

Rivercourt Methodist Church (RMC)
Trustees' Report to the Charity Commission
01 September 2023 to 31 August 2024

Church Address: King Street, Hammersmith, London W6 9JT

Circuit Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham 35/04

District London

Charity Number 1174328

Minister in Charge: Revd. Iesinga Vunipola

Trustees at 31 Aug 2024

Revd. Iesinga Vunipola – Chair

Mr. Stephen Lawrence – Treasurer

Mr. Kwaku Tieku – Organist

Ms. Juliana Goode

Mr. A. A. M. Grigg

Ms. Franced Brown

Mr. James Goode – Safeguarding Officer

Bookkeeper Mr. Solomon Sackey

Auditor Verdant Accountants Limited. (Chaweevan Williams FCCA)

Trustees	<p>The minister is always Chair of the Trustees and is appointed to one or more Churches in our Circuit (charity 1133940). They are chosen by the Conference and paid by the Circuit. Their level of pay is determined by the Conference of the British Methodist Church (Charity number 1132208). Our current minister is Revd. Iesinga (‘Singa’) Vunipola. At the January Circuit Meeting it was announced that Singa would be invited to retain her post for another 5 years. According to Methodist rules this would be her last appointment in the Circuit.</p> <p>Two new Trustees from last year, Ms. Brown and Mr. Goode, last year attended a professional trustee training course.</p>
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	<p>Two Trustees resigned during the past year, both in August. Ms. Vanessa Brackett has moved out of the area and is now involved in another Church. Ms. Joan Bennett resigned having completed the recommended six years as a Trustee. She continues to hold other positions within Rivercourt Methodist Church (“RMC”). The only other trustee paid apart from the minister is Kwaku Tieku. He plays the organ at services and is a trained music therapist. He is an excellent organist and communicator which makes him one of the great assets at RMC.</p>
Circuit	<p>The Methodist London District is made up of many Circuits. RMC is a member of the Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham Circuit, which consists of five Methodist churches: Askew Road, Chelsea, Fulham Broadway, RMC and Shepherd’s Bush Road. The assignment of ministers within the Circuit is decided by the Circuit itself. We share Rev. Vunipola with Shepherd’s Bush Road Church.</p>
Congregation and Faith Initiatives	<p>When the financial year began in September 2023 Covid was only a memory. RMC had its doors open as they were prior to Covid. Some practices which should have always been done stayed in place. Hand sanitizers, open windows, food and fire safety announcements along with the occasional face mask still make appearances. The position of Safeguarding Officer is now permanent and is always considered whenever changes are made.</p> <p>As the number of worshippers has gone up RMC has made an effort to keep the front doors open as much as possible. Thursdays are the day of choice for mid-week worship. Small Church meetings are held then as well the Film and Faith discussions.</p> <p>Pastoral visiting took place on a regular basis from Church members. Rev. Singa also visited members as required</p> <p>A WhatsApp group has helped those with computers to stay in touch.</p> <p>Last year Rivercourt decided to break from Glass Door Homeless Charity to support a new entity named Sunday Suppers. The breakaway allowed Rivercourt to use the best of Glass Door’s model but utilize the unique advantages we have at Rivercourt. Although long term Sunday Suppers could become a charity, this year it remained a part of Rivercourt Church. Sunday Suppers raised money for itself and only spent money designated for itself.</p>

	<p>This means that the accounts are more complicated than normal this year. A brief summary of the first year of operation follows. In 2023-24, Sunday Suppers served people who are homeless or experiencing food poverty with a nutritious free hot meal every Sunday evening from 19 Nov 2023 to 27 April 2024.</p> <p>Tea and coffee was served from 6.30pm. Supper was served at 7.30pm. We used halal meat; vegetarian and vegan options were available.</p> <p>We also offered our guests some groceries to take away, and good quality second-hand clothing, when available.</p> <p>We fed 172 different people, including 53 women, the youngest of whom was 14, and served over 1,000 meals, including takeaways. By the time we paused for a summer break we were feeding between 65 and 70 guests every Sunday.</p> <p>Volunteers came from Rivercourt and St. Peters. The Tongans regularly cooked and served food. Many others joined via word of mouth. Young adults from local schools helped out with washing up, serving coffee, etc. Special supervision was always given to students by adults mindful of safeguarding responsibilities.</p>
Ministerial Oversight	<p>At the September Church Council Meeting a vote was taken. Rev. Singa decided she wished to stay for another five years and her Circuit churches Shepherd's Bush Road and Rivercourt decided they would like to see her continue in her current role. She also manages the Tongan Fellowship Group in the UK. This brings a great deal of Tongans into Rivercourt of all ages for celebrations and fellowship.</p> <p>RMC is the perfect size for Tongan services and as a result although a normal congregation could be 15 to 20 people if the Tongans attend it could be doubled. If it is a special service, there could be 80 to 90 people including Tongan officials.</p> <p>Methodist ministers normally move from appointment to appointment in 5 year intervals. If both parties agree the 5 years can be extended for an additional 5 years. To stay longer requires exceptional circumstances. Examples could be ministers or family members requiring medical treatment close to the ministerial appointment. Singa began her role in the Circuit in August of 2019.</p>

Building	<p>RMC is an impressive church (insured value £13,185,221 as of 24 June 2024) not including contents. It opened in 1875. This means RMC will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2025. RMC was converted in the late 1990s to provide flexibility in a modern worship space. The building is both a curse and a blessing.</p> <p>The blessing is that as a high street church, there are many people passing by who express a genuine interest into what is going on inside. Many people stop to pray. Its location close to both bus and tube services as well as a cycle lane make it an easy place to have meetings, classes or other get togethers. Many people who come in off the street are very impressed with the worship space. With a large hotel very close we can see tourists on Sunday.</p> <p>The curse of a large church with a small congregation is its upkeep. Property management is a major cost of time and money for the Trustees. In recent years we have had exceptional costs for the spire, the roof, a sewage backup, drain collapses, and damp. Damp and drainage will always be a problem due to how basements were constructed in Victoria times. We just have to learn how to control it.</p>
Financial Accounts	<p>This year finds many categories up on the previous year. This is a one-off result of having Rivercourt Church as well as Sunday Suppers reported at the same time on a single bank account. In the future, once Sunday Suppers becomes a charity itself, the results will be reported separately.</p> <p>The shops in Rivercourt House have been managed badly by the Methodist London Committee (MLC). This has meant RMC is grossly underpaid for the two shops. However this will change as MLC takes charge and gets RMC the correct rent in good time with the correct amounts paid.</p> <p>Following a terrible period with no income from a nursery in the basement, we managed to find a tenant who is able to pay rent at £40,000 a year. Currently the tenant is on a limited contract but that will certainly be converted into a normal letting.</p> <p>Next year will be crucial for RMC. We should be able to collect back rent for properties managed by the MLC and collect a regular amount of £40,000 for the nursery. We could still have problems with the damp.</p>

Reserves	<p>Reserves are the amount of money held by RMC in case of unforeseen circumstances. RMC aims to keep six months of turnover in cash that is easily accessible. Both Sunday Suppers and the Church had a surplus. However the Sunday Suppers account surplus will disappear next year as SS becomes a Charity. Our bank account (Central Board of Finance) remained consistent. We are very dependent on the £10,000 we receive from the Nursery lettings every quarter. We also collect a regular rent from a flat RMC manages in Rivercourt House that is important.</p> <p>Reserves are also people. Our small and older congregation can do with help to realise RMC's potential. We need to employ people outside the congregation to keep RMC relevant via Social Media and Social Ministry. We need money to pay the human energy costs to bring a new generation to Christ in ways the current congregation can't really imagine.</p> <p>Much of our work in the community is the result of having a space that is extremely usable. The Sunday Supper community work brings many new people into RMC with new ideas. This can be seen with the explosion of new volunteers.</p> <p>Collecting the income from the properties managed by the Methodist London Committee (MLC) needs to be regular. If this happens, we should be able to maintain a healthy reserve. If we don't have rental income, we could look to cut back. Essential building repairs don't grow our mission but keep us going as we discover new ways of bringing the word of Christ to West London.</p> <p>If we get regular rental money, there is some pent-up pressure to spend money on RMC to enhance the worship experience and to grow the congregation. Hopefully we will be able to follow this path.</p>
Other	<p>Rivercourt itself received no special grants from Government or private interests. £3,000 was received by Sunday Suppers from The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. Income was derived from public giving, lettings and users of RMC itself. No professional fundraisers were used. All monies raised and spent were done so in England.</p> <p>Rivercourt Church is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2025. It will require a lot of work to the fabric of the Church. However no serious incidents occurred during the past year.</p>

Steve Lawrence – Church Treasurer

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
(SHORT FORM)

Rivercourt Methodist

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

Saturday 31 August 2024

Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham

Circuit no

35/04

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1174328

If not a registered charity **His Majesty's Revenue and Customs
Gift Aid number**

(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister: /



Revd IESINGA VANIPOLA

Church Stewards:



JAMES GOODE

Treasurer:



STEVE LAWRENCE

Rivercourt Methodist	Church	Church - Short Form
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ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2024

SECTION A		This year's amount to the nearest £	Last year's amount to the nearest £
	Note	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS		
a2i	Offerings and Tax recovered – Church	15,038	19,903
a2ii	Donations for Sunday Supper	12,350	
a3	Bank and CFB interest & investment income	863	494
a4	Lettings	124,093	101,738
a5	Other receipts	2,038	512
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	154,382	122,647
SECTION B			
b1	PAYMENTS		
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	8,000	8,872
b3	Donations	53	2,025
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	26,241	37,894
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	30,264	26,859
b6	Other payments	73,352	55,231
b7	Sunday Supper Expenses	6,120	0
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	144,030	130,881
SECTION C			
c1	NET RECEIPTS / (PAYMENTS) FOR THE YEAR (a6 - b7)	10,352	(8,234)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	39,930 (c7)	48,164
c3	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c1 + c2)	50,282	39,930 (c7)
c4	State here the total of any other assets of the Church		
c5	State here the total of any liabilities of the Church		
c6	State here the insured value of the Church premises and contents	13,358,725	12,906,842
SECTION D ANALYSIS OF FUNDS			
d1	Balances held at TMCP at 31 August		
d2	Balances held at CFB at 31 August	17,389	16,407
d3	Bank and cash balances at 31 August	32,893	23,523
d4	TOTAL (= Box c3)	50,282	39,930
SECTION E			
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS			
(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)			
e1	Balance brought forward from last year	0	0
e2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	0	
e3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	0	0
e4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID (e1+e2-e3)	0	0

Name of Church

Rivercourt Methodist Church

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer Steve Lawrence Date 30/06/25
Name and address of treasurer STEVE LAWRENCE
36 Westcroft Square Post Code W6 8TA

Presentation to the Church trustees

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting Rev. Ilesingavani Pula
Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev. ILESINGAVANI PULA Date 30.06.25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Rivercourt Methodist Church

Charity Number 1174328

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Rivercourt Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 set out on pages 2. 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.

Name of Church

Rivercourt Methodist Church

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 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 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 Chaweevan Williams FCCA

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner: Chartered Certified Accountant

Name of firm: Verdant Accountants Limited

Address: 20-22 Wenlock Road,

..... London N1 7GU

Date



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

RIVERCOURT METHODIST CHURCH

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 August 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1174328

Set out on page

1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 31 August 2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

30 June 2025

Name:

Chaweevan Williams FCCA

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body :**

Chartered Certified Accountants

Address:

Verdant Accountants Limited

20-22 Wenlock Road, London N1 7GU

Rivercourt Methodist Church

Accounts

Year ended 31 August 2024

Rivercourt Methodist Church
Receipts and payments summary
Year ended 31st August 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
£	£	£
Receipts		
<u>Voluntary Income</u>		
Collections, donations and Gift Aid	15,038	19,903
Donations for Sunday Supper	12,350	
 <u>Rental income:</u>		
Shops & Flats	51,464	20,527
Church basement	40,000	47,709
Church hall lettings	32,629	33,502
	<hr/> 124,093	<hr/> 101,738
 <u>Others income:</u>		
Bank Interest	863	494
Tenants' contribution towards costs	0	0
Insurance proceeds	0	0
Miscellaneous	2,038	512
Total Receipts	<hr/> 154,382	<hr/> 122,647
 <u>Payments</u>		
Circuit assessment	8,000	8,872
Staff salaries and National Insurance	30,467	30,623
Music Director/organ – Church	5,350	4,850
Property maintenance	26,240	32,749
Insurance	9,111	8,647
Light and heating	29,610	13,639
Water rates	653	688
Business rates	0	5,145
Cleaning and refuse collection	2,853	3,885
Telephone and internet	715	933
Professional fees- includes estate agent's fee	9,583	10,083
Accountancy	810	730
Postage and stationery	3,057	4,055
Travel	352	0
Bank charges	129	134
Other payments – flowers, Christmas tree, etc.	4,232	1,907
Purchase of equipment – computer, Hoover & Fridge	5,002	1,116
License cost	512	0
Sundry Expenses	381	0
Donations	53	2,025
Honorarium Bookkeeping	800	800
Sunday Supper Expenses	6,120	0
Total Payments	<hr/> (144,030)	<hr/> (130,881)
 (Deficit)/Surplus	<hr/> 10,352	<hr/> (8,234)

Rivercourt Methodist Church
Balance Sheet
As at 31 August 2024

	<u>2024</u> £	<u>2023</u> £
<u>General Fund</u>		
Accumulated (deficit)/surplus at 01 September 2023	39,930	48,164
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year - Church	4,122	(8,234)
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year - Sunday Supper	6,230	0
Accumulated (deficit)/surplus at 31 August 2024	50,282	39,930
<u>Represented by:</u>		
Bank & Cash		
- Central Board of Finance bank deposit account	17,389	16,407
- HSBC bank current account	32,893	23,523
- Petty Cash	0	0
Total funds at 31 August 2024	50,282	39,930



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
RIVERCOURT METHODIST CHURCH

Number
1174328

CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

01/09/2023

To

31/08/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Collections and Donations	15,038	-	-	15,038	19,903
Donations for Sunday Supper	12,350	-	-	12,350	-
Letting Income	124,093	-	-	124,093	101,738
Bank Interest	863	-	-	863	494
Other Receipts	2,038	-	-	2,038	512
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	154,382	-	-	154,382	122,647
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	154,382	-	-	154,382	122,647
A3 Payments					
Church Circuit	8,000	-	-	8,000	8,872
Property maintenance	26,241	-	-	26,241	37,894
Utilities & Water rates	30,264	-	-	30,264	26,859
Staff costs	30,467	-	-	30,467	30,623
Donations	53	-	-	53	2,025
Other payments	37,883	-	-	37,883	23,492
Sunday Supper Expenses	6,120	-	-	6,120	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	139,028	-	-	139,028	129,765
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Asset Purchase	5,002	-	-	5,002	1,116
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	5,002	-	-	5,002	1,116
Total payments	144,030	-	-	144,030	130,881
Net of receipts/(payments)	10,352	0	0	10,352	(8,234)
A5 Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	39,930	0	0	39,930	48,164
Cash funds this year end	50,282	0	0	50,282	39,930

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank accounts HSBC	32,893	-	-
	Bank accounts CFB -Deposit	17,389	-	-
			-	-
	Total cash funds	50,282	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

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**On accounts for the year
ended**

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Signed:

Date:

30 June 2025

Name:

Chaweevan Williams FCCA

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body :**

Chartered Certified Accountants

Address:

Verdant Accountants Limited

20-22 Wenlock Road, London N1 7GU