



# Unity Methodist Church

Registered Charity 1173520

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2023

### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Unity Methodist Church (UMC) is based in Sandbach, Cheshire. It formally came into being in September 2020 and was formed with the merging of three Methodist Churches, Sandbach, Wheelock and Sandbach Heath Methodist Churches.

UMC is part of Cheshire South Methodist Circuit and is an active member of Churches Together in Sandbach.

UMC has responsibility for three sites and over 120 church members. In January 2022, UMC decided to close permanently its site at Sandbach Heath and it is envisaged that the sale will be completed by the autumn of 2023.

Our other buildings are used by the church or hired out for a wide range of community activities and organisations throughout the week.

Trustees 2022/23:

Jayne Bunn	Ellen Cieka	Timothy Cooke	Nilda Eyre
Karen Foster	Robert Glassonbury	Ann Horsfield	Linda Jones
Katy Lowe	Stephen Parker-Aiken	Alan Pimlott	Pauline Sherwin
Norma Stolworthy	Jeremy Tresise		

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our weekly prayer group continued throughout COVID restrictions to meet on Zoom and this has continued after the ending of lockdown with an appreciably higher number in attendance.

We continue to worship weekly at our Sandbach site together with four "All-Age" services a year with our Uniformed Organisations, and a monthly "Breakfast Church" for young families at our Wheelock site. We have also been holding a new monthly Contemporary Worship Service.

Our Saturday Coffee Mornings are particularly appreciated by those living alone and by members from the local Dementia Friendly Sandbach group. Our two toddler group sessions, Stepping Stones, continue to thrive, under the supervision of our Circuit Children and Family Worker.

In addition, Unity provides a monthly community hot lunch meal at its Wheelock site, which is well received with a variety of other social events provided during the year.

In December 2022 and March 2023 we hosted "Hope Journey" for a local Primary School, explaining the Christmas and Easter stories respectively. Members also took part in the Churches Together in Sandbach outdoor carol service in the town.

The Foodbank continues to operate and is reporting a steady increase in numbers of those being referred. It remains an internal organization of Unity but with support from members of other local churches.

During the course of the past twelve months, a Community Food Pantry based in one of our buildings, The Wesley Centre, became "live" in October 2022 with the aim of supporting local households cope with the increases in the cost of living by offering food and toiletries at substantially reduced rates. This is an internal organisation of Unity Methodist Church and is run by volunteers from Churches Together and those drawn from the local community. It has been a vital source of support to many in the area including a warm space for a chat over a cup of coffee and prayer support when requested. During May and June 2023, we secured funding to run 6 weekly "Cooking on a Budget" sessions which again were well received.

In September 2023 Unity will welcome a new Minister, Revd. Carolyn Lawrance on a 5 year invitation.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

### FINANCE REPORT

The method of accounting used is that of Receipts and Payments and the Methodist Standard Form of Accounts, which is attached to this report, summarises the Receipts and Payments for the year ending **31 August 2023**.

Excluding the Receipts and Payments for the Internal Organisations, the Church Receipts were **£116,247** and Payments amounted to **£105,087**, leaving a surplus of **£11,160**, which is much higher than forecast because during the year we received two welcome legacies totalling **£9,286**. In addition we had net transfers from Foodbank and the Wesley Guild totalling **£1,702**.

Receipts from Offerings are down by **£6,662** on the previous year. However, there have been significant increases in Receipts from Lettings and Fundraising this year – increases of **£9,428** and **£5,919** respectively.

The biggest outgoing was the Circuit Assessment of **£45,932**, which is 25% less than last year. Insurance has been high at **£10,410** because we still have insurance costs for the closed Sandbach Heath building. The total increase for Gas, Electricity and Water was **£4,452**.

Volunteers work hard to look after the premises and to organise fundraising events and it is thanks to their efforts, the two legacies and the reduction in Circuit Assessment that the church's finances have shown a surplus this year.

### RESERVES

A Reserves Policy has been prepared. At 31 August 2023 the General Fund was **£53,860** but **£25,000** of this is on loan to the Circuit until December 2023. In addition, designated funds include **£10,000** for a future mission project at New Horizons. Restricted funds total **£2,815** - £566 in the Charity Fund and £2,249 given specifically for projects in the Wheelock community. A draft Budget for 2023/24 has been prepared and the forecasted figure for expenditure is **£118,000**. It is our policy to hold 50% of anticipated expenditure in our reserves.



## THE FUTURE

In 2023-24 Circuit Assessment will increase by **£10,749**. Energy costs are likely to continue at a high level and the insurance premium will only be reduced when the property sale has been completed. If this doesn't happen during the next 12 months, the forecasted budget for 2023-2024 shows that we could face a shortfall of around £8,000. Whilst the Reserves will cover this, we need to find ways of raising even more funds in the future so that Receipts and Payments will at least break even.

## DECLARATIONS

The trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature 

Full name Carolyn Lawrance

Position Chair

Date 9.12.23.

THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

UNITY METHODIST CHURCH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

Cheshire South Methodist Circuit	Circuit no.	11/8
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1173520

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:

Jeremy Tresise

Church Stewards:

Nilda Eyre

Cynthia Kelly

Ann Horsfield

Pauline Sherwin

Treasurer:

Ann Horsfield



SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	1	41,392	1,055	42,447
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		1,867		1,867
a4	Lettings	2	41,536		41,536
a5	Other receipts and Legacies	3	30,396		30,396
a6	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>115,192</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>116,247 (a7)</b>
SECTION B					
b1	<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		45,932		45,932
b3	Donations	4	6,573	1,025	7,598
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	5	20,654		20,654
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	6	26,467		26,467
b6					
b7	Other payments	7	4,436		4,436
b8	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		<b>104,062</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>105,087 (b9)</b>
SECTION C					
c1	<b>NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	(a6-b8)	11,130	30	11,160
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		61,028	2,784	63,812 (c6)
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	(c1+c2)	72,158	2,815	74,972
c4	Transfers and adjustments		1,702		1,702 (c7)
c5	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	(c3+c4)	<b>73,860</b>	<b>2,815</b>	<b>76,674 (c8)</b>
SECTION D					
<b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b>					
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		£	£	
d1	Balance brought forward from last year				
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations		2,766		1,778
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations		2,766		1,778
d4	<b>BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID</b>	(d1+d2-d3)			



**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 Sandbach Foodbank	7,557	11,455	(3,898)	(1,500)	12,907	7,510
e2 Wesley Guild	569	200	369	(300)	58	127
e3 Lifeline Debt Advice	2,637	3,719	(1,082)		3,611	2,528
e4 The Pantry @ Sandbach Hub	28,742	16,800	11,942			11,942
e5 Wheelock Baby and Tots					887	887
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	39,505	32,174	7,331	(1,800)	17,463 (e11)	22,994 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 1 - totals column)	116,247 (a7)	105,087 (b9)	11,160	1,702 (c7)	63,812 (c6)	76,674 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	155,752	137,261	18,491	(98)	£81,275 (x)	99,668 (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	10,477	6,144
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	53,335	45,530
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds - Loan to Circuit		25,000
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	63,812 (c6)	76,674 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	17,463 (e11)	22,994 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	81,275 (x)	99,668 (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)	9,770,988	10,499,339
g3 Other Assets - Contents (insurance value)	186,965	200,614
g4 Loan to Circuit- amount outstanding at year end		25,000
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: **UNITY METHODIST CHURCH, SANDBACH** No **1173520**

## 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 ..... *John Horsfield* ..... Date *30/9/23* .....  
Name and address of treasurer *31 FIELDS DRIVE* .....  
*SANDBACH* ..... Post Code *CW11 1YB* .....

### 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 *7.12.23*.

Signature of the Chair of the meeting ..... *C. A. Lawrence* .....  
Name of the Chair of the meeting *C. A. LAWRENCE* ..... Date *9.12.23* .....

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

### UNITY METHODIST CHURCH

Charity Number **1173520**

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Unity 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: **UNITY METHODIST CHURCH, SANDBACH** No **1173520**

### Independent Examiner's Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below\*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

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

I have/have not\* obtained independent verification of all investments with the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes or held in other trusts, bank balances and funds at the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church which are individually in excess of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) at the balance sheet date.

Signature of independent examiner ..... 

Name of independent examiner ..... **PETER FRANK HUTCHINSON**

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner .....

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

Address ..... **11 COOKESHIRE LANE**

..... **SANDBACH. CHES.** Post Code **CW11 1BQ**

Date ..... **30.10.2023.**

\* delete or circle as appropriate