 between them.

Once again COVID has prevented any fundraising events however we were finally able to present our collectors with their badges and certificates during a service in the Autumn. Collectors have also been able to start doing some collecting again after the service when circumstances have permitted.

The total raised in the JMA year 2020 – 2021 was £266.06 which will be boosted by Gift Aid in due course.

Ruth Wallace, JMA Treasurer

MUSIC GROUP

The Covid-19 pandemic has provided the Music Group with another challenging year, as we continue to be restricted to wearing masks at all times during services. In order to lead the music well, as we continue to stream our services, we try to record the hymns to provide a strong lead, as singing through masks does sound rather muffled! Despite us having recorded some 180 hymns over the past 2 years, preachers still manage to choose hymns we haven't yet recorded. Our hope is that the recordings will provide a resource which can be used by others in services and small group worship.

Once again we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Chris Hancock for the very many hours he has spent producing the hymns, and to Mike Sheehan for providing all the music. I would also like to thank all the regular Music Group members who turn up each week ready to learn, rehearse and record. And I mustn't forget to mention those who joined us at Christmas to enable us to sing anthems at our carol service.

We do welcome new members of any age from secondary school upwards to join the Group. If you enjoy singing, or can play an instrument and would be interested in joining us for special events, on a regular basis, or in our recording sessions, please speak to Joanna Rose. If you are a competent pianist and would be interested in playing the piano or organ for any services once singing in worship is permitted, again please contact Joanna.

This has certainly been another challenging year for us all, and I sincerely hope the time is drawing near when we can all sing together again free from masks in praise to our heavenly Father.

Joanna Rose, Music Group leader

PASTORAL TEAM

The Pastoral Team at Hatfield Road Methodist Church comprises Rev Andrew Prout, Denise Willingham as Pastoral Steward, Gina Woodhead as Pastoral Secretary, 14 members of the church who are Pastoral Visitors, and 5 House Group Leaders.

This year there have been some changes to the Pastoral Team. Muriel Ison and Betty Burdett have stepped down as Pastoral Visitors and Roy Vivian has stepped down as House Group Coordinator and House Group Leader, after many years of faithful service. We are thankful for their experience, welcome, love and support for all of us. Roy Vivian continues his role with the Prayer Tree.

We welcome three new Pastoral Visitors, Anne Wall, Louise Mullins and Ruth Wallace. Johanna Mason continues as a House Group Leader and has taken on the role of House Group Coordinator. Thank you to them all for their willingness to serve in the Pastoral Team.

Since the last AGM in May 2021 the Pastoral Team have had two meetings one via Zoom in July 2021 and one in March 2022, in person at church.

The Pastoral Team have worked hard to keep in touch with members of the church, adherents and the wider church family. Contact has been by telephone or email or where possible face to face following government and Methodist Church guidelines. The church will provide lateral flow tests for use by the Pastoral Team after 1 April should they be considered a requirement for visiting.

Thanks go to Rev Rosemary Fletcher who provided Pastoral Support while Rev Andrew was away on sabbatical. Thanks also go to the members of the Pastoral Team and others for their willingness to give their time, efforts, gifts, cards, phone calls, visits and support to our church family and the wider community especially over times of “lock down” due to the pandemic and restrictions imposed.

Sue Edwards was a great help towards the end of last year, updating the Directory of Members. Thank you, Sue. The November 2021 Directory, The Methodist Church Membership Cards, a Christmas Greeting and Letter from The Minister were distributed at the beginning of December when Rev Andrew returned.

Currently there are 106 members of the church and approximately 50 adherents. We remember Eileen Holt, a church member who passed away in March 2022. Betty Burdett, a much-loved member of our church, has transferred her membership to Unity Methodist Church in Sandbach, near her new home. Marion and Philip Eaton, Richard and Corrine Cheffers have transferred their memberships to other churches. We thank them for their great contribution to HRMC over the years and wish them well with their new church families. They are always welcome at HRMC. We have welcomed 2 new members to our church Ivy Tavershima and Hugo Gomes. Pat Maziane has transferred to Hatfield Road Methodist from Marlborough Road Methodist Church.

You are welcome to contact Andrew or Gina if you feel you would like to get involved in Pastoral Care, join the Pastoral Team, or have any concerns or suggestions you would like to share.

Please pray for the work of the Pastoral Team at HRMC.

Gina Woodhead, Pastoral Secretary

PRAYER MINISTRY

Much of the Prayer Ministry's conventional activities associated with our Sunday Services have continued to be impacted by the pandemic. For example, not until normality returns will it be possible for members of the Prayer Team to pray with Church members in the Sanctuary at the end of the 10.30am Service.

As from the beginning of January the weekly publication of the Prayer Diary, which is overseen by Peggy Liffen, has been included in Sunday's Notices which are circulated every week either on line or by hand to all Church members and adherents. In this way all the people and families who are listed can be remembered in our prayers during the following week.

Almost nine years have elapsed since a prayer meeting was started by Ros Hancock initially to pray for the success of the first Cliff College Mission and then, subsequently, to pray for the needs of our Church as a whole. The meetings take place on Tuesday mornings (via Whats App) and are supported by members of Ros's house group and a few other Church members.

The prayer initiative introduced in 2009 by Graham Smith and Chris Hancock re-started in the Autumn following the relaxation of the pandemic restrictions. The meetings are held at Church between 7.00am and 8.00am on Wednesday mornings. People are free to come and go as suits them best.

The Prayer Tree continues and there are now 33 of us who are members of it. Prayer requests are normally emailed out to members and this is particularly useful in cases of urgency. The knowledge that many people are offering prayers provides comfort and support to those who have requested them.

Roy Vivian

SUNDAY CLUB AND YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Since the beginning of the academic year, Sunday Club has been able to meet in person during the Sunday service. When the Sunday club leaders met in the summer we decided to trial only having Sunday Club on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. This was partly to reduce the strain with fewer numbers of leaders but also to ensure that the leaders had an opportunity to worship with the congregation rather than always being out leading our children and young people. The other Sundays of the month are all age services.

Tomas has continued to lead the sessions for those in year 7 upwards with the help of Ruth and Alison while the younger group have been led by Caroline, Pip, Helen Jeffery, and myself with Lesley willing to help when we are short staffed. I am very grateful to everyone as without them, we would not be able to offer this ministry. Tomas devises his own sessions for the older ones while the younger group have been working their way through the Bible. Starting at the beginning of Genesis we are looking at the lives of some of the key characters in the Bible and their relationship with God through activities, games, stories and crafts.

Although the numbers may be smaller than they were before the pandemic we still make sure the quality of the sessions remains consistent. It is a joy to come alongside our children and young people as they explore the Bible and develop their own relationship with God.

I have made various attempts to meet with and engage some of our young people from both Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road, including a pizza party just before Christmas. Unfortunately, a new variant of Covid put a spanner in the works and so we were unable to go ahead with this event. We invited 267 to host FUEL at Hatfield Road at the end of January and it was great to see some of our young people come along and meet others from different churches. We hope to continue enabling our young people to attend FUEL at other churches as they wish and plan an event for our young people over Easter weekend.

Emma Williams

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN GREAT BRITAIN - SOME FACTS ABOUT US

Constitution

The constitution of the Methodist Church in Britain is contained in the Deed of Union conferred by the Methodist Union Church Act 1929. That Act was replaced by the Methodist Church Act 1976 and its statutory Model Trusts.

The Deed of Union (Part 1 Section 4 Government) provides for the governing body of the church to be the Methodist Conference. The constitution and powers of the Conference are stated and include the power to make standing orders.

The Methodist Church Act 1939 constituted and incorporated a single body of trustees called the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposed (TMCP and known as the custodian trustees) to hold all real, leasehold and other personal estate of the Methodist Church. Various other church courts in the Methodist Church, and accountable to the Methodist Conference and constituted in accordance with those standing orders, act as "local managing trustees".

The Methodist Church Funds Act 1960 provides for the investment of funds of the Methodist Church.

The Sharing of Buildings Act 1969 makes provision for the sharing and using of church buildings in England and Wales by different churches.

Purposes

The purposes of the Methodist Church are set out in Section 4 of the 1976 Act. They are the advancement of:

(a) *the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church*
(b) *any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church*
(c) *any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church*
(d) *any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.*

The details are contained in a publication called The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church Volumes 1 and 2 published by Methodist Publishing, Norwich Books and Music, 13a Hellesdon Park Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR6 5DR Tel: 0845 017 8220 and orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk.

In England and Wales all Methodist churches, circuits and districts with a gross annual income of over £100,000 per annum need to register with the Charity Commission. Methodist charities with an income under £100,000 per annum continue to be excepted from registration. This exception is provided by the Statutory Instrument 2014 No. 242.

Charitable status

The Methodist Church in Britain (referred to as the Connexion) is made up of over 6000 separate charities and is not a single entity. A separate registration exists in the name of the Methodist Church in Great Britain with the Methodist Conference as the trustee body. Its registration number applies only to

the connexional charity and the main connexionally-held funds. Local churches, circuits and districts cannot use that number.

All Methodist churches, circuits and districts are charities whether or not they are registered with the Charity Commission. The Charities (Exception from Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 extended the exception for religious charities in England and Wales with an income under £100,000 per annum until 31 March 2021.

All charities (excluding excepted charities) must keep accounting records and make the annual report and financial accounts available to the public on request.

Structure, governance and management

The whole of the Methodist Church in Britain is referred to as "the Connexion". It operates through 31 Districts in Great Britain which are divided, with a few exceptions, into circuits. Those circuits normally include several churches and ministers. See the Methodist Districts map at the end for further details.

The local church mainly manages its own affairs (including church property) through the Church Council where its members are the managing trustees. It is connected by representative membership to others in the circuit, and more widely to the district and the Connexion.

The Methodist Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans is part of the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit. Three of its church council members represent it at the Circuit Meeting in addition to the Minister, Senior Church Steward and the Church Treasurer. Members of the Church Council must complete a Trustee Eligibility Declaration (T.E.D.) and receive an induction on appointment. Further training is given when needed and existing trustees are required to confirm their ongoing eligibility by completing T.E.D.s at intervals determined by the charity.

The Church Council comprises ministers, ex officio members and members elected once a year by the general church meeting. On election, members serve from 1 July for one year and may be eligible for re-election for a further year up to a normal maximum of six years.

The Church Council meets between three and four times a year and undertakes much of its work through a number of committees with delegated authority.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy is to aim to hold a sum equal to six months' normal expenditure. Any funds above that figure are held pending anticipated major property work and the development of local mission and ministry. This was adopted by the Church Council on 11 October 2016 and is reviewed annually.

Church Council Members

Church Council membership is confirmed at each meeting and at 15 March 2022 was as follows:

Membership of Church Council 15th May 2022

Position	Name	Date Appointed
Circuit Ministers SO 610 (1) (i)	Rev Rosemary Fletcher (Superintendent)	09/2013
	Rev Andrew Prout (Minister Pastoral Charge)	09/2014
SO 610 (1) (i) & SO 610 (4) (i)	Deacon Linda Kinchenton	11/2021
Church Stewards SO 610 (1) (vi)	Denise Willingham (Senior Church Steward) [1a]	05/2016
	Angela Andrews [1]	05/2018
	Tomas Cvrcek [1]	05/2018
	Lianne Weidmann [1]	06/2017
	Joe Kinchenton [1]	O7/2019
	Noelene Browning [1]	10/2019
Church Treasurer SO 610 (1) (vii)	Eric Bridgstock	06/2018
Pastoral Committee SO 610 (1) (viii)	Gina Woodhead [3]	01/2009
Church Council Secretary SO 610 (1) (ix)	Angela Spriggs	10/2019
One Circuit Steward appointed by the Circuit Stewards SO 610 (1) (xii)	Stuart Johnson	09/2020
Not less than six representatives nor more than fifteen elected annually by General Church Meeting (SO 610 (1) (x)	Caroline Tough [1] [Elected by ballot]	05/2012
	Ros Hancock [1]	05/2015
	Chris Kitchin [1]	06/2017
	Graham Danbury [1]	05/2018
	James Appiah	06/2021
Plus up to 15 additional persons appointed by the Church Council to ensure that all areas of the church's life are adequately represented and in particular that, wherever possible, young people are included in its membership SO 610 (1) (xi) as follows: 5 & 6		
Sunday Club and Youth Superintendent	Vacancy	
Property & Finance Committee	Eric Bridgstock (Chair of Meeting) Vacancy	06/2019
Mission Secretaries Action Group (Mission in Britain / World Missions / JMA / Christian Aid / Justice & Peace)	To Be Appointed	-
Worship Consultation Convenor	Peter Wallace	09/2015
Safeguarding Officer	Joanna Rose	05/2009
Other	Freda Gray [Catering & Property] Val Parker Emma Williams (Children and Families Worker, observer) Maggie Dodd (Anna Chaplain, observer)	08/2017 06/2019 11/2021 11/2021
Elected to Circuit Meeting (Ex Officio Officers) SO 510 (1) (vii) (plus 3 others) SO 510 (1) (viii)	Church Steward [Ex Officio]: Denise Willingham Church Treasurer [Ex Officio]: Eric Bridgstock Joanna Rose Chris Hancock [Ex Officio] Vacancy	 09/2015 09/2017 XX/XXXX

Notes to membership

1 *Elected annually by the General Church Meeting (SO 632), must be a Member of the Methodist Church (SO 632) and may serve for a maximum of 6 years or for longer subject to there being no one to fill the vacancy and their election being endorsed by ballot with at least 75% voting in favour (SO 607).*

1a *Elected by the church stewards as senior steward for one year at a time.*

2 *Appointed annually by the Church Council, must be a Member of the Methodist Church (SO 635) and may serve for a maximum of 6 years or for longer subject to there being no one to fill the vacancy and their election being endorsed by ballot with at least 75% voting in favour (SO 607).*

3 *Appointed annually by the Church Council from among the members of the Pastoral Committee (SO 644 (6), must be a Member of the Methodist Church (SO 632) and may serve for a maximum of 6 years or for longer subject to their being no one to fill the vacancy and their election being endorsed by ballot with at least 75% voting in favour (SO 607).*

4 *Appointed annually by the Church Council and may serve for a maximum of 6 years or for longer subject to there being no one to fill the vacancy and their election being endorsed by ballot with at least 75% voting in favour (SO 607).*

5 *Appointed annually by the Church Council (SO 610 (1) (xi)), must be a Member of the Methodist Church (SO 610 (2A))*

6 *Young people under the age of 18 cannot legally become managing trustees and so are not eligible to vote on managing trustee business (SO 610 (2A) (b) footnote).*

The references here to Standing Orders (SO) are those of The Methodist Church contained in *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of The Methodist Church Volume 2.*

Custodian Trustees

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JQ
Tel: 0161 236 5194 & legal@tmcp.methodist.org.uk

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Appointed advisers

The Church Council continued to use the services of an Independent Examiner in Mr. John Robinson (contact details available on request) to examine the accounts for the financial year 2020-2021.

Websites

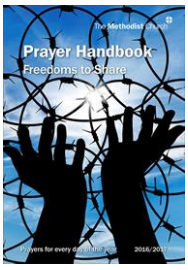
www.hatfieldroadmethodist.org
www.stalbanswelwyncircuit.org.uk
www.methodist.org.uk
www.tmcp.org.uk

Registered address and Charity Number

The Methodist Church, 133b Hatfield Road, Fleetville, St Albans, AL1 4JX
Charity Registration No. 1173147,

Why not keep in touch with the wider Methodist Church in Britain...

- **the connexion**, regular magazine, copies in the Foyer *www.methodist.org.uk/theconnexion*
- **Methodist Prayer Handbook** from Methodist Publishing & Rev'dColin Rowe
- **Regular e-news**: *www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/sign-up-for-e-newsletters*
- **Leadership Blogs**: *www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/leadership-blogs*
- **Latest news**: *www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/news-releases*
- **Sharing good news stories**: *www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/sign-up-for-e-newsletters*
- **Safeguarding**: www.methodist.org.uk/ministers-and-office-holders/safeguarding
- **Further resources** from Methodist Publishing *www.mph.org.uk*



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The Methodist Church

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HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST **Church**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2021

St Albans & Welwyn	**Circuit**	**Circuit no**	**34/13**

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number **1173147**

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 Andrew Prout

Church Stewards:

Denise Willingham	**Tomas Cvrcek**
Angela Andrews	**Joe Kinchenton**
Noelene Browning	**Lianne Weidmann**

Treasurer:

Eric Bridgstock

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021 | **HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST** **Church**

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year	
			£	£	£		£	
a1	**RECEIPTS**	**Note**						
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		73503		**73503**		69841	
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		267		**267**		1031	
a4	Lettings		1301		**1301**		4801	
a5	Other receipts		5503	50456	**55959**		57015	
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**80574**	**50456**	**131030**	**(a7)**	**132688**	
	SECTION B							
b1	**PAYMENTS**							
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		52800		**52800**		52800	
b3	Donations		540		**540**		180	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		21343	15000	**36343**		13424	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		6373		**6373**		6942	
b6					**0**			
b7	Other payments		6431	36697	**43128**		11240	
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**87487**	**51697**	**139184**	**(b9)**	**84586**	
	SECTION C							
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	**(a6-b8)**	-6913	-1241	**-8154**		48102	
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		56805	161666	**218471**	**(c6)**	170369	
c3	**Sub total**	**(c1+c2)**	49892	160425	**210317**		**218471**	
c4	Transfers and adjustments		-762		**-762**	**(c7)**		
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	**(c3+c4)**	**49130**	**160425**	**209555**	**(c8)**	**218471**	**(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		1,363		348
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		1,709		2,911
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		2,483		1,896
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID**	(d1+d2-d3)	**589**		**1,363**

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST **Church**

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 2021 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)**	**131030** **(a7)**	**139184** **(b9)**	**-8154**	**-1188** **(c7)**	**219486** **(c6)**	**210144** **(c8)**
e10	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**131030**	**139184**	**-8154**	**-1188**	**219486** **(x)**	**210144** **(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 2021	**OPENING BALANCES**		**CLOSING BALANCES**	
f1	Cash in hand				
f2	Bank Current Account	23827		35731	
f3	Bank Deposit Account	1000			
f4	Central Finance Board	194659		174413	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes				
f6	Other funds				
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**219486**	(c6)	**210144**	(c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)
f9	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**219486**	(x)	**210144**	(y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	346	409
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	2,632,046	2,632,046
g3	Other Assets	130,175	130,175
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

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 **HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH No 34/13 .....**

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 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 15/3/2022

Name and address of treasurer ..... **Eric Bridgstock**

16 Evans Grove, St Albans, Herts AL4 9PJ

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/~~will be~~* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 15/3/22.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting ..... REV ANDREW PROUT

Name of the Chair of the meeting ... REV ANDREW PROUT ..... Date ...13/3/22...

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Hatfield Road Methodist Church

Charity Number . 1173147

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hatfield Road Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2021 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').

Name of Church .....**Hatfield Road Methodist**..... No **34/13**

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 **JOHN ROBINSON**.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner A.C.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address ..... **Cedarwood, 5 Harmer Dell, Digswell, Welwyn**

.....Post Code **AL6 0BE**

Date 30/3/22

* delete or circle as appropriate

Jan-21

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST **Church**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2021

St Albans & Welwyn	**Circuit**	**Circuit no**	**34/13**

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(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)

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Angela Andrews	**Joe Kinchenton**
Noelene Browning	**Lianne Weidmann**

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Eric Bridgstock

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HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST **Church**

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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)**	**131030** **(a7)**	**139184** **(b9)**	**-8154**	**-1188** **(c7)**	**219486** **(c6)**	**210144** **(c8)**
e10	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**131030**	**139184**	**-8154**	**-1188**	**219486** **(x)**	**210144** **(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 2021	**OPENING BALANCES**		**CLOSING BALANCES**	
f1	Cash in hand				
f2	Bank Current Account	23827		35731	
f3	Bank Deposit Account	1000			
f4	Central Finance Board	194659		174413	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes				
f6	Other funds				
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**219486**	(c6)	**210144**	(c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)
f9	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**219486**	(x)	**210144**	(y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	346	409
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	2,632,046	2,632,046
g3	Other Assets	130,175	130,175
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

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 **HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH No 34/13 .....**

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 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 15/3/2022

Name and address of treasurer ..... **Eric Bridgstock**

16 Evans Grove, St Albans, Herts AL4 9PJ

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/~~will be~~* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 15/3/22.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting ..... REV ANDREW PROUT

Name of the Chair of the meeting ... REV ANDREW PROUT ..... Date ...13/3/22...

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Hatfield Road Methodist Church

Charity Number . 1173147

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hatfield Road Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2021 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').

Name of Church .....**Hatfield Road Methodist**..... No **34/13**

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 **JOHN ROBINSON**.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner A.C.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address ..... **Cedarwood, 5 Harmer Dell, Digswell, Welwyn**

.....Post Code **AL6 0BE**

Date 30/3/22

* delete or circle as appropriate

Jan-21

THE METHODIST CHURCH, HATFIELD ROAD, ST ALBANS

England & Wales - Charity number 1173147

Accounts

Hatfield Road
Methodist Church
St Albans

The Methodist Church

Hatfield Road Methodist Church

Serving Christ and the Local Community

Annual Report 2020/2021

The Methodist Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans is part of the St Albans and Welwyn Methodist Circuit in the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire District of the Methodist Church in Britain.

The Calling of The Methodist Church in Britain is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission.

It does this through:

WORSHIP
By increasing awareness of God's presence and celebrating God's love

LEARNING & CARING
By helping people grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care

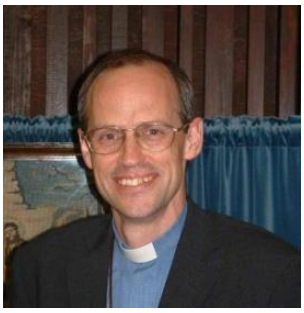
SERVICE
By being a good neighbour to people in need and challenging injustice

EVANGELISM
By making more followers of Jesus Christ

If you would like a larger print version of this Annual Report, please contact the Minister or one of the Church Stewards

CONTENTS	CONTRIBUTOR
Our Minister's Message	Rev'd Andrew Prout
Church Stewards' Report	Denise Willingham
Church Council Report	Rev'd Andrew Prout, Angela Spriggs
Safeguarding	Joanna Rose
Church Treasurer's Report	Eric Bridgstock
Property and Finance Committee	Sue Davey, Eric Bridgstock
Lay Worker Project	James Rowley
Aldersgate Café	Christine Ford
Babies & Toddlers	Gina Woodhead
Childrens and Families Worker's Report	Emma Haggis
Christian Aid	Anne Wall
Cradle Roll (Baptismal Roll)	Rev'd Andrew Prout, Sally Crowther
Day Care Group	Rev'd Andrew Prout
Growmore Ramblers	Denise Willingham
House Groups	Roy Vivian
Junior Mission for All (JMA)	Sarah and Ruth Wallace
Music Group	Joanna Rose
Network Fellowship	Rev'd Andrew Prout
Pastoral Team	Gina Woodhead
Prayer Ministry	Roy Vivian
Sunday Club and Youth Fellowship	Rev'd Andrew Prout

OUR MINISTER'S MESSAGE



At the time of writing last years' report we were all only beginning to readjust to all the changes made necessary by the Covid-19 pandemic, and grieving those who had already died. This was followed by the subsequent announcement of the first national lockdown in March of 2020. It has needless to say been an incredibly challenging and difficult period for everyone, and only now is there a sense of an end in sight with the success of the vaccination programme. The pandemic has meant that we have not been able to gather in one place as a congregation since the announcement of the first lockdown in March of 2020. Between lockdowns, and more recently, when we have been able to meet, we have had to hold two separate services to accommodate rules on social distancing. We have throughout been particularly mindful of those who have not been able to attend services at all. For those who have been able, it has been difficult not being able to sing and to have to arrive and disperse without the opportunity for conversation. Having acknowledged this, we have still been able to pray and to worship together as a community, whether in the gathered space, or in the digital space through a combination of recorded and livestreamed services, or reading a service at home. It has been an incredible effort on the part of the Church Stewards, the AV Team, Chris Hancock as our Website Manager, the Music Group, the Property Team, our Preachers and Worship Leaders, Eric Bridgstock as our Notice Steward, and the Covid-19 Group working with the Church Council to make this possible. The Pastoral Team led by Gina Woodhead have separately ensured that all of our members and adherents have been regularly contacted by phone or when possible through doorstep visits, and that we have done as much as possible to give everyone encouragement and support. I must also at this juncture record my thanks to Denise Willingham for all she has done as our Senior Church Steward.

It has been a time when we have felt deeply the loss of those who have died not least because of the circumstances. Since the pandemic began eleven of our most well-loved members and adherents have died – **Andrew Robertson, George Selvarajan, David Jones, Yvonne Winter, Glyn Lewis, Tara Samson, Geoff Burdett, Sheila Fowler, Margaret Tims, Sheila Wallace and Alan Davey**. In each case funerals have had to be conducted subject to restrictions. We continue to remember all who have died and to uphold them and each other, and each of their loved ones and families in our thoughts and prayers.

In addition many of our normal activities have of course been curtailed or will have stopped completely during the COVID-19 pandemic. Growmore Ramblers, Holiday at Home, Network Fellowship, Girls' and Boys' Brigade, Babies and Toddlers and other social events were among the many activities suspended. Despite the restrictions many groups have continued to reach out to their members to provide support and adapt how they are working. The Aldersgate Café's change to Café2U and the House Groups meeting via Zoom are two fantastic examples (see reports below). As we emerge from the pandemic I believe we can yet look forward positively as we seek to continue in our mission of 'Serving Christ and the Local Community'.

The last twelve months have witnessed many acts of kindness and care rooted in the Gospel. They have also witnessed the successful recruitment in partnership with Marlborough Road Methodist Church of first, a full time Children and Families Worker in Emma Haggis in August of 2020, and second, of a full time Anna Chaplain in Maggie Dodd in April of this year. This cements our commitment to both families and people of younger years, and to people in later life, not just in the Church but also in the Local Community. It is a reminder of our mission which must reach out to each and every person at every stage of life. In April of this year the Circuit signed off 'The Way Forward' document. Although this will see a reduction in ministerial staff from 5 to 4 in September of 2022, it will see Marlborough Road and Hatfield Road Methodist Churches placed in a single section under one Presbyter working with a Deacon, giving over 50%

of their time, and with the Anna Chaplain and the Children and Families Worker. It will give further impetus to joint work across both Churches such as in 'Holiday at Home' and focus our efforts in both Fleetville and the City Centre. With Marlborough Road Methodist Church we will also be embracing from this Autumn the work in Salisbury Village where the Deacon is based. This is a piece of outreach that touches many people who live with challenges as a result of greater social deprivation.

As we go forward, although the consequences of the long period of lockdown will mean that some of our activities might not emerge quite the same or may have to cease, others will yet emerge with renewed purpose as we seek to connect to people both inside and outside the Church. New ideas and activities will also be forthcoming as we work with Emma and Maggie, and as we consider all that is possible both within the physical and the digital space. Neither must we forget those who do not use the internet. It is about caring for the whole person all of the time, brother, sister, neighbour and stranger. In this vein we should not underestimate the personal trauma of these last eighteen months and the importance of responding to each end every person's need. No one has been left untouched by the pandemic with personal bereavement, separation from and absence of contact with family and friends, physical and mental health implications, and challenges of work. Young people have had their education disrupted, others have seen their job disappear or been furloughed and others as key workers have faced constant pressure and strain. There is a very real work and ministry of healing and restoration in which we will need to be engaged.

In all of this we remind ourselves that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord, and that to love God, our neighbour and each other is where everything must begin. How encouraging also that in December, whilst caught up still in the midst of the pandemic, Helen Wallace decided to go ahead with her confirmation and reception into membership of the Methodist Church. It was a confident assertion that God remains in our midst and nothing can hold back His work in our lives, in the Church and in the world.

I record my thanks to everyone for their support and hard effort over this past year, not least when I was not well or feeling low myself, and I invite you to find strength and encouragement in the reading and digesting of this annual report. In different ways, even during the darkest days of this pandemic we have been able to minister to one another and touch the lives of people with the love and grace of God. The words of the Psalms have been a source of constant comfort and inspiration for me and for many throughout, and it is with the reassuring words of Psalm 139 I conclude …

If I rise on the wings of the dawn
If I settle on the far side of the sea
Even there your hand will guide me
Your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me
And the light become night around me'
Even the darkness will not be dark to you.
The night will shine like the day for darkness is as light to you.

Together let us uphold and encourage one another, and know that God as always has plans to prosper us and give us a future. Thanking you most sincerely and remaining in your and God's service as together we journey forth, forgetting not the difficult and challenging times we have shared or those whose names are now spoken in Heaven.

Rev'd Andrew Prout, Minister with Pastoral Charge

CHURCH STEWARDS' REPORT

The last year has inevitably been dominated by the COVID pandemic. It has been a year of great sadness for so many but also one in which the church community has drawn together to offer much support and pastoral care. We have faced many challenges but these have been met by different and creative ways of 'doing church'. There have also been opportunities to encourage new shoots and to make plans for the future.

Much has been happening behind the scenes and once again it is thanks to all the teamwork in the church. I am grateful to the Church Stewards who have continued to meet regularly with Andrew each month by Zoom. This has enabled us to respond flexibly to both the needs of the church and to the ever changing Covid regulations. In this regard particular thanks are also due to the Worship Consultation team, the Music Group, the Covid Group and the Property Committee. The Pastoral Team has provided unstinting support throughout the year. When the church has been open for worship the stewards have been ably supported by the Sunday Assistants.

During the first lockdown in spring 2020 worship was moved online by way of a website service. New skills were rapidly developed including the Preachers creating videos of sermons and the Music Group recording individually at home. The church was gradually able to reopen, first in August for private prayer and then in September for public worship. Further lockdowns ensued during which worship continued on line. It was a great joy to be able to reopen for public worship in time for Holy Week. Easter Sunday felt particularly special this year. Live streaming was established to support the funeral ministry of the church, something for which the families involved were very grateful. Live streaming of Sunday worship is now offered each week. The number of hits on the website has demonstrated the immense value of online worship being available to those who are not able to attend church. This is something which will therefore continue. Paper based services and communications have continued to support those who need them. The church is deeply indebted to Chris Hancock who has devoted his time and considerable gifts to developing all the many aspects of online worship.

The Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road church stewards have met regularly by Zoom. This has enabled us to work together on the 'Way Forward' proposals from the Circuit and to build closer links between the two churches as we prepare to have one presbyter and a part time deacon in St Albans. The joint meetings have been very productive and have identified various areas where the churches can work together or share ministries. Any hoped recommencement in 2021 of established activities such as Holiday@Home will necessarily be dependent on the status of the pandemic.

Excitingly one area of joint work has already borne fruit in the successful appointment of two lay workers to the churches. Emma Haggis was appointed as the Children and Families worker in August 2020 and in April 2021 Maggie Dodd starts her role as Anna Chaplain to St Albans. We eagerly anticipate the possibilities that these new roles will bring to the joint ministry of HRMC and MRMC.

We thank God for His faithfulness through this difficult and challenging year. We pray for His continued guidance in our ministry as we come out of the pandemic and look to the future.

Denise Willingham, Senior Church Steward

CHURCH COUNCIL

The duties of the Church Council are to Act together and in person and not delegate control to others; Act strictly in accordance with our governing documents; Act only in the church's interests; Manage the church's affairs prudently and take a long term as well as a short-term view; Not derive any personal benefit or gain for the trustees; Take professional advice on matters in which they are not themselves competent.

The Church Council is responsible for the affairs of our church and usually meets three times a year. Members, who may normally serve for up to 6 years, are appointed ex officio (e.g. the Minister and Church Stewards), elected by the annual Church General Meeting, or appointed by the Council itself to ensure that all areas of the church's life are adequately represented.

Church Council meetings are open to any church member but only Church Council members may vote. Non Council members may speak with the permission of the meeting and, if the wish to do this, should speak to the Minister or Church Council Secretary in advance. Papers about the meetings can be found on the church website.

Hatfield Road Methodist Church is a Registered Charity (Registration No. 1173147). Registration with the Charity Commission was completed in 2017 after the Churches income in the previous year rose above the threshold set by the Commissioners which would have allowed 'excepted' status. By the Charities Act 2006 charities including churches are accountable to the public for the resources they control.

As with other groups the Church Council has had to adapt to new ways of working during the COVID crisis. Meetings were temporarily suspended and the May AGM cancelled in accordance with guidance from the Government and the connexional Methodist Church. Meetings resumed in July by Zoom. Unfortunately this excluded two members without online access. Since July the Council has been extremely busy. As well as the three normal meetings within a year (July 2020, November 2020, and March 2021) there were three extraordinary meetings to discuss the 'Way Forward' (September 2020, February 2021 and April 2021). The last extraordinary meeting was held jointly with Marlborough Road Methodist Church. Representatives to the Church Council also attended cross-Circuit meetings on the 'Way Forward'. During the year there have been no changes in roles but one member, Sue Davey, stood down after 14 years of service on the Council. We thank Sue sincerely for all her work and support over this time.

Rev'd Andrew Prout; Angela Spriggs, Church Council Secretary

SAFEGUARDING

The past year has been very different for all of us, with the Covid-19 pandemic meaning that we have had far less direct contact with our children, young people and vulnerable adults. Even when much of the contact has been by phone, or online, we maintain a safeguarding policy which restricts those who can work with them and who are subject to appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. We follow the guidelines set down by the Methodist Church on safe recruitment, and once in post, job holders have to undertake the Methodist Church's Creating Safer Spaces training, with a refresher course every four years. Training has been difficult this year, with no face-to-face training being able to take place, but the Methodist Church has now agreed that training can be undertaken online, and the Circuit has two people recently trained to run the course. Training will recommence in the early summer.

All those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church should be able to identify signs of various types of abuse, know how to react, and who to inform of any concerns they may have. We do all we can to create a safe space for everyone within Hatfield Road Methodist Church and for those with whom we have contact virtually, either online or by phone.

No alcohol is allowed on the premises. The Methodist Church has a policy not to do so.

Joanna Rose, Safeguarding Officer

CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT, 30 April 2020

The 2019-20 Accounts were examined by an Independent Examiner, John Robinson, and were fully signed off on 24 March 2021.

Our application for a CAF Bank account was delivered in July 2020, and the account was opened in September. The Barclays account was closed at the end of October. All problems experienced during the transition have now been resolved. CAF continues to provide all that we want but, from 4 January 2021, the monthly charge increased from £5 a month to £8, and there is now a 50p charge for issuing a cheque. This is still much better than Barclays.

The interest rate on our Deposit Account (with Methodist Central Finance Board – CFB) has recently fallen to 0.01%. In Sept 2020, we received about £100 interest per month; it is now £2 a month. A phone call to the CFB concluded that there are no attractive alternatives – they either incur risk or tie the money up for a number of years.

The Covid-19 pandemic has nullified income from church groups and activities (such and Babies and Toddlers and the Aldersgate Café) and from external lettings, but the energy bills have also been lower due to reduced heating.

The engagement of Emma as our Children and Families Worker has involved the management of Pledges, Grants, and her Payroll and Pension. The response to the Appeal for Pledges was exceptional and heart-warming, as has been the activation of those pledges.

The lack of a weekly cash collection in church has reduced the Church's income, although many have created new standing orders. The response to a note about the Envelope Scheme also yielded various positive responses – either new standing orders or cheques being sent to the Treasurer. Giving is generally healthy.

Our gas supply is managed by Church Energy Savings Consortium (CESC) under a Crown Commercial Service (CCS). For presumably commercial reasons, CESC switched gas supplier from Corona to Total Gas & Power. It has taken a year for the ramifications of this to settle down. The first Direct Debit payment occurred in December, and online access to invoices was obtained in January. No fault on our part – just poor management and administration by CESC and Total Gas & Power. It is too soon to assess the effect on our gas bill.

BIFFA was contacted to see if we could reduce the frequency of our bins being emptied. We have moved to four-weekly collection, instead of weekly. More significantly, they advised that they had been charging us rental for our own bin since 2013. The outcome was credit notes worth over £1200.

Eric Bridgstock Church Treasurer

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH - FINANCE SUMMARY, SECOND QUARTER Sept 2020 - Feb 2021

2019/20 ACTUALS Full
2020/21 BUDGET agreed by CC 2 Nov
2020-21 Q1-Q2 Actuals

	ACTUALS 2019-1/9/19 - 31/8/20	BUDGET 2020-1/9/20 - 31/8/21	ACTUALS 2020-1/9/20 -	Proportion of budget	Comment
RECEIPTS					
Collections	£57,052	£55,000	£29,537	54%	
Gift Aid	£12,788	£12,000	£12,293	102%	GA received
Interest & Endowment Income	£1,031	£800	£251	31%	**See Note 1**
Lettings	£4,801	£4,000	£1,000	25%	annual Circuit Office payment
Donations for Church	£31,742	£1,000	£661	66%	
Sunday Coffee	£271	£200	£0	0%	None in year to date
Café	£1,134	£500	£0	0%	None in year to date
Babies & Toddlers (Net of	£1,014	£500	£0	0%	None in year to date
Sundry	£2,630	£700	£571	82%	incl £220 compensation from Barclays
Lay Workers	£20,223	£22,350	£22,421	100%	**See Note 2**
TOTAL	**£132,686**	**£97,050**	**£66,794**	**69%**	**See Note 3**
PAYMENTS					
Circuit Assessment	£52,800	£52,800	£26,400	50%	
Repairs & Renewals	£13,424	£40,000	£650	2%	**See Note 4**
Gas	£2,635	#####	£655		Gas supplier changed
Electricity	£1,486	£1,700	£500		
Water Rates	£161	£180	£28		
Utilities	£4,282	£5,180	£1,183	23%	Less use of building, but heated daily.
Insurance	£2,659	£2,700	£2,585	96%	Annual building premium paid in Q1
Cleaning & supplies	£378	£550	£152	28%	most Covid supplies donated
Staff costs (not Lay Workers)	£1,366	£2,145	£1,073	50%	
Licences and Subscriptions	£530	£600	£493	82%	CCLI paid (for in church and streaming)
Biffa Waste Disposal	£2,502	£2,700	£500	19%	**See Note 5**
Youth/Sunday Club	£315	£500	£206	41%	None this quarter
Stationery/copying (net)	£161	£200	-£186	-93%	Late copying payments received Q1
Bible notes (net)	£201	£200	-£132	-66%	Subs exceed payments
Organists & Music	£50	£200	£0	0%	
Donations	£180	£500	£0	0%	
Benevolence Fund	£0	£250		0%	
Equipment & Furniture	£0	£500	£918	184%	Wesley Room chairs
Sundry	£2,305	£500	£108	22%	
Catering (offset with Coffee)	£128	£400	£0	0%	No spend in 2020
Evangelism & Outreach	£526	£500	£0	0%	
Lay Workers	£2,178	£20,000	£14,520	73%	**See Note 6**
TOTAL	**£84,585**	**£130,425**	**£48,470**	37%	**See Note 7**
SURPLUS	**£48,101**	**-£33,375**	**£18,324**		**See Note 8**

Note 1 Interest rate for our Deposit account plummeted from 0.7% last April to 0.3% in November, and 0.01% from January.
Hence a shortfall in interest earned (£1-2 a month instead of circa £100)
Note 2 Front loaded with Grants (£8850) plus most lump sum pledges. Standing Orders continue thro year.
Note 3 Distorted by Lay Worker income and Gift Aid. 51% if those two items are discounted
Note 4 Quinquennial Inspection. Heating system being replaced Q3 (£30k).
Note 5 Bin now emptied four-weekly collection, instead of weekly. Credited for being charged rental of our own bin (£1200).
Note 6 Includes advertising and training, in addition to salary and expenses (which are on track). MRMC will reimburse half of this.
Note 7 Distorted down by lower spend on energy (about half) and repairs; Insurance premium has opposite effect. 31% if LW discounted
Note 8 Boiler (£30k) in Q3 and two Lay Workers will create the budgeted negative Surplus (Loss) in Q3 & Q4

CORONA VIRUS continues to have a detrimental effect on net income but also reduces expenditure.
Income lost from Lettings, Café, Babies & Toddlers, Cash Collection.
Expenditure reduced for Energy, and no building work (but new boiler being installed in Q3).

Lay Worker project is good health with all grants and all MRMC lump sum Pledges banked, and most Standing Orders activated.
Children and Families Worker in post; Anna Chaplain starts April. Cost to MRMC approximately £1000 per month, per worker.

Monthly expenditure has averaged £5676 over the period, amounting to £49 per member per month (120 members).
*The bank balances held at **28/2/2021** were £238,780. This includes £92,658 Restricted (Bequests and Gifts), and £81,648 ring-fenced for the Lay Workers project.*
The Church's reserves policy is to hold a sum equal to 6 months' expenditure, which was £35,270 in 2019-20 (noting the depression effect of the Coronavirus)
*The balance held at 28/2/2021 for **chosen charities** is £0 (plus £589 for a Gambian charity from 2015-16 World Missions collection).*

BANKING CAF Bank now fully operational. *CAF's admin charge has increased from £5 per month to £8 - still much lower than £40+ per month with Barclays.*
CAF also now charges 50p per cheque issued.

Eric Bridgstock, 17-Apr-21

PROPERTY & FINANCE COMMITTEE: PROPERTY

The general upkeep of our premises has continued throughout the year.

While the church building has been closed during lockdown, we have followed Methodist Church guidance by running taps and flushing toilets as mitigation against Legionella. In support of permitted church life, we have also ensured supplies of PPE are available, kept signage up to date, undertaken additional cleaning, and installed a screen between the two seats at the audio-visual desk.

A Quinquennial Inspection was undertaken in September. There were no surprises or major expenditure required.

Just as we entered lockdown in March 2020, we initiated the replacement of the boiler for the "west half" of the church (Sanctuary, Small Hall, Foyer, New Room, etc). Three church heating specialists were invited to tender, which culminated in a contract being awarded this Easter. The work should be under way by the AGM.

Further to the replacement of the Sanctuary spotlights with LED units, the square central light has also been replaced with a low energy fitting, and the fan cleaned! The roller-blinds have been replaced.

In the Wesley Room, the carpet has been fitted and new chairs acquired. Curtains are in the pipeline.

An annual Fire Equipment Check was carried out by T & J Fire in November.

A new, more secure, post-box has been fitted.

Finally, thanks to those who:

- undertake the cleaning of all our Church premises on a daily/weekly basis
- tend the gardens – a lot of creative work evident
- maintain and repair the buildings and fixtures

Sue Davey, Secretary; Eric Bridgstock, Chair

LAY WORKER PROJECT

Last year we reported that the project to employ two lay workers to work with HRMC and Marlborough Road Methodist Church was in the happy position of being fully funded. This year we can report that the project is fully staffed. Emma Haggis started work last August as the Children and Families Worker (CFW) and Maggie Dodd, the Anna Chaplain, is starting work on 26th April 2021. Recruiting these roles was not easy but we were supported by a detailed Methodist process and two highly professional selection panels drawn from Rev'd Rosemary Fletcher, Rev'd Andrew Prout, Rev'd Sue Stilwell, Denise Willingham, Judith Head, Catherine Meredith, Idy Osibodu and Louise Mullins.

As such the work of the Lay Worker Group as an agent for change is effectively over. However, at the last meeting we decided to reconvene in October to consider approaches to getting further funding for the CFW position. At that point we will only be 14 months into a 36 month contract with Emma – but we must start talking with others about this early. The Anna Chaplain contract is for five years.

The Lay Worker Project Group has been a successful example of joint working between Marlborough Road and Hatfield Road and bodes well for the future. The group comprised Rev'd Rosemary Fletcher, Carl Meredith, Jenny Evers, Theresa Tetteh and James Rowley of MRMC and Rev'd Andrew Prout, Eric Bridgstock, Val Parker, Philip Eaton and Denise Willingham of HRMC.

James Rowley, Lay Worker Project Chair

ALDERSGATE CAFÉ

Sadly, since our last report in 2020 the Aldersgate café has remained closed due to necessary restrictions imposed during the current corona virus pandemic. We have missed seeing our regular customers from our Church family and the wider local community.

Once lockdown was less severe in September, undeterred, our wonderful cake bakers volunteered to deliver their cakes to some of our customers (in a Covid secure way of course!). We called it Cafe2U.

We know this has been very much appreciated, especially by those who have been confined to their homes for such a long time. When the second wave hit many continued to keep in touch by phone.

Cake deliveries resumed again in March. We would like to thank all those who made Cafe2U possible.

Hopefully the café will open again soon, when it is safe to do so. We value your prayers and support and look forward to seeing you all enjoying time at the Aldersgate café once again.

Christine Ford

BABIES AND TODDLERS

HRMC's Wednesday morning Babies and Toddlers group has not met since the first lockdown in March 2020.

Over the past year we have sadly lost some important members of our team. Tara Samson and Alan Davey will be greatly missed. Babies and Toddlers are so grateful for their years of regular, cheerful work in helping this important community outreach to be so successful and appreciated by so many.

Louise Bourton has stepped down as leader to spend more time with Peter and the family. Babies and Toddlers are very thankful for her commitment, energy, enthusiasm and knowledge. Peter Bourton is also giving up his weekly support, helping to set up, tidy up and act as milk and provisions monitor!

Mary Gotts, who has helped for many years with crafts, is also retiring from the group. Bliss, the Babies and Toddlers official charity, was Mary's initiative. According to Mary's records, £2,170.50 has been raised for Bliss since September 2013.

We are hopeful that Babies and Toddlers will reopen at some time. Perhaps as a smaller group. We have wonderful volunteers still able to help but the group needs:

- a leader to introduce new ways of working and manage the team
- volunteers prepared to help on a regular basis with setting up and with tidying away

Please talk to Rev Andrew, Freda Gray or myself if you would like to become involved.

Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who have been sitting patiently at home waiting for news of a reopening date. Our visitors are always thankful for the time and effort put in to making Babies and Toddlers such a success.

Apologies to the families, mums and dads, grandmothers and grandfathers, carers, nannies and childminders and of course the babies and toddlers for not being able to provide our usual service.

Gina Woodhead, Babies and Toddlers Volunteer

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER'S REPORT

In the initial few weeks of my appointment I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to visit many of the families and key members of the congregations in their homes and/or gardens. My visits also involved networking with people from other churches and local projects: Mark and Margaret from St Peter's, Tori (the Children's worker) from St Paul's, Mike Palin at 267 Project and Geoff Sutton from Step.

Sunday club was only able to meet in person for a couple of weeks in October and then further restrictions and lockdowns prevented the youth groups from meeting in the buildings.

Since October I have met with some of the young people who are at University across a screen. We have met once a month on the 2nd Sunday of the month for an hour or so since. Each time there have been 2 or 3 of us and we have spent the time together catching up, finding out how their courses/lives are and supporting each other in any way we can.

During the October half term, I hosted 3 afternoon family sessions for children in primary school and in the evening of the same days I planned to host similar sessions for young people in secondary school. Each session included games, Bible story/exploration, discussions and activities/crafts. With the restrictions that were in place at the time, these sessions were hosted on zoom and each child/family who got in touch to say they were planning to attend received an activity pack which I delivered beforehand. These packs included everything they would need for the crafts. At each of the afternoon sessions I had between 1-8 children join me. Unfortunately, there were no young people at the first two sessions for those in secondary school and so I made the decision to not go ahead with the third session. The primary sessions however, appeared to be a great success. The children all seemed to enjoy the activities and I think parents were pleased there was something different for their children to do.

Towards the end of November, I followed up some of my initial visits to the families with the delivery of Advent Calendars. All the children and young people with whom we have contact were given an Advent Calendar from the churches along with a card saying we were thinking of them at this time (in the middle of a 2nd lockdown) and offering help if/where needed. Caroline Tough was a great help in making these deliveries and they were all gratefully received.

As we entered a new lockdown in November I also organised a couple of sessions to run each Sunday morning via Zoom, one for those in primary school and the other for those in secondary. Each session lasted an hour and we would spend some time playing games, doing activities and exploring the Bible. We had a few people at each of the sessions and I think they appreciated the opportunity to keep in touch with one another.

I led the Nativity service at Hatfield Road, which was very different to previous years given we could not have the children acting out the story in our building. Instead I managed to get some families involved by pre-recording their scenes at home to be shown at the service in church. We were unable to meet together for our Christingle service so we hosted this on Zoom where we were joined with one family and a couple of other households. I was able to lead the Christingle service at Marlborough Road before the next lockdown.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, I got in touch with the head teachers at Fleetville Junior and St Peter's primary to offer help and support to the staff and pupils. As a result, I was asked to put together an Assembly exploring the themes of Christmas and Hope for each school. These were recorded on Zoom so they could be shown to children in their classrooms/bubbles.

With the New Year came the new lockdown and once again Sunday club happened via Zoom as before. During these sessions we spent time exploring some of the psalms through games, activities, crafts and

sometimes even baking. Fortunately, we have now moved back to having Sunday club at Hatfield Road meeting in person.

In January, I tried to start up a group via Zoom, once a month for those in years 10-13. However, no one showed up to these sessions (we tried January, February and March) and so I have decided to put this group on hold for the time being and we will try again in the Autumn when hopefully, we will be able to meet in person.

As a follow up from the Advent Calendar drop, I sent out some activity packs to all the children and young people with whom we have contact in the lead up to Easter from the churches. Each pack included an Easter card saying we were thinking of them at this time and offering help if/where needed; a craft which was age appropriate for each child and, very importantly, chocolate. Those with younger children also received a 'my First Easter book'. These packages were posted out and were gratefully received.

Following the assembly I recorded for Fleetville Junior before Christmas, I was invited to record another one before Easter, during which I explored the differences between Passover and Easter. I was also invited to do a similar assembly at Oakwood Primary with Alan Cowan, this time in person. The assembly was well received by both the children and the staff and I hope to continue to support them in other ways moving forward.

I think it is safe to say starting a new role in the course of a pandemic as brought many challenges but also great opportunities. I look forward to what the next few months have in store for me and my role.

Emma Haggis, Children and Families Worker

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid was set up in 1947 to help the many refugees created by World War Two but now its efforts are concentrated in the poorest countries of the world (principally in Africa, South East Asia and Central America), where the charity provides funds to support healthcare, education and development projects. It also responds to emergencies world-wide.

As with most things Christian Aid activities were largely suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic until lockdown started to ease in recent months. Christian Aid were able to hold a very successful sponsored walk in May this year, subject to Covid restrictions, in partnership with other churches in St Albans. This provided a much needed opportunity for members of the Churches to meet in person, albeit socially distanced, and raised £5309 + £947 in Gift Aid at the time of writing. Thank you to all who participated and contributed.

Anne Wall, Christian Aid coordinator

CRADLE ROLL (BAPTISMAL ROLL)

The Baptismal or Cradle Roll is a register of all the children who have been welcomed into the church through Baptism or a Service of Thanksgiving. Their names are also entered onto the Roll displayed in the Church in the Children's corner. The children are kept on the Active Cradle Roll until they are three years old, when they are promoted into the Sunday Club. There have been no baptisms of infants or children in the last twelve months. Currently there are two children under three years old on the Cradle Roll.

Sally Crowther, Cradle Roll Secretary

DAY CARE GROUP

Day Care is now in its 33rd year having been established in 1988. It is a joint enterprise sponsored by HRMC, St. Paul's and Fleetville Community Centre.

The Group normally meets on a Friday between 11.00am and 3.00pm offering a place of welcome and support for between 10 and 15 local elderly residents. The Group is a friendly, happy gathering reliant on a number of very willing volunteers. Tea and coffee is served throughout the day and lunch (provided, at a cost, by the local Catholic junior school) is served at midday. An activity is organised each week. These have included most recently seated exercises, visiting musical entertainers, quizzes, flower arranging, Easter card making, birthday and Christmas card making, all with much conversation and laughter. Occasional outings are also arranged.

Sadly but necessarily Day Care had to be suspended in March 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic and has yet to resume. And very sadly four of the people attending as visitors (Margaret Tims, Sheila Wallace, Yvonne Winter and Sheila Fowler) together with one of the Group's key volunteers (Alan Davey) have died in this period. Our thoughts and prayers have remained very much with each other and we hope soon that the future will become clear allowing a resumption in some shape or form. Throughout the pandemic Sue Davey as the Group's co-ordinator has kept in touch alongside all our volunteers with each of the visitors who were in attendance pre-pandemic. We pay particular tribute to Sue for all she has done not least when also supporting Alan through his illness, surgery and treatment, and when most recently contending with her own bereavement.

Rev Andrew Prout, Chair of the Management Committee

GROWMORE RAMBLERS

The Covid pandemic necessitated the suspension of group rambles by the church walkers. Through the year many people have continued to explore the local countryside as individuals, with a friend or in a family group. We look forward to sharing newly discovered walks and paths once restrictions are eased.

Denise Willingham

HOUSE GROUPS

House groups were obviously impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and it was only possible to meet via 'Zoom'. Initially the Wednesday evening and Friday morning house groups got underway with some studies on Ecclesiastes and the Book of Ruth. A study entitled 'His Presence makes the Feast', which house groups had previously looked at in 2004, was then re-visited. The title was that of a report on Holy Communion which was produced by the 2003 Methodist Conference. Six of the nine key themes of Holy Communion that were covered (e.g. Thanksgiving, Fellowship and Sacrifice) were then appraised in some study material prepared by the Rev. Brian Galliers. It was very fitting that Una, Brian's widow, was able to join the Friday morning house group via 'Zoom' from her home in Romford, Essex.

Inevitably there were a few members across all 4 groups who were not able to take part in the 'Zoom' meetings, but who were provided with copies of the study material so they had it to hand. At the other

extreme, Angela Andrews was able to join in several meetings of the Wednesday evening house group from Lagos, Nigeria!

The small and relatively new house group run for both HRMC and MRMC members on a Tuesday evening had to be suspended. Chris Hancock, its leader, was working as Circuit Secretary and was also much involved in all the technical and time-consuming work associated with the streaming of our weekly Sunday Services.

The Monday evening and Thursday morning house groups got back into their stride in the Autumn. The former made use of 'Thought for the Day' material prepared by Peggy Liffen's sister, the Rev. Mary Teed, a retired Methodist Minister.

On the run-up to Christmas all groups had access to six studies in a 'New Daylight' publication entitled 'Journeying through Advent'. The 5 Lenten studies entitled 'Encounters on the Way to the Cross' were used by the groups. The material originated from St Albans Cathedral and was used with their permission. Membership of the 4 house groups totals 32 at the time of writing.

Johanna Mason has taken over from me as House Group Co-ordinator as from the beginning of this year.

Roy Vivian, Co-ordinator

JUNIOR MISSION FOR ALL (JMA)

JMA is a network of children, supported by adults, who support and learn about the mission of the church all over the world. The JMA promise is to 'Learn, pray and serve with the worldwide church of Jesus Christ'. Money raised is allocated one fifth to the Methodist Mission in Britain Fund and four fifths to the Methodist World Mission Fund.

At HRMC we now have 5 collectors who in the year September 2019-2020 collected £930 having been able to hold a successful BBQ (£406) and Hunger lunch (£324) before Covid hit.

Lack of opportunity for events and services, and no mingling after the services we have been able to have, have had a significant impact on opportunities to collect in the year 2020/2021. As a result the money raised so far this year is just £143, although some donors have been giving money directly to JMA through the bank instead which is not included in this amount.

We have not been able to hold our annual JMA service, although we have badges and certificates for the collectors ready for the time when we are able to hold such a service.

Ruth Wallace, JMA Treasurer

MUSIC GROUP

The Music Group would normally expect to lead the music and singing at our main Sunday services and at special services throughout the year. Covid-19 has provided us with new challenges, and we have spent much of the year recording hymns for use at our online services. In full lockdown, this has required us to record ourselves at home singing to a backing track, and then the track and the voices being spliced together to create the full effect. When lockdown was lifted enough to allow services to take place in church but without singing, we recorded hymns together in

church during the week for use at the services. It was a real privilege to be able to come together in church and sing and play together in worship to our God while those attending services could only listen.

This year some of us have learned new skills as sound mixers and movie makers, creating the hymns with lyrics and pictures which are now used in all our services, both in church and online. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Chris Hancock for the very many hours he has spent producing the hymns, and to Mike Sheehan for providing all the backing tracks – organ, piano, drums, guitars, flutes – everything you hear in the tracks apart from the occasional clarinet part comes out of his electronic piano. The singers have also had to work hard to record themselves singing to the backing track at home – quite daunting at first, and often needing several takes to get it right. Even recording together in church takes time – first rehearsing, then recording, listening back, and often re-recording verses or even the whole hymn to make sure the final version is presentable.

We were grateful that lockdown was lifted sufficiently in December to allow extra singers and musicians to join us at recording sessions in the church to record hymns and anthems for our Christmas services. We have felt honoured to be asked to record hymns to be played at funerals of much-loved members of our congregation in recent months.

We do welcome new members of any age from secondary school upwards to join the Group. If you enjoy singing, or can play an instrument and would be interested in joining us for special events, on a regular basis, or in our recording sessions, please speak to Joanna Rose. If you are a competent pianist and would be interested in playing the piano or organ for any services once singing in worship is permitted, again please contact Joanna.

This has certainly been a challenging year for us all, and I am very grateful to the regular and occasional members of the Music Group who have made it possible to provide music for worship throughout the year. Perhaps the recording will continue even after the church is fully reopened, if we wish to continue to provide online worship, but I know I speak for all the members of the music group when I say that we will be glad when we can stand together in church leading the congregation as we raise our voices together as only Methodists can in worship to our heavenly Father.

Joanna Rose, Music Group leader

NETWORK FELLOWSHIP

This report would have normally been completed by Sheila Fowler who as secretary to the group arranged and facilitated the programme. Sheila sadly died in February of this year aged 89 years and will be greatly missed by all the members of the group. Sheila was a great advocate of this meeting and its previous incarnations providing a space in the Church where women could meet each week on a Wednesday afternoon for fellowship and mutual support and care. Following suspension of the group in March 2020 because of the pandemic Sheila maintained contact with each of the members through regular phone calls and conversations. Members of the group continue to be in touch with each other and look forward to when they can meet in some form again.

Rev'd Andrew Prout

PASTORAL TEAM

The Pastoral Care Team at Hatfield Road Methodist Church comprises Rev Andrew Prout, Denise Willingham as Pastoral Steward, Gina Woodhead as Pastoral Secretary, 14 members of the church who are Pastoral Visitors, and 5 House Group Leaders.

Since the compilation of the last Annual Report the Pastoral Team have had two virtual meetings via Zoom in July and November 2020.

The Pastoral Care Team have worked hard to keep in touch with members of the congregation and adherents. Contact has been mostly by telephone or email. Where possible or where necessary meetings in person have taken place following government and Methodist Church guidelines. Thanks go to all the members of the Pastoral Team and others for their efforts and support during this difficult time.

The Church Members Directory was not updated and circulated this year. Methodist Church Membership Cards with Christmas Greeting and Letter from Andrew were mailed out at the end of November.

Currently there are 115 members of the church and approximately 50 adherents. We remember 4 of our members who have passed away since the compilation of the last Annual Report, Glyn Lewis, Geoff Burdett, Sheila Fowler and Sheila Wallace. We also remember Alan Davey, a much loved adherent of our church. Over the past year we have welcomed Helen Wallace as a new member.

You are welcome to contact Andrew or Gina if you feel you would like to get involved in Pastoral Care or have any concerns or suggestions you would like to share.

Please pray for the work of the Pastoral Care Team at HRMC.

Gina Woodhead, Pastoral Secretary

PRAYER MINISTRY

Much of the Prayer Ministry's conventional activities associated with our Sunday Services were severely impacted by the pandemic. The Church was closed for services for much of 2020 and the winter months of this year. However, from the beginning of January the weekly publication of the Prayer Diary has again been included in Sunday's Notices which are circulated every week either online or by hand to all Church members and adherents. In this way all the people and families who are listed can be remembered in our prayers during the following week.

Almost eight years have elapsed since a prayer meeting was started by Ros Hancock initially to pray for the success of the first Cliff College Mission and then, subsequently, to pray for the needs of our Church as a whole. The meetings take place on Tuesday mornings (currently via WhatsApp) and are supported by members of Ros's house group and a few other Church members.

The Prayer Tree continues and there are now 32 of us who are members of it. Prayer requests are normally emailed out to members and this is particularly useful in cases of urgency. Over the past year many prayers have been offered for the people of our Nation all of whom have been affected by the pandemic and for those professions on the front line which are particularly vulnerable such as doctors, nurses, carers, NHS staff, teachers and many more. And prayers have then been offered for the protection of those within our Church membership, or who are otherwise known to us, who work on the front line. Over the past year prayers have also been offered seeking God's comfort and support for those Church members and their families who have suffered the loss of loved ones.

Roy Vivian

SUNDAY CLUB AND YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Sunday Club has rarely been able to meet in person throughout the pandemic. However when restrictions have eased provision has been made for children and young people in both the primary and secondary school age groups, although numbers attending have been very small. During the two periods of lockdown in November and between January and April of this year sessions were organised online for both age groups on a Sunday Morning led by our Children and Families worker Emma Haggis. This was undertaken jointly with Marlborough Road Methodist Church. Emma, who commenced her appointment in August, also ensured activities were offered and distributed to the children and young people during School Half Terms, and at Christmas and Easter. This included all the children and young people with whom the Church has a connection. At Christmas Emma worked with some of the children and families to put together a pre-recorded nativity that was greatly appreciated.

In September Emma took on responsibility from Rev'd Rosemary Fletcher and myself for the Monthly Sunday Evening Youth Fellowship aimed at young people aged between 11 and 18 years from Hatfield Road and Marlborough Road Methodist Churches. However the pandemic has made this difficult to re-start with many of the young people needing time away from screen contact. It is hoped this may yet restart in some form in the coming months. During the first lockdown Rosemary and I were able to maintain contact with this group. Of greater success has been Emma's engagement with a small group of our young people who are now at university and with whom she meets monthly on zoom. Returning to Sunday Club we remain without an appointed leader since Lianne Weidmann had to step down in January of last year. Emma and I hope to meet with the remaining Sunday Club staff soon to consider patterns of working going forward. We will be thinking about how best we can work with all our families, children and young people.

Rev'd Andrew Prout

THE METHODIST CHURCH IN GREAT BRITAIN - SOME FACTS ABOUT US

Constitution

The constitution of the Methodist Church in Britain is contained in the Deed of Union conferred by the Methodist Union Church Act 1929. That Act was replaced by the Methodist Church Act 1976 and its statutory Model Trusts.

The Deed of Union (Part 1 Section 4 Government) provides for the governing body of the church to be the Methodist Conference. The constitution and powers of the Conference are stated and include the power to make standing orders.

The Methodist Church Act 1939 constituted and incorporated a single body of trustees called the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposed (TMCP and known as the custodian trustees) to hold all real, leasehold and other personal estate of the Methodist Church. Various other church courts in the Methodist Church, and accountable to the Methodist Conference and constituted in accordance with those standing orders, act as "local managing trustees".

The Methodist Church Funds Act 1960 provides for the investment of funds of the Methodist Church.

The Sharing of Buildings Act 1969 makes provision for the sharing and using of church buildings in England and Wales by different churches.

Purposes

The purposes of the Methodist Church are set out in Section 4 of the 1976 Act. They are the advancement of:

(a) *the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church*
(b) *any charitable purpose for the time being of any Connexional, district, circuit, local or other organisation of the Methodist Church*
(c) *any charitable purpose for the time being of any society or institution subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church*
(d) *any purpose for the time being of any charity being a charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.*

The details are contained in a publication called The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church Volumes 1 and 2 published by Methodist Publishing, Norwich Books and Music, 13a Hellesdon Park Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR6 5DR Tel: 0845 017 8220 and orders@norwichbooksandmusic.co.uk.

In England and Wales all Methodist churches, circuits and districts with a gross annual income of over £100,000 per annum need to register with the Charity Commission. Methodist charities with an income under £100,000 per annum continue to be excepted from registration. This exception is provided by the Statutory Instrument 2014 No. 242.

Charitable status

The Methodist Church in Britain (referred to as the Connexion) is made up of over 6000 separate charities and is not a single entity. A separate registration exists in the name of the Methodist Church in Great Britain with the Methodist Conference as the trustee body. Its registration number applies only to the connexional charity and the main connexionally-held funds. Local churches, circuits and districts cannot use that number.

All Methodist churches, circuits and districts are charities whether or not they are registered with the Charity Commission. The Charities (Exception from Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 extended the exception for religious charities in England and Wales with an income under £100,000 per annum until 31 March 2021.

All charities (excluding excepted charities) must keep accounting records and make the annual report and financial accounts available to the public on request.

Structure, governance and management

The whole of the Methodist Church in Britain is referred to as "the Connexion". It operates through 31 Districts in Great Britain which are divided, with a few exceptions, into circuits. Those circuits normally include several churches and ministers. See the Methodist Districts map at the end for further details.

The local church mainly manages its own affairs (including church property) through the Church Council where its members are the managing trustees. It is connected by representative membership to others in the circuit, and more widely to the district and the Connexion.

The Methodist Church, Hatfield Road, St Albans is part of the St Albans and Welwyn Circuit. Three of its church council members represent it at the Circuit Meeting in addition to the Minister, Senior Church Steward and the Church Treasurer. Members of the Church Council must complete a Trustee Eligibility Declaration (T.E.D.) and receive an induction on appointment. Further training is given when needed and existing trustees are required to confirm their ongoing eligibility by completing T.E.D.s at intervals determined by the charity.

The Church Council comprises ministers, ex officio members and members elected once a year by the general church meeting. On election, members serve from 1 July for one year and may be eligible for re-election for a further year up to a normal maximum of six years.

The Church Council meets between three and four times a year and undertakes much of its work through a number of committees with delegated authority.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy is to aim to hold a sum equal to six months' normal expenditure. Any funds above that figure are held pending anticipated major property work and the development of local mission and ministry. This was adopted by the Church Council on 11 October 2016 and is reviewed annually.

Church Council Members

Church Council membership is confirmed at each meeting and at 3 March 2021 was as follows:

Position	Name	Date Appointed
Circuit Ministers SO 610 (1) (i)	Rev Rosemary Fletcher (Superintendent)	09/2013
	Rev Andrew Prout (Minister Pastoral Charge)	09/2014
SO 610 (1) (i) & SO 610 (4) (i)	Rev Alison Facey	CLT 2015
Church Stewards SO 610 (1) (vi)	Denise Willingham (Senior Church Steward) 1a	05/2016
	Angela Andrews [1]	05/2018
	Tomas Cvrcek [1]	05/2018
	Lianne Weidmann[1]	06/2017
	Joe Kinchenton[1]	O7/2019
	Noelene Browning [1]	10/2019
Church Treasurer SO 610 (1) (vii)	Eric Bridgstock	06/2018
Pastoral Committee SO 610 (1) (viii)	Gina Woodhead [3]	01/2009
Church Council Secretary SO 610 (1) (ix)	Angela Spriggs	10/2019
One Circuit Steward appointed by the Circuit Stewards SO 610 (1) (xii)	Stuart Johnson	09/2020
Not less than six representatives nor more than fifteen elected annually by General Church Meeting (SO 610 (1) (x)	Graham Danbury [1]	05/2018
	Chris Hancock [1] [Elected by ballot]	07/2009
	Ros Hancock [1]	05/2015
	Helen Jeffery [1] [Elected by ballot]	02/2005
	Chris Kitchin [1]	06/2017
	Caroline Tough[1] [Elected by ballot]	05/2012
Plus up to 15 additional persons appointed by the Church Council to ensure that all areas of the church's life are adequately represented and in particular that, wherever possible, young people are included in its membership SO 610 (1) (xi) as follows: 5 & 6		
Sunday Club and Youth Superintendent	Vacancy	
Property & Finance Committee	Eric Bridgstock (Chair of Meeting) Vacancy	06/2019
Mission Secretaries Action Group (Mission in Britain / World Missions / JMA / Christian Aid / Justice & Peace)	To Be Appointed	-
Worship Consultation Convenor	Peter Wallace	09/2015
Safeguarding Officer	Joanna Rose	05/2009
Other	Freda Gray [Catering & Property] Val Parker	08/2017 06/2019
Elected to Circuit Meeting (Ex Officio Officers) SO 510 (1) (vii) (plus 3 others) SO 510 (1) (viii)	Church Steward [Ex Officio]: Denise Willingham Church Treasurer [Ex Officio]: Eric Bridgstock Joanna Rose Chris Hancock Vacancy	 09/2015 09/2017 XX/XXXX

Notes to membership

1 *Elected annually by the General Church Meeting (SO 632), must be a Member of the Methodist Church (SO 632) and may serve for a maximum of 6 years or for longer subject to there being no one to fill the vacancy and their election being endorsed by ballot with at least 75% voting in favour (SO 607).*

1a *Elected by the church stewards as senior steward for one year at a time.*

2 *Appointed annually by the Church Council, must be a Member of the Methodist Church (SO 635) and may serve for a maximum of 6 years or for longer subject to there being no one to fill the vacancy and their election being endorsed by ballot with at least 75% voting in favour (SO 607).*

3 *Appointed annually by the Church Council from among the members of the Pastoral Committee (SO 644 (6), must be a Member of the Methodist Church (SO 632) and may serve for a maximum of 6 years or for longer subject to their being no one to fill the vacancy and their election being endorsed by ballot with at least 75% voting in favour (SO 607).*

4 *Appointed annually by the Church Council and may serve for a maximum of 6 years or for longer subject to there being no one to fill the vacancy and their election being endorsed by ballot with at least 75% voting in favour (SO 607).*

5 *Appointed annually by the Church Council (SO 610 (1) (xi)), must be a Member of the Methodist Church (SO 610 (2A))*

6 *Young people under the age of 18 cannot legally become managing trustees and so are not eligible to vote on managing trustee business (SO 610 (2A) (b) footnote).*

The references here to Standing Orders (SO) are those of The Methodist Church contained in *The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of The Methodist Church Volume 2.*

Custodian Trustees

Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JQ
Tel: 0161 236 5194 & legal@tmcp.methodist.org.uk

Bankers

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Appointed advisers

The Church Council continued to use the services of an Independent Examiner in Mr. John Robinson (contact details available on request) to examine the accounts for the financial year 2019-2020.

Websites

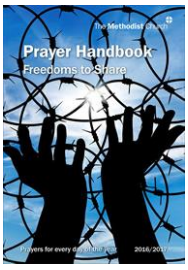
www.hatfieldroadmethodist.org
www.stalbanswelwyncircuit.org.uk
www.methodist.org.uk
www.tmcp.org.uk

Registered address and Charity Number

The Methodist Church, 133b Hatfield Road, Fleetville, St Albans, AL1 4JX
Charity Registration No. 1173147,

Why not keep in touch with the wider Methodist Church in Britain...

- **the connexion**, regular magazine, copies in the Foyer *www.methodist.org.uk/theconnexion*
- **Methodist Prayer Handbook** from Methodist Publishing & Rev'dColin Rowe
- **Regular e-news**: *www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/sign-up-for-e-newsletters*
- **Leadership Blogs**: *www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/leadership-blogs*
- **Latest news**: *www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/news-releases*
- **Sharing good news stories**: *www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/sign-up-for-e-newsletters*
- **Safeguarding**: www.methodist.org.uk/ministers-and-office-holders/safeguarding
- **Further resources** from Methodist Publishing *www.mph.org.uk*



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The Methodist Church

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THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

HATFIELD ROAD	**Church**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2020

ST ALBANS & WELWYN	**Circuit**	**Circuit no**	**34/13**

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1173147
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 ANDREW PROUT

Church Stewards:

DENISE WILLINGHAM	TOMAS CVRCEK
LIANNE WEIDMANN	ANGELA ANDREWS
JOE KINCHENTON	NOELENE BROWNING

Treasurer:

ERIC BRIDGSTOCK

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

HATFIELD ROAD

Church

	SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year		Totals last year	
			£	£	£		£	
a1	**RECEIPTS**	**Note**						
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		£69,841		**69,841**		71,472	
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		1,031		**1,031**		874	
a4	Lettings		4,801		**4,801**		9,451	
a5	Other receipts		6,792	50,223	**57,015**		24,763	
a6	**TOTAL RECEIPTS**		**82,465**	**50,223**	**132,688**	**(a7)**	**106,560**	
	SECTION B							
b1	**PAYMENTS**							
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		52,800		**52,800**		52,800	
b3	Donations		180		**180**		3,418	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		13,424		**13,424**		39,890	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		6,942		**6,942**		7,913	
b6								
b7	Other payments		8,844	2,396	**11,240**		11,878	
b8	**TOTAL PAYMENTS**		**82,190**	**2,396**	**84,586**	**(b9)**	**115,899**	
	SECTION C							
c1	**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR**	**(a6-b8)**	275	47,827	**48,102**		(9,339)	
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		56,530	113,839	**170,369**	**(c6)**	176,072	
c3	**Sub total**	**(c1+c2)**	56,805	161,666	**218,471**		**166,733**	
c4	Transfers and adjustments					**(c7)**	3,636	
c5	**TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR**	**(c3+c4)**	**56,805**	**161,666**	**218,471**	**(c8)**	**170,369**	**(c6)**

	SECTION D				
d	**FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS (these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)**		£		£
d1	Balance brought forward from last year		348		847
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		2,911		2,919
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		1,896		3,418
d4	**BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID**	(d1+d2-d3)	**1,363**		**348**

HATFIELD ROAD **Church**

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)**	**132,688** **(a7)**	**84,586** **(b9)**	**48,102**	**1,015** **(c7)**	**170,369** **(c6)**	**219,486** **(c8)**
e10	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**132,688**	**84,586**	**48,102**	**1,015**	**170,369** **(x)**	**219,486** **(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				
f2	Bank Current Account	21,730		23,827	
f3	Bank Deposit Account			1,000	
f4	Central Finance Board	148,639		194,659	
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes				
f6	Other funds				
f7	**SUB TOTAL - Church accounts**	**170,369**	(c6)	**219,486**	(c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)		(e11)		(e12)
f9	**TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH**	**170,369**	(x)	**219,486**	(y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

		At 1 September 2019	At 31 August 2020
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	352	346
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	2,565,341	2,632,046
g3	Other Assets	139,200	139,175
g4	Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5	Other Liabilities		

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 .....**HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH**..... No ...**34/13**.....

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 10/3/2021

Name and address of treasurer .....**ERIC BRIDGSTOCK**

16 Evans Grove, St Albans, Herts..... Post Code.....**AL4 9PJ**.....

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 9 April 2021 .....

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting .....**REV ANDREW PROUT**..... Date ..10/3/21....

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

..HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST..**Church**

Charity Number ..1173147

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Hatfield Road 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 .....**HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH**..... No ...**34/13**.....

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 .....**JOHN ROBINSON**.....

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner ..... M.A. A.C.A.

Name of firm (where appropriate) .....

Address .....**5 HARMER DELL**.....

.....**WELWYN,**.....**HERTS**..... **Post Code** .....**AL6 0BE**.....

Date ..... 24/3/21 .....

* delete or circle as appropriate

THE METHODIST CHURCH

STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

HATFIELD ROAD	**Church**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2020

ST ALBANS & WELWYN	**Circuit**	**Circuit no**	**34/13**

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REV ANDREW PROUT

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JOE KINCHENTON	NOELENE BROWNING

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HATFIELD ROAD

Church

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TOTAL RECEIPTS **TOTAL PAYMENTS**

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