



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

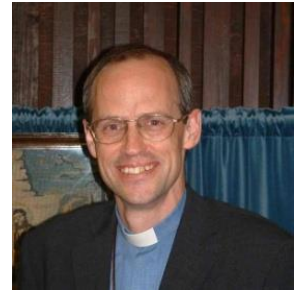
The Calling of Hatfield road Methodist Church as agreed by its Church Council and within these terms is to **'Serve Christ and the Local Community'**

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

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Safeguarding	Joanna Rose
Warm Welcome Café	Christine Ford
Babies & Toddlers	Freda Gray
Christian Aid	Anne Wall
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Cradle Roll (Baptismal Roll)	Sally Crowther
DayCare	Sue Davey
Holiday at Home (Shared with MRMC)	Denise Willingham
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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 Presbyterian 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 AI 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 settle 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 **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 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 prevalent, 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.



are

Their names are proudly displayed in the Children's corner. The children 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]	08/2017
	Val Parker	06/2019
	Maggie Dodd (Anna Chaplain, observer)	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	09/2022
	Church Treasurer [Ex Officio]: Eric Bridgstock	09/2015
	Joanna Rose	09/2017
	Ros Hancock	09/2022
	Denise Willingham	09/2022

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

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

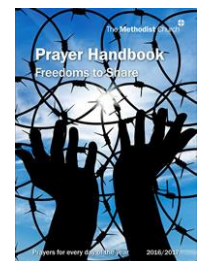
www.hatfieldroadmethodist.org
www.stalbanswelwyncircuit.org.uk
www.methodist.org.uk
www.tmcp.org.uk

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...

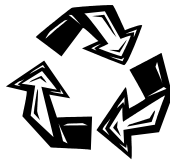
- **the connexion**, regular magazine, copies in the Foyer www.methodist.org.uk/theconnexion
- **Methodist Prayer Handbook** from Methodist Publishing & Rev Colin Rowe
- **Regular e-news:** www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/sign-up-for-e-newsletters
- **Leadership Blogs:** www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/leadership-blogs
- **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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**HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST	Church
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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

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)
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
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
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c6 totals	FALSE
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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	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)
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)

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  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 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

**HATFIELD ROAD METHODIST CHURCH
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
ACCOUNTS**

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

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	(d1+d2-d3)		

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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