

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1174524

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2017-09-06

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Walton-On-Thames Methodist Church
Terrace Road
Walton-On-Thames
KT12 2SR

Phone 01932429184

Website www.waltonmethodist.org

Activities

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

Activities: We carry out weekly religious devotional acts, outreach work, group study, prayer meetings and induction sessions for interested people. We support and enable church members to serve in their local community and elsewhere, and demonstrate Christian beliefs by social action.

Classification

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

Geography

- Surrey

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£82,095	£65,775	-	-
2024-08-31	£81,362	£85,334	-	-
2023-08-31	£108,605	£102,900	-	-
2022-08-31	£90,987	£81,256	-	-
2021-08-31	£59,424	£136,221	-	-
2020-08-31	£129,874	£94,050	-	-

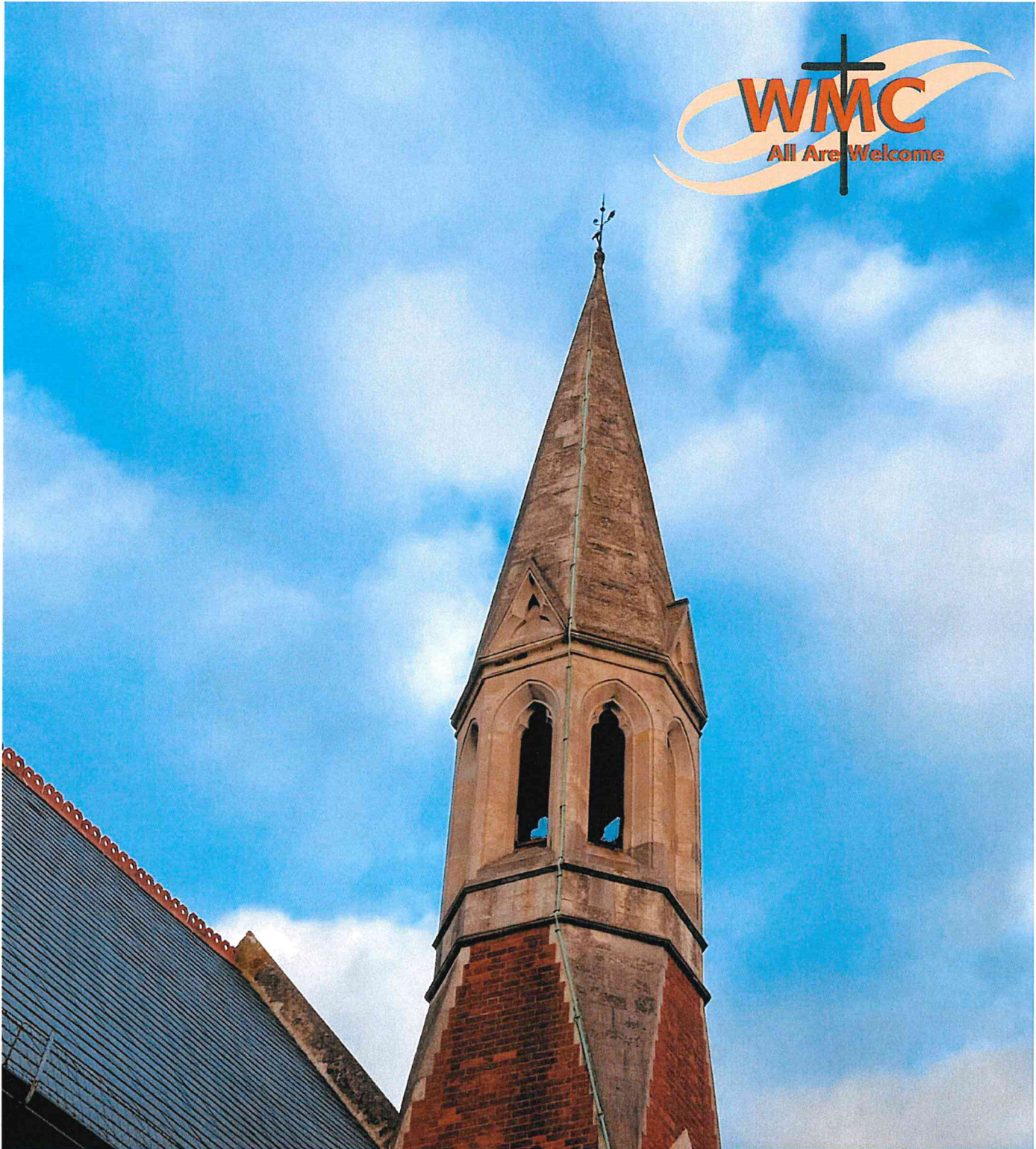
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Chun Yan Daniel Wu		2025-04-06
David Lawson Lean		2025-04-06
Eileen Koshie Odaale Boye PhD		2018-03-18
Lai Shan Christin Ip		2025-04-06
MARION ALICE WADLEY		2012-10-18
MR D CURTIS		2012-07-16
MR D PATERSON		2017-03-12
MR R RICHARDSON		2016-03-13
MRS C HEFFERNAN		2011-03-27
MRS C MILLS		2011-03-27
MRS J CURTIS		2015-03-01
MRS R EVANS		2002-03-03
MRS R HOPKINS		2014-02-25
MS C MORGAN		2014-02-25
Rev Shaun Sanders		2024-09-01
Valerie Anne Barker BA		2021-03-28

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1174524

Accounts



Annual Church Meeting Reports

Sunday 6th April 2025

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Messy Church (Jeannette Curtis)

WITS (Rosanne Jackson)

Prayer Group (Ross Richardson)

Small Groups:

TAF - Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship;

Lent Groups,

Contemplative Group

(Jeannette Curtis / Ross Richardson)

Minister's Report

Rev. Shaun Sanders

I am grateful for everyone's support during my first six months here at Walton. I reflect that despite the challenges which all churches face, there have been several highlights which should encourage us for the future.

- The harvest festival service in September saw the church packed with people of all ages as we were joined by the Guides, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers who meet on the premises during the week. They all contributed to the worship and donations of food and other items were given for the Walton and Hershams Foodbank.
- A service of remembrance and thanksgiving took place in October when we named those we love but who are no longer with us and we lit candles in their memory.

- On Christmas Eve, we held Messy Church for all ages and came together for a simple act of worship with our Christingles which we had made.
- We enjoyed pancakes on Shrove Tuesday in a special coffee morning and raised money to support ovarian cancer research and care.
- Throughout the year a small band of volunteers from the church have joined me at Glendale nursing home where we have led a small act of worship and we have sung familiar hymns with the residents.

Other activities include our work with children and young people, pudding and praise, fellowship groups, contemplative oasis meditations, other coffee mornings and special services, pastoral care, stewardship of our premises and finances, safeguarding, administration, weekly worship and much much more which allows us to support the ministry and mission of our church. Thank you for everyone's contribution in whatever way.

I reflect over my many years of ministry that churches which flourish or survive against the odds are more likely to have broad edges. They have links which reach out to the wider pastoral community, user groups, local community and wider world so that many more folk feel they belong or have a connection with the church. That's always a challenge to maintain when we already feel under pressure. However, it's a key part of our Methodist tradition and reflects the Christian Good News for all.

Shaun

The Leadership Team Report

Ross Richardson

The Church Stewards who (together with Rev Sydney Samuel until August 2024 and Shaun Sanders from September 2025 onwards) constitute the WMC Leadership Team have been across the past year (since April 2023):

Ross Richardson (Senior);

Val Barker

Dave Paterson

Dave Paterson also continues in his roles as Circuit Treasurer and Local Preacher and Chris Mills is our Circuit Invitations Committee Member. We are very grateful to Chris for her role in this group as she worked tirelessly in this role to help secure our new minister Rev Shaun Sanders.

Aside from helping with some administrative elements of the weekly services, the Leadership Team attempts to navigate a course for the Church through the Liturgical year. We try to meet every 6 weeks where we attempt to plan for

each quarter – which I sometimes find difficult (for example... thinking about Christmas in June and Lent and Easter in October).

The visible part of the role is on a Sunday morning, where you will see the steward opening the service, welcoming the minister and highlighting any notices.

We try to resolve issues (practical, pastoral, and administrative), keep an eye over various aspects of Church Administration (GDPR, Risk Assessments, EDI and Safeguarding). We also try to think “Creatively and Strategically” about new worship, service, church growth or community outreach ideas. All of us are involved in other parts of Church ministry though this is absolutely NOT a requirement of being a steward.

We also try and execute some of these ideas. Some of us went to the Circuit Planning days last year and came away with seeds of new ideas for services and initiatives, some of which we have put in place over the past year.

We have not reviewed our Mission Statement and our plans, purposes and future direction as a Church. This is a project for this next anniversary year, and together with our minister, and hopefully whole community involvement we will look at what this may entail.

We are always looking for new stewards to join the Leadership Team. If you feel called to contribute of your time and energy and would like to be part of what I have described, then please speak to me.

I would be very keen to explore this further with you.

As ever, we would appreciate your prayers for our efforts as stewards, for our Minister and for our Church in the coming months as we seek to be Salt and Light to each other and in the world outside of our Church.

Ross Richardson

Pastoral Secretary's Report

Ruth Evans

It is good to report that although several pastoral visitors have retired, after years of faithful visiting, we still maintain a reduced team of Pastoral Visitors who have taken on extra visiting.

However, with a smaller team of Pastoral Visitors, it is difficult to maintain the same level of care. We are still managing, just about, to cover the whole church with our care. It does mean an extra load for our caring but if folk are not visited, we phone to keep in touch or make contact by email.

We hope no one feels neglected. Our aim is to look out for each other especially at Sunday Services. If anyone feels the need for a visitor, please let me know. Our Minister Rev Shaun Sanders and I visit anyone who is housebound. Many thanks to Catherine who helps me with the administrative side of things and she herself is a dedicated Pastoral Visitor.

If anyone who is reading this feels led to come forward as a pastoral visitor, please come and speak to me and I can let you know more about this rewarding role.

Ruth Evans

Finance Report

Duncan Curtis

Walton on Thames Methodist Church

Notes to the Annual accounts for the period
ending 31st August 2024

Another satisfactory year is behind us and thankfully we are still on a relatively sound financial footing. Can I thank you once again for your generosity, whilst so many other costs are increasing for us all. However, although collections remain around static, our Gift day result was substantially down and my expectation is that this will continue. So our savings will be depleted and it will be harder to find cash for essential work on property repairs and the like.

These notes are meant to be read in conjunction with our annual accounts and are a way of explaining them more clearly than just in figures. Our Income and Expenditure statement for the year end highlights reasons why the predicted

deficit was smaller than anticipated. If you don't have a copy of the accounts and wish for one, please ask.

Thanks to Chris who works with me so well on all matters, property related. Also to Rosanne, who has been instrumental with help in keeping our lettings going again, although they were well below budget. For the benefit of the Charity commission and in relation to VAT rules, we are in no way profitable. Our rental income is only around 16% of our total income although of course our renters occupy the building for far longer than the average Church member. Catherine and Tony save us money too and Catherine helps wherever she can on property matters.

This year both Electric and Gas contracts have been renewed at sharply higher rates.

So do your bit please to keep costs down by turning off lights and water heaters and boilers when they are not needed.

Our Charitable giving fell this year but mainly because of a lower Gift Day result.

Bank interest on our funds is increasing but of course inflation is reducing the capital value and the cost of building work, (which most of the funds are for) is going up by leaps and bounds. However it came in at £6357 as compared with the budget of £4000

Cash collections were around 14% of our total collections, the rest coming by standing order, cheque and internet banking.

Many thanks again to Alan Weight, for all his help with both accounts and the Gift Aid claim. He is of great assistance.

As your treasurer I am at your service and in the event of any query please contact me.

Duncan E Curtis

Property Report

Chris Mills

We have had a quieter year on the Property front this past year – I'm sure our treasurer is happy with that!

Most of the jobs carried out were routine servicing or small maintenance jobs.

The more significant jobs were:

Re-sanding of the hall floor – costing £2750

Purchasing of new pew cushions - £3950 – from our legacy funds, from which we also purchased some more hymnbooks.

We have been approached by the Guides group for permission to replace their outside storage unit which is leaking badly (this is at the back of our grounds at the side of the church).

However, this has led to concerns about the agreement we have with the Guides over use of this storage space. At the recommendation of TMCP (Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes) we have sought legal advice about how to put a formal agreement in place. This is an ongoing process.

At the suggestion of church members, we plan to purchase a bench for outside the front of the church.

I am always interested to receive suggestions of improvements to the church premises from anyone.

Chris Mills

Safeguarding Report

Catherine Heffernan

I am pleased to report that it has been a relatively quiet year, Safeguarding wise.

We recently had our Circuit Safeguarding audit to complete, where we are asked various questions about the necessary paperwork being in place and confirmation that we are following the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance as set down by The Methodist Church. I was able to submit a return showing that we are almost fully compliant.

All our Volunteers have been safely recruited, including obtaining references and where necessary DBS checks. Safeguarding training has been completed or is due to be completed.

I continue to monitor when DBS checks and Safeguarding training become due and remind the respective individuals.

We are very lucky that our Circuit has several Safeguarding Foundation module trainers, including our own Carol Morgan, and so the Circuit are able to deliver the necessary training courses to keep the Safeguarding training at Walton Methodist Church up to date.

We are also very fortunate that Claire Coles has joined the South East District as our new District Safeguarding Officer and she has been on hand to offer help and guidance where needed.

Our church took part in Safeguarding Sunday on Sunday 17th November, where Rev Shaun gave a very insightful sermon on this subject.

At a recent Church Council meeting we were reminded that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we had an insightful True or False Quiz.

Catherine Heffernan

pudding and Praise

Ross Richardson

Now in its 10 year of existence, our Pudding and Praise café styled service, held 3 or 4 times a year, continues to do “what it says on the tin...” i.e. it has a heavy focus on lovely Puddings and Spirit led Praise always beautifully curated by Breeze our pop up group of musicians led by Tracey Ball who is supported by Lynda Shaw, Glen Penfold, Mark Hargreaves and Caroline Pearce.

I believe that Pudding and Praise offers a blank sheet, experimental “liminal space” opportunity for the Holy Spirit to abide with us, and I would encourage anyone who would like to enjoy a different worship experience to come along and enjoy this service. We encourage the leadership of this to be from our lay people rather than clergy, and try to involve different voices and faces in them.

If you have suggestions for a theme for the music, discussions or puddings or would like to be involved then we would love to hear from you – so get in touch!

Cornerstones of this service are Breeze under Tracey Ball's leadership and Dave Paterson who spends a lot of time sculpting these services. I am very grateful for their energy and efforts which go into making every one of these services very special. Additionally, we have enjoyed a thoughtful P&P service which was led by our Youth Group – special thanks again to them for the care and attention that they took over this particular service.

This year we will have a theme running through some of our services which is based on our relationship with God – these are titled "Up," "Out" and "In"... Intrigued? Come along and discover what it all means for yourself!

Ross Richardson

Sunday School

Catherine Heffernan

Our Sunday School continues to thrive, with 6 regular teenagers and now some new under 10s starting to come more regularly.

On the 1st Sunday in the month, when we have Holy Communion, we do not have Sunday School, but the young people are encouraged to stay with us in the service instead.

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays are covered by our three regular Sunday School teachers: Catherine Heffernan, Lynda Shaw and Ross Richardson, who each take one session a month.

Jeannette Curtis has also kindly said she will take a session in a 5 week month, to ease the strain on the other Sunday School teachers, which is very much appreciated.

We have been faced with quite a tough challenge, in that our younger children are now too old for the creche, but are much younger than our current cohort of Sunday School young people.

As we do not have enough volunteers for two Sunday School groups - we are trialling having one extra person in the room to help if some younger children come, while the main Sunday School teacher works with the older ones.

We have been very fortunate that seven additional people from the congregation have come forward to be that 3rd person, when necessary.

Materials and activities are prepared for the extra helper by the Sunday School teacher and it is hoped that this will provide a fun time for the younger children, without disrupting the more mature lesson the older ones will be having. Watch this space!

We follow the material provided by 'Roots' which is available in a magazine and online. 'Roots' provide all the material and the Sunday School teacher just has to choose which items they think will work best for our groups, so they do not have to think up a lesson themselves!

It would be really great if someone could come forward and offer to take one Sunday School lesson a month. **So, if you are reading this and think you can spare one Sunday morning a month, please let us know!**

We are also very blessed that several members of the congregation have agreed to be a 2nd DBS checked adult, to sit in on our sessions. Without their help it would not be possible to run the Sunday School, so we are extremely grateful to Rita Hopkins, Linda Holden, Rosanne Jackson, Joy Lord and Wendy Mulvagh for their amazing support.

All the Sunday School teachers and helpers have up- to-date DBS checks and have attended the relevant Safeguarding Training.

Catherine Heffernan

Youth Group Report

Jeannette Curtis

At Walton Methodist Church, we are fortunate to have a wonderful group of young people. They enjoy coming to church and having a chance to have their own part of worship in Sunday school. I am very appreciative of Catherine for organising the rota and the teachers and their helpers. The young people certainly challenge us in these meetings. I am glad that they also take up challenges. As we saw at the Local Arrangement (LA) on Sunday 19th January.

Some time ago Divine was not sure whether he was too old for Sunday school and I did explain that it was good to have him in Sunday School, to keep the discussions going. Certainly, during the two Sunday school sessions that I took, to plan the LA service, he was very useful in giving ideas.

The theme for the LA was God's love. The two stories that were used to illustrate this love were Jonah, which Divine spoke about and Zacchaeus, which Ian spoke about.

Ianna and Joanne wrote the prayers and they decided on the hymns together in the early stages of the planning. It was good to have Seram to close the service and Elikem did the PowerPoint and a reading.

They have now taken a Pudding and Praise and a LA. I am hoping they will take the service on Palm Sunday, which is a LA.

Sunday school is really the youth group meeting time. They do use many forms of social media to communicate with each other. I was thankful to Joanne for allowing the group to meet at her house to do the final planning, for the LA in January. They do consume quite a lot of food when they meet. It is good that we have a generous amount of money in the youth group fund so that Duncan can pay for this.

There are plans for a day in London on Easter Monday. If we do not have a youth leader it is great that the youth can organise themselves and if we can help them out financially sometimes, that is good. There is money in the church account to pay for some of these outings.

Messy Church Report

Jeannette Curtis

Since Lockdown we have started up slowly with Messy Church. Then at the start of 2024 I started treatment for cancer. This meant that we did not do much at the start of the year. At Easter the young people set up the Easter garden.

In September Shaun joined us and has shown an interest in Messy church so we did do Christingle on Christmas eve. We had three families and it was good to see the young people helping the little ones make the Christingles and colour angels to hang up.

The wonderful team that helps with Messy church has changed. We are pleased to welcome Margaret, Cynthia and Wendy, their talents are much appreciated. Ashvir, my grandson, has been involved with the technical side and has prepared the PowerPoints. He tells me he would like to do these in future.

Talking to Shaun, I anticipate doing Messy Mothers on March 29th when we will look at mothers in the bible possibly Ruth and on April 19th (possibly in the morning) Messy Easter when we will make the Easter garden and think about the new life that is about to come.

I do appreciate the prayers that we have for Messy Church, it is outreach into Walton and other areas, we are part of a bigger organisation and there is plenty of help for us on the Messy church website.

Jeannette Curtis

WITS

Rosanne Jackson

Chris hosted a summer get-together in her garden one evening and we were blessed with the good weather.

We also organised a Macmillan coffee morning at the church in October.

Jeannette hosted an evening in November remembering Christmas past.

Our annual January meal was held at Carluccio's and was enjoyed by all.

Rosanne Jackson

Walton MC Prayer Group

Ross Richardson

Our prayer group has been meeting since 1998 each Saturday morning. As Christians – we are encouraged to “pray at all times” not just “some” times.

We are encouraged to pray for all people and across the whole spectrum of life’s circumstances and seasons - joy, grief, success, happiness, celebration, doubt, distress, illness, lament and pain.

The Prayer Group prays through all these things, every Saturday from 8am for our Church, Nation, Local Community, and World.

We successfully moved our prayer meeting online as soon as we went into lockdown 4 years ago. It is very rare for us to have missed a week in the last year and meet online via WhatsApp each Saturday. Messages flow as we discuss the lectionary scriptures and pray through the needs of our world and community each week.

You are welcome to “pop in” and join the conversation any Saturday, or you can simply sit in them, read the messages and not join the conversation.

Our meetings are always uplifting. If you would like prayer for yourself or a friend, please contact the prayer group through the website or speak to Ross.

Ross Richardson

TAF - Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship

Jeannette Curtis

During lent last year we, with the other group, read and studied "Tarry Awhile", a book written by Selina Stone and recommended by the Archbishop of Canterbury as the Lent book for 2024.

We all found this book very challenging in many ways. However when Lent finished we realised that we had hardly touched the many topics that are raised. So in May and June we continued to study two more chapters, as we were now meeting once a month. July and August we used the prayer handbook of the Methodist church as the basis for our devotion.

I am grateful to Sandra and Colin for providing the refreshments and the suggestions that the group makes. There was difficulty hearing what was being said, when we met in the church, and so now we meet in the Narthex and the sound is a bit better.

With Lent this year about to start we will be ecumenical as a group as there will Catholics and URC members joining us for "Soul Food".

Lent Group

Ross Richardson

We have run Lent Groups for the past 25 years, sometimes with ecumenical members. This year we have 2 groups which meet on a Tuesday afternoon and evening.

We are currently studying the Methodist Church interactive material which is titled Soul Food and also has the feature of a daily email update from the Methodist Church.

The material will give us the opportunity to think about different elements of our spirituality some of which may be challenging - which is perfect for the Lenten season.

Ross Richardson

Contemplative Group

Ross Richardson

I came across the TakeTime contemplative organisation some time ago, and sensed that there may be an opportunity and desire for this spirituality for this at WMC. The meditations are based on the principles of Ignatian contemplation which involves immersing yourself as an onlooker in a piece of Gospel.

I trained myself on one of their courses, which enables me to lead these sessions in their style, and in the Ignatian tradition. We have purchased a licence which gives us access to a huge database of scripts and videos that can be used in services or small groups.

I run this group in blocks of around 6 weeks usually following the lectionary readings each week following Lenten and Advent themes in these seasons.

The meetings are short usually running to between 25 and 40 minutes and there is no requirement to be involved or say anything – you can simply sit quietly and enjoy some peace infused time for yourself.

The response to these has been enlightening and gratifying with around a dozen people dipping into these groups and really enjoying the opportunity to slow down and sit quietly in the presence of the Divine each week.

We meet both in person in the Church and by Zoom – so you can join in from the comfort of your couch if you would like to.

Ross Richardson

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Walton-on-Thames	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
Sunday 31 August 2025

Wey Valley Circuit	Circuit	Circuit no.	36/6
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1174524
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If not a registered charity His Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number	
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(The HMRC number is equivalent to a registered charity number in terms of evidence of charitable status and may be used to give to donors or grant funders wishing to see evidence of the organisation's charitable status. Methodist charities in England and Wales that are not registered charities are excepted from registration under Statutory Instrument 2014 No.242)

Minister:

Rev Shaun Saunders

Church Stewards:

Ross Richardson	
Dave Paterson	
Valerie Barker	

Treasurer:

Duncan Curtis

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year	
		£	£	£	£	
a1	RECEIPTS					
	Note					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	59,503	120	59,623	60,346	
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	5,873	1,501	7,374	8,024	
a4	Lettings	14,773		14,773	13,476	
a5	Other receipts	325		325	1,806	
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	80,474	1,621	82,095 (a7)	83,653	
SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	38,274		38,274	38,274	
b3	Donations	2,500	50	2,550	2,116	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	9,695		9,695	30,483	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	7,894		7,894	7,479	
b6				0		
b7	Other payments	7,153	209	7,362	9,465	
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	65,516	259	65,775 (b9)	87,817	
SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	14,958	1,362	16,320	(4,164)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		132,147	33,902	166,049 (c6)	170,213
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	147,105	35,263	182,369	166,049
c4	Transfers and adjustments			0 (c7)		
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	147,105	35,263	182,369 (c8)	166,049 (c6)

SECTION D			
		£	£
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS			
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		
d1	Balance brought forward from last year	61	68
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	3,094	3,014
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	2,898	3,020
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	257	61
	(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 2025 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1			0			0
e2			0			0
e3			0			0
e4			0			0
e5			0			0
e6			0			0
e7			0			0
e8	0	0	0	0	0 (e11)	0 (e12)
e9	82,095 (a7)	65,775 (b9)	16,320	(c7)	166,049 (c6)	182,369 (c8)
e10	82,095	65,775	16,320	0	166,049 (x)	182,369 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2025**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1	25	25
f2	10,933	6,505
f3		
f4	155,091	175,839
f5		
f6		
f7	166,049 (c6)	182,369 (c8)
f8	0 (e11)	0 (e12)
f9	166,049 (x)	182,369 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1		
g2		
g3		
g4		
g5		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

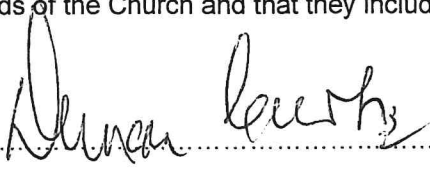
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of Church **Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church** No 1174524

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer  Date 13/11/25

Name and address of treasurer **Duncan Curtis**
1 Wadham Close, Shepperton Post Code TW17 9HT

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 10th February 2026

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Stuart Vander Date 10-10-26

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church

Charity Number 1174524

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages ... to 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 **Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church** No 1174524

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 *RLewis*

Name of independent examiner *Robert G. Lewis*

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner *FCCA*

Name of firm (where appropriate) *N/A*

Address *15 SOUTHERLAND CLOSE*

..... *WEYBRIDGE, SURREY* Post Code *KT13 9EN*

Date *24.11.25*

* delete or circle as appropriate

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH
Income & Expenditure Account for the period 01/09/2024- 31/08/2025

RESTRICTED FUNDS

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
2023/24	ITEM	2024/25	BUDGET	2023/24	ITEM	2024/25	BUDGET
	Benevolent Fund						
	Collections	120			Payments	50	
	Transfer from General Fund				Surplus	70	
	Deficit					120	
		120					
	Charitable Funds						
3,014	Collections	2,537		3,020	Paid to charities	2,342	
7	Deficit				Surplus	195	
3,020		2,537		3,020		2,537	
	Connexional Funds						
	Collections	557			Paid to Connexion	557	
	Deficit				Surplus	557	
		557				557	
	Messy Church Fund						
	Donations			36	Expenses		
	Tax Rebate				Surplus		
36	Deficit						
36				36			
	Youth Work Fund						
	Transfer from General Fund				Salary		
623	Donations				Expenses	209	
1,667	Interest	1,501		2,447	Surplus	1,292	
	Tax Rebate					1,501	
156	Deficit						
2,447		1,501		2,447			
					SURPLUS re Restricted	1,557	
	Grand Total	4,714			Grand Total	4,714	

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH
Income & Expenditure Account for the period 01/09/2024- 31/08/2025

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
2023/24	ITEM	2024/25	BUDGET	2023/24	ITEM	2024/25	BUDGET
	<i>Collections</i>			38,274	Circuit Assessment	38,274	38,275
31,429	Envelopes & Std Orders	28,946		4,484	Secretarial Expenses	4,768	5,250
5,265	Cash	5,640		246	Office Expenses	479	750
36,694		34,586	30,000	1,815	Worship Expenses	1,675	2,500
					Mission Expenses		1,000
10,760	Gift Day	13,315	10,000	210	Training		
12,065	Tax Rebate	11,350	10,000	1,616	Gift Day Charities	2,000	
455	Circuit Grants				Transfer to Youth Work Fund		
1,207	Legacies				<i>Property</i>		
6,357	Interest	5,873	5,500	4,631	Utilities	4,657	7,500
13,476	Lettings	14,773	12,500	6,382	General expenditure	3,452	7,200
175	Fundraising			4,791	Cleaning	4,912	5,500
30	Donations	252		19,311	Repairs & Replacements	1,331	15,000
144	Sundry Income	325	500	166	Junior Church	171	250
				2,848	Insurance	3,238	3,300
				500	Connexional Funds	500	500
				60	Bank Charges	60	
81,362		80,474	68,500	85,334		65,516	87,025
3,972			18,525		SURPLUS re Unrestricted	14,958	
85,334	Grand Total	80,474	87,025	85,334	Grand Total	80,474	87,025

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

Balance Sheet as at 31/08/2025

31-Aug-24

31-Aug-25

Current Assets

£	£	£		£	£	£
			Bank & Cash Balances			
	10,994		CAF Bank			6,762
	18,294		Central Finance Board - Deposit A/c			19,684
	15,751		Legacies			15,427
	22,280		General Reserve 2023			23,290
	63,267		Property Reserve (from Gift Days)			80,541
	2,306		Mental Health Reserve 2019			2,410
	33,193		Special Projects Youth Work			34,485
	25		Petty Cash			25
		<u>166,110</u>				<u>182,625</u>

Represented by:

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

136,119		General Fund (balce b/f 01/09/24)	132,147		
(3,972)	132,147	Surplus / Deficit ()	14,958	147,105	
		132,147 TOTAL OF UNRESTRICTED FUNDS			147,105

RESTRICTED FUNDS

129		Benevolent Fund (balce b/f 01/09/24)	129		
	129	Surplus / Deficit ()	70	199	
68		Charity Collections (balce b/f 01/09/24)	61		
(7)	61	Surplus / Deficit ()	195	257	
		Connexional Funds (balce b/f 01/09/24)			
		Surplus / Deficit ()			
616		Messy Church Fund (balce b/f 01/09/24)	580		
(36)	580	Surplus / Deficit ()		580	
33,350		Youth Work Fund (balce b/f 01/09/24)	33,193		
(156)	33,193	Surplus / Deficit ()	1,292	34,485	
		33,963 TOTAL OF RESTRICTED FUNDS			35,520
	<u>166,110</u>				<u>182,625</u>

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

Charitable Giving

	2023/24		2024/25	
Connexional Funds				
World Mission	<u>500.00</u>	500.00	<u>500.00</u>	500.00
Other Donations				
Action For Children	826.87		50.58	
All We Can	547.89		93.15	
Bible Society			141.26	
Christian Aid	168.16		157.60	
Crisis	181.17		820.84	
Elmbridge Ecohub	170.40		151.51	
Foodbank			141.00	
Love Russia	205.00		155.00	
McMillan Cancer care	233.00		279.00	
MHA	396.00			
Smiles2Smiles			152.66	
St Georges			85.00	
Target Ovarian Cancer	222.57		131.27	
Tear Fund	62.74			
War Child	<u> </u>	3,013.80	<u>178.13</u>	2,537.00
Gift Day Charities				
Action For Children	202.00		500.00	
All We Can			500.00	
Alzheimer's Society	202.00			
Anna Chaplaincy	202.00			
Foodbank	202.00			
Fund For Human Need	202.00			
MHA	202.00		500.00	
Rent Start	202.00		500.00	
War Child	<u>202.00</u>	1,616.00	<u> </u>	2,000.00
	<u> </u>	<u>5,129.80</u>	<u> </u>	<u>5,037.00</u>

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church

Governance – decision making

The following was agreed at the Church Council (CC) meeting 18 October 2016 and reviewed August 2023

- The property secretary can agree expenditure up to £2500. The Property Secretary will always check with the Treasurer if over £500. The Property Secretary will continue to report any expenditure to the next CC meeting.
- Any item over £2500 will be brought back to CC. If a decision is required in advance of the next scheduled CC meeting the Property Secretary and Treasurer will request the Leadership Team call an extraordinary CC meeting. 14 days' notice is required. If the matter is urgent and above £2500 emails can be used to approve the decision, with a minuted agenda item at the next CC meeting. Emails will not be used outside of these circumstances.
- Maintenance contracts are in place for expenditure such as the fire alarm, photocopier, fire extinguishers and sound system.
- All BACS payments have to be electronically released, and at present a nominated authorised signatory does them all, after the Treasurer enters them into the CAF bank system. This is for any amount. However, in future, a nominated authorised signatory will contact a member of the Leadership team for confirmation that s/he can release any item over £2500. This contact can be by phone, email or in person, but s/he will make a note of who has agreed and keep records which will be passed to the Treasurer each August and kept on file with the rest of the paperwork.
- All cheques are signed by two people (the Treasurer and an authorised signatory).
- If the Property Secretary receives a quote for £2,500 and over she will seek a second quote unless a recognised provider is used whose standard of work has proved satisfactory in the past. She will then liaise with a Steward and then the Treasurer. This will be reported to the next CC meeting.
- The Benevolent Fund is to be used at the Minister's discretion. In the absence of a Minister, the Leadership team are allowed to authorise any amount from this fund when it was needed, and report back to CC.
- Any project which is done in the name of the Church should come to the CC for its approval, for example the Uganda project and 3Generate. CC should approve projects before plans go ahead. This helps to ensure projects are aligned with the vision and strategy of Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church and helps to achieve the widest reach of limited resources.
- Small raffles are allowed, at the discretion of the CC, in line with the Methodist Church Constitutional Practice and Discipline. A raffle can only be held within a fundraising event, the cost of prizes must be under £50 and no alcohol is allowed as prizes.

These notes will be filed in the front of the CC folders stored at the Church.

Current role holders –

- Chris Mills – Property Secretary
- Duncan Curtis – Treasurer
- Hilary Richardson – the only person (an authorised signatory) who can release the electronic payments

Minutes of Zoom meeting 14th January 2026 regarding Charities to be supported at Walton on Thames Methodist Church during 2026

Present Shaun, Val, Catherine, Jeannette and Duncan

Coffee Collections

Feb Mar	Mind
Apr May	Bible Society
June July	Local Ecohub
Aug Sept	War Child
Oct Nov	Wood Green Animal Sanctuary
Dec Jan	Foodbank

Collections on December 20th in the evening and on Dec. 25th will be taken for Crisis. At the Carol service the collection will be taken during the service and prior notice given of these cash collections.

Gift Day pause

May 3rd

Charities

Action For Children

Rent Start

Cherry Trees

M.H.A.

A quarter each of how much is raised

Article for this coming Aspire regarding the charities

World Mission Fund from Church Funds £500 plus individual donations. During July

21 March Saturday

Poems for **Mind** Charity

David, Catherine and Val

Ties in with Coffee collections

23 May Tear Fund Quiz 2-4pm

Dawn and Catherine to run this

One off donations in lieu of Gift Day throughout the year if people wish to make them for the benefit of the Church

We will not be seeking sponsors this year for the Surrey Churches cycle ride
Macmillan Cancer charity coffee date to be fixed Jeannette and Rosanne in October.
Should not clash with Harvest.

Harvest Food donations for **Foodbank**. Date to be fixed by L T
Pauline Wakefield will speak about **Wood Green Animal sanctuary** on Animal Sunday with cakes being sold to beef up our coffee collections in October and November.
Date to be fixed.

Catherine to possibly sell **Cherry Trees** cards for Xmas.

Duncan 14/01/26.

**WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH
PHASED BUDGET 2024-25**

INCOME

ITEM	BUDGET 2024/25	Phased Cumulative Budget other qtrs		
		Q1	Q2	Q3
Unrestricted				
Collections	30,000	7,500	15,000	22,500
Tax Rebate	10,000			
Interest	5,500	1,375	2,750	4,125
Lettings	12,500	3,125	6,250	9,375
Gift Day	10,000			10,000
Sundry	500	125	250	375
Grants				
Legacies				
Fundraising				
Donations				
Other Church Groups				
Restricted				
DEFICIT	18,525	8,684	16,990	19,754
	87,025	20,809	41,240	66,129

EXPENDITURE

ITEM	BUDGET 2024/25	Phased Cumulative Budget other qtrs		
		Q1	Q2	Q3
Unrestricted				
Circuit Assessment	38,275	9,570	19,140	28,710
Secretarial Services	5,250	1,315	2,250	3,845
Office Expenses	750	187	375	562
Worship Expenses	2,500	625	1,250	1,875
Mission Expenses	1,000	250	500	750
Utilities	7,500	1,875	3,750	5,625
Property - Gen Exp	7,200	1,800	3,600	5,400
Property - R&R	15,000	3,750	7,500	11,250
Cleaning	5,500	1,375	2,750	4,125
Junior Church	250	62	125	187
Insurance	3,300			3,300
Connexional Funds	500			500
Restricted				
SURPLUS	87,025	20,809	41,240	66,129

Walton on Thames Methodist Church
Notes to the Annual accounts for the period ending 31st August 2025

Another satisfactory year is behind us and thankfully we are still on a relatively sound financial footing. Can I thank you once again for your generosity, which is much appreciated. However, although collection totals remain roughly static, Gift Day is much lower than past years although a little up on 2024. So our savings will be depleted and it will be harder to find cash for essential work on property repairs and the like in future years.

These notes are meant to be read in conjunction with our annual accounts and are a way of explaining them more clearly than just in figures. Our Income and Expenditure statement for the year end highlights reasons why the predicted deficit turned into a surplus! Virtually everything on the Income side of the accounts was better than anticipated by me whilst expenditure items were nearly all under budget. A good result in my book. I don't mind being wrong that way round. Part of the reason is because spending on property this year was a lot less than anticipated. I expect Chris will put this right in the coming year?

If you don't have a copy of the accounts and wish for one, please ask.

Thanks to Chris who works with me so well on all matters, property related. Also to Rosanne, who has been instrumental with help in keeping our lettings going again, and this time up on budget. For the benefit of the Charity commission and in relation to VAT rules, we are in no way profitable. Our rental income is only around 18% of our total income although of course our renters occupy the building for far longer than the average Church member. Catherine and Tony save us money to and Catherine helps wherever she can on property matters. Catherine has also been relieving Rosanne of some lettings work, allowing Rosanne to keep going with it and, in addition, we cut out Children's parties to reduce paperwork and a lot of time and effort for not a lot of reward.

Please continue to do your bit please to keep costs down by turning off lights and water heaters and boilers when they are not needed. Our utility costs were well inside budget but this was partly due to a large refund from E.D.F, some of which related to last year. We were paying them a flat amount each month, much as many of us do at home, but the amount was too much and they seemed reluctant to bring it down. Now I pay them each month for our actual consumption which I think will work better. Our Electricity contract runs out in April 26 but the gas one runs on until 2027.

Charitable giving this last year was very similar overall to the year before, at around £5000, but Gift Day giving (part of the overall amount) was up about £400.

Bank interest continues to provide a helpful contribution to our funds and was over budget although interest rates have dropped this last year. This of course only tends to partially compensate for inflation.

Anyone who would like to switch to paying their collection by standing order straight to our Church bank account, rather than in the bags on a Sunday, would be very welcome. It is easy and you know how much you contribute. If you have not adjusted the amount you pay upwards recently, please think about doing so. Some have remained static for many years. We have lost at least one generous giver this year and it takes a lot to make up the difference.

Many thanks again to Alan Weight, for his continued help with both accounts and the Gift Aid claim. He is of great assistance.

As your treasurer I am at your service and in the event of any query please contact me.

Duncan E Curtis

duncanandjeannette@gmail.com

Sept 25

Banks now used are the Charities Aid Foundation Bank and the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1174524

Accounts

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

Walton-on-Thames

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

Saturday 31 August 2024

Wey Valley Circuit	Circuit	Circuit no.	36/6
---------------------------	----------------	--------------------	-------------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1174524

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

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

Minister:

Rev Sydney Samuel Lake (to 31/08/24), Rev Shaun Sanders (from 01/09/24)

Church Stewards:

Ross Richardson	
Dave Paterson	
Valerie Barker	
Sally Hoy (resigned 01/02/24)	

Treasurer:

Duncan Curtis

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
1	RECEIPTS				
2	Offerings and Tax recovered	59,723	623	60,346	86,990
3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	6,357	1,667	8,024	5,527
4	Lettings	13,476		13,476	15,933
5	Other receipts	1,806		1,806	2,089
6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	81,362	2,290	83,653 (a7)	110,538

SECTION B		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
1	PAYMENTS				
2	Circuit Assessment or Share	38,274		38,274	38,275
3	Donations	2,116		2,116	3,512
4	Repairs and Maintenance	30,483		30,483	43,950
5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	7,479		7,479	5,565
6				0	
7	Other payments	6,982	2,483	9,465	7,231
8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	85,334	2,483	87,817 (b9)	98,533

SECTION C		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(3,972) (a6-b8)	(193) (b9)	(4,164) (c6)	12,005
2	Total funds brought forward from last year	136,119	34,094	170,213 (c6)	158,208
3	Sub total	132,147 (c1+c2)	33,902 (b9)	166,049 (c6)	170,213
4	Transfers and adjustments			0 (c7)	
5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	132,147 (c3+c4)	33,902 (b9)	166,049 (c8)	170,213 (c6)

SECTION D		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
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)				
11	Balance brought forward from last year			68	182
12	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			3,014	3,813
13	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			3,020	3,927
14	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID			61 (d1+d2-d3)	68

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**SECTION E**

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts		Payments		Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances		Closing balances		
1					0					0	
2					0					0	
3					0					0	
4					0					0	
5					0					0	
6					0					0	
7					0					0	
8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds		0		0	0		0	0	(e11)	0	(e12)
9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)		83,653 (a7)		87,817 (b9)	(4,164)		(c7)	170,213	(c6)	166,049	(c8)
10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH		83,653		87,817	(4,164)		0	170,213	(x)	166,049	(y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	TOTAL RECEIPTS		TOTAL PAYMENTS								

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
1 Cash in hand	25	25
2 Bank Current Account	3,861	10,933
3 Bank Deposit Account		
4 Central Finance Board	166,327	155,091
5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
6 Other funds		
7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	170,213 (c6)	166,049 (c8)
8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	0 (e11)	0 (e12)
9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	170,213 (x)	166,049 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
1 Investments (include Endowments)		
2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
3 Other Assets		
4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

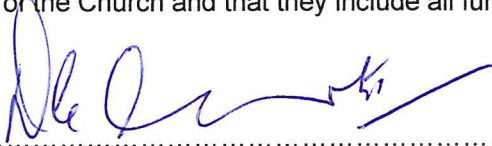
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of Church **Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church** No 1174524

Declarations and Scrutiny

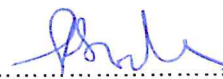
I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2024 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer  Date..... 18/12/24

Name and address of treasurer **Duncan Curtis**
1 Wadham Close, Shepperton Post Code TW17 9HT

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 4.2.25

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 
Name of the Chair of the meeting SHAUN SAJDA Date 4.2.25

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church

Charity Number 1174524

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the ~~Walton-on-Thames Methodist~~ Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 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 **Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church** No 1174524

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 RLewis

Name of independent examiner Robert G Lewis

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A

Address 15 SOUTHERLAND CLOSE

..... WEYBRIDGE SURREY Post Code KT13 9EJ

Date 24/11/25

* delete or circle as appropriate

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH
Income & Expenditure Account for the period 01/09/2023 - 31/08/2024

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
2022/23	ITEM	2023/24	BUDGET	2022/23	ITEM	2023/24	BUDGET
	<i>Collections</i>			38,275	Circuit Assessment	38,274	38,275
31,374	Envelopes & Std Orders	31,429		4,244	Secretarial Expenses	4,484	5,250
5,086	Cash	5,265		163	Office Expenses	246	1,000
36,460		36,694	30,000	1,977	Worship Expenses	1,815	2,500
					Mission Expenses		1,000
23,115	Gift Day	10,760	18,000	45	Training	210	
25,816	Tax Rebate	12,065	12,000	3,000	Gift Day Charities	1,616	
	Circuit Grants	455		5,000	Transfer to Youth Work Fund		
1,780	Legacies	1,207			<i>Property</i>		
4,518	Interest	6,357	4,000	4,356	Utilities	4,631	6,000
15,933	Lettings	13,476	18,000	6,055	General expenditure	6,382	7,200
165	Fundraising	175		4,369	Cleaning	4,791	5,000
139	Donations	30		33,525	Repairs & Replacements	19,311	30,000
371	Other Church Groups			120	Junior Church	166	250
309	Sundry Income	144	500	1,209	Insurance	2,848	3,000
				500	Connexional Funds	500	500
				61	Bank Charges	60	
					Sundry Expense		
108,605		81,362	82,500	102,900		85,334	99,975
	DEFICIT re Unrestricted	3,972	17,475	5,704			
108,605	Grand Total	85,334	99,975	108,605	Grand Total	85,334	99,975

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH
Income & Expenditure Account for the period 01/09/2023 - 31/08/2024

RESTRICTED FUNDS

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
2022/23	ITEM	2023/24	BUDGET	2022/23	ITEM	2023/24	BUDGET
	Benevolent Fund						
	Collections			12	Payments		
	Transfer from General Fund				Surplus		
12	Deficit						
12				12			
	Charitable Funds						
3,738	Collections	3,014		3,852	Paid to charities	3,020	
114	Deficit	7			Surplus		
3,852		3,020		3,852		3,020	
	Connexional Funds						
75	Collections			75	Paid to Connexion		
	Deficit				Surplus		
75				75			
	Messy Church Fund						
	Donations			376	Expenses	36	
	Tax Rebate				Surplus		
376	Deficit	36				36	
376		36		376		36	
	Youth Work Fund						
5,000	Transfer from General Fund				Salary		
925	Donations	623			Expenses	2,447	
1,009	Interest	1,667		245	Surplus		
	Tax Rebate						
	Deficit	156		6,689			
6,934		2,447		6,934		2,447	
	DEFICIT re Restricted	199					
	Grand Total	5,504			Grand Total	5,504	

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

Balance Sheet as at 31/08/2024

31-Aug-23			31-Aug-24		
<u>Current Assets</u>					
£	£	£	£	£	£
			Bank & Cash Balances		
	3,929			10,994	
	26,950			18,294	
	23,222			15,751	
	21,171			22,280	
	59,297			63,267	
	2,338			2,306	
	33,350			33,193	
	25			25	
	<u>170,281</u>			<u>166,110</u>	
 <u>Represented by:</u>					
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
130,415			136,119		
<u>5,704</u>	136,119		<u>(3,972)</u>	132,147	
		136,119			132,147
			RESTRICTED FUNDS		
141			129		
<u>(12)</u>	129		<u> </u>	129	
182			68		
<u>(114)</u>	68		<u>(7)</u>	61	
991			616		
<u>(376)</u>	616		<u>(36)</u>	580	
26,661			33,350		
<u>6,689</u>	33,350		<u>(156)</u>	33,193	
		34,162			33,963
	<u>170,281</u>			<u>166,110</u>	

**WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH
PHASED BUDGET 2024-25**

INCOME

ITEM	BUDGET 2024/25	Phased Cumulative Budget other qtrs		
		Q1	Q2	Q3
Unrestricted				
Collections	30,000	7,500	15,000	22,500
Tax Rebate	10,000			
Interest	5,500	1,375	2,750	4,125
Lettings	12,500	3,125	6,250	9,375
Gift Day	10,000			10,000
Sundry	500	125	250	375
Grants				
Legacies				
Fundraising				
Donations				
Other Church Groups				
Restricted				
DEFICIT	18,525	8,684	16,990	19,754
	87,025	20,809	41,240	66,129

EXPENDITURE

ITEM	BUDGET 2024/25	Phased Cumulative Budget other qtrs		
		Q1	Q2	Q3
Unrestricted				
Circuit Assessment	38,275	9,570	19,140	28,710
Secretarial Services	5,250	1,315	2,250	3,845
Office Expenses	750	187	375	562
Worship Expenses	2,500	625	1,250	1,875
Mission Expenses	1,000	250	500	750
Utilities	7,500	1,875	3,750	5,625
Property - Gen Exp	7,200	1,800	3,600	5,400
Property - R&R	15,000	3,750	7,500	11,250
Cleaning	5,500	1,375	2,750	4,125
Junior Church	250	62	125	187
Insurance	3,300			3,300
Connexional Funds	500			500
Restricted				
SURPLUS				
	87,025	20,809	41,240	66,129

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

Charitable Giving

	2022/23		2023/24	
Connexional Funds				
Easter Offering	75.00			
World Mission	500.00	575.00	500.00	500.00
Other Donations				
Action For Children	1,336.12		826.87	
All We Can	125.00		547.89	
Alzheimers	136.55			
Bible Society	193.04			
Cherry Trees	55.00			
Christian Aid			168.16	
Crisis	119.20		181.17	
Elmbridge Ecohub			170.40	
Foodbank	86.40			
Love Russia	70.00		205.00	
McMillan Cancer care	293.87		233.00	
MHA	297.00		396.00	
Princes Trust	279.75			
Target Ovarian Cancer	453.71		222.57	
Tear Fund	47.95		62.74	
York Road	244.10	3,737.69		3,013.80
Gift Day Charities				
Action For Children			202.00	
All We Can	500.00			
Alzheimer's Society			202.00	
Anna Chaplaincy	500.00		202.00	
Eco Hub	500.00			
Elmbridge Can	500.00			
Foodbank	500.00		202.00	
Fund For Human Need			202.00	
MHA	500.00		202.00	
Rent Start			202.00	
War Child		3,000.00	202.00	1,616.00
	7,312.69		5,129.80	

Walton on Thames Methodist Church
Reports for the Annual Church Meeting
Sunday 7th April 2024

Contents:

This year we will group the reports under 3 broad headings or sub sections as follows:

1. Leadership and Pastoral Care Section

Minister (Sydney Samuel Lake)
Leadership Team (Ross Richardson)
Pastoral Care (Ruth Evans)

2. Church Administration and Stewardship Section

Finance (Duncan Curtis)
Property (Chris Mills)
Safeguarding (Catherine Heffernan)

3. Worship and Outreach Section

Pudding and Praise (Ross Richardson)
Sunday School (Catherine Heffernan)
Crèche (Eileen Boye)
Messy Church (Jeannette Curtis)
Prayer Group (Ross Richardson)
Small Groups: Tea and Fellowship; Lent, Advent and Contemplative
(Jeannette Curtis / Ross Richardson)

singing. The heating system is now repaired and we have had a second pump fitted in the 'well', to hopefully mitigate further flooding of the boiler room/cellar. Thank you to all those who worked so hard to get it resolved.

I participate, alongside other representatives from our church, in Circuit training days, mission supper, circuit meetings, meetings of local preachers and worship leaders, and the circuit leadership team. We hope that we shall have people from our church becoming member(s) of the Circuit Stewards team so that we have a direct link with that body in addition to the circuit steward that has been linked with our church on an ongoing basis.

Our work of outreach into the community includes visits to two care homes in our neighbourhood, where we hold various forms of informal service and activities, including singing and praying with and for elderly people and people with learning needs. We also reach out further afield to Kingston, where we provide Bible reading to residents of Galsworthy House Nursing Home and host a Christian conversation with the residents once a month. We also take part in ecumenical services, Ministers' fraternity, Lent Groups and our church hosted the World Day of Prayer at the beginning of March 2024.

Our finance is strong and well managed by our treasurer, Duncan Curtis, to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for the services he provides to our church. Very recently, members of the Church Council mentioned that we need a vision. Thankfully this developed from some people considering the fact that the church has some money that has been earmarked for youth work, evangelism etc. and these monies are still not spent. So, the idea was that there is the need for a strategic vision that will be a point of focus going forward. I agree that this is very welcome, for the next stages of our enrichment.

I say thank you to Catherine Heffernan, our church administrator, and to Wendy Mulvagh, who is now assisting on a voluntary basis, for covering the administrative needs of our church. They prepare the orders of service, the digital weekly notices, do much more and are all going well. My thanks as well to Rita Hopkins, who faithfully compiles and prints our paper weekly Notices. Which brings to mind the good work done by many people to support the regular activities of the church, including Sunday School,

Assessment and Safeguarding) and then try and think “Strategically” about new worship, service, or church growth ideas. We also try and execute some of these ideas. Some of us went to the Circuit Planning days last year and came away with seeds of new ideas for services and initiatives, some of which we have put in place. It is also time for us to review our Mission Statement and our plans, purposes and future direction as a Church. We will start doing this work in August.

We are looking for new stewards to join the Leadership Team. If you feel called to be part of what I have described, then please speak to me. I would be very keen to explore this further with you.

As ever, we would appreciate your prayers for our efforts as stewards, for our Minister and his family as they move to their next appointment, our incoming minister (Rev Shaun Sanders), and for our Church in the coming months.

Ross Richardson

Pastoral Care (Ruth Evans)

The Pastoral Team is still functioning well. All our church family is cared for by a pastoral visitor. We visit our folk regularly or by phone to see how they are and we deliver the church magazines when issued.

However, there are going to be some gaps soon as some of our team, who have been faithful visitors for many years, wish to retire.

I am sure there are members of the congregation who would make excellent pastoral visitors, it is a very worthwhile service for our church.

So please would you give it some prayerful thought?

Is God calling you into this position?

Please speak to me if you want to know more.

Yours in hope,
Ruth Evans

Our Charitable giving increased this year to a total of just over £7300. A list of those donations is available from Duncan.

Bank interest on our funds is increasing but of course inflation is reducing the capital value and the cost of building work, (which most of the funds are for) is going up by leaps and bounds. However, it came in at £4500 as compared with the budget of £750.

Cash collections were around 14% of our total collections, the rest coming by standing order, cheque and internet banking.

As of January 2024 - Banks now used are the Charities Aid Foundation Bank and the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

Many thanks again to Alan Weight, for all his help with both accounts and the Gift Aid claim. He is of great assistance.

As your treasurer I am at your service and in the event of any query please contact me.

Duncan E Curtis

Please see below for the list of charities that we have supported over the past year:

REPORT ON THE PROPERTY FOR 2023

The main church buildings project, completed during 2023, was the redecoration of the Church Hall, which now looks much fresher and brighter. This cost £15,160. As part of this project, we have had new acoustic panels put up on the ceiling, at a cost of £6474, which, as we know, has improved the sound quality in there immensely.

The hall floor now needs sanding and resealing, which will cost £2,750 and this will be carried out during 2024. The total cost of all this work will be in the region of £24,000 – yes, a lot of money, but necessary for such a well-used space.

Other work carried out during the year included:

- Repair of damage to the railings at the front of the Church (no one came forward to own up to the damage). This was paid for by our insurers, less the excess of £1000.
- Re-tarmacking the parking area - £4,200
- Work to bring our electrics up to current regulations (new consumer boards) and other remedial work - £6,500
- There have been the usual annual services and general maintenance.
- We also had a visit from the insurance company's risk assessor, who set out some items we needed to put in place. Most of these were making sure we have the right risk assessments in place and tidying up areas. The only condition that will require some cost on our part is making sure the wheelie bins are in fireproof storage and this should only be a few hundred pounds.

Unfortunately, 2024 has not started too well. The pump in the well in our boiler room had a problem so the water was not being pumped out correctly. This caused water damage to the boiler and we have had to get several parts replaced. This work has now been completed and the

Volunteer Application Form

A major change happened in November 2023 with the introduction of a new single safeguarding form which replace 5 different forms. This streamlining has been welcomed, as it was quite complicated working out which form was needed for which role. Now there is just the one form, which **every** volunteer must complete, which includes taking references and notes that it is to be used in conjunction with a Job Description/Role outline.

DBS checks

All our volunteers who require a DBS check have a valid one in place and I make sure that when the DBS comes up to 5 years old, that I contact the volunteers and arrange for a new DBS check to be carried out.

Safeguarding Training

Many of the roles in church require volunteers to attend Safeguarding training. This is carried out within 6 months of taking up an appointment and every 4 years after that. We are very fortunate that our circuit delivers regular training courses and so all of our volunteers are up to date in their Foundation safeguarding training.

Some volunteers require a higher level of training – Advanced Module training, and this is delivered on-line by the District. Again, we are very fortunate that the SE District make many courses available on-line and so our volunteers are able to keep up- to- date with this training as well.

Circuit Audit

I have just completed the annual safeguarding audit requested by the Circuit. This involves checking that all the church safeguarding paperwork is up to date and confirming that all the necessary procedures are being followed.

Safeguarding Sunday

Safeguarding Sunday is a national day set aside for churches to focus on Safeguarding. Last year I was able to give a short talk on Safeguarding during the morning worship in November 2023, using a bible passage to illustrate that safeguarding is an intrinsic part of a Christian life.

On the 1st Sunday in the month, when we have Holy Communion, we do not have Sunday School, but the young people are encouraged to stay with us in the service instead.

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays were covered by our three regular Sunday School teachers: Catherine Heffernan, Lynda Shaw and Ross Richardson, who each take one session a month.

Carol Morgan has also kindly offered to help the team by taking one session a quarter, to cook!

In August, we had to say a fond farewell to Christopher Heffernan, as he moved away to live in Nailsea and so we lost one of our Sunday School teachers. He did return in October to take our young people to 3Generate in Birmingham, along with Naomi Deacon and Ross Richardson. We are very grateful to the three of them for giving up their weekend so that our young people could go to this event.

Ross Richardson has very kindly said he will plug the gap in Sunday School and says he very much enjoys his sessions with the young people, but as a steward of the church, his time is limited and so we really do need one more person to come and join the team.

It would be really great if someone could come forward and offer to take one Sunday School lesson a month. We follow the material provided by 'Roots' which is available in a magazine and online. 'Roots' provide all the material and the Sunday School teacher just has to choose which items they think will work best for our groups, so they do not have to think up a lesson themselves!

So, if you are reading this and think you can spare one Sunday morning a month, please let us know!

When we have a 5 Sunday month, Jeannette Curtis very kindly covers that session, so no teacher has to commit to more than one session a month.

Messy Church (Jeannette Curtis)

In the last year we have run Messy Mothers for Mothering Sunday and Messy Easter when we made the Easter Garden and hunted for Easter eggs.

In the autumn we had Messy Church on the third Saturday in September. In October we made cotton wool sheep and had games to play around this theme.

In November we had no Messy Church in the church, but we asked families at the Walton Festival of light to find our lost sheep which had been put in various shops close to the church.

On Christmas Eve we joined with the church and had Christingle activities in the hall and then all came back into the church for the celebration.

Some good new ideas have been put into practice. I am not planning any activities for the spring as I need to stand back for a bit. Maybe start up again in the autumn.

My thanks go to the great team that have helped this part of outreach to continue. Please pray for young families in Walton.

Jeannette Curtis

Walton MC Prayer Group (Ross Richardson)

Our prayer group has been meeting since 1998 each Saturday morning. As Christians – we are encouraged to “pray at all times” not just “some” times.

We are encouraged to pray for all people and across the whole spectrum of life’s circumstances and seasons - joy, success, happiness, celebration, doubt, distress, illness, lament and pain.

The Prayer Group prays through all these things, every Saturday from 8am for our Church, Nation, Local Community and World.

We successfully moved our prayer meeting online as soon as we went into lockdown 4 years ago. It is very rare for us to have missed a week in

and the concept of “Tarrying” (abiding / wrestling / waiting) on, in or with God. It has given us the opportunity to think about different elements of our spirituality, some of which have been challenging.

Contemplative Group (Ross Richardson)

I came across the TakeTime contemplative organisation some time ago, and sensed that there may be an opportunity and desire for this spirituality for this at WMC. The meditations are based on the principles of Ignatian contemplation which involves immersing yourself as an onlooker in a piece of Gospel. I trained myself on one of their courses, which enables me to lead these sessions in their style, and we have purchased a licence which gives us access to a huge database of scripts and videos that can be used in services or small groups.

So far, I have run 2 of these groups, the first during Advent and the second during Lent; both following Advent and Lenten themes. The response to these has been enlightening and gratifying with around a dozen people dipping into these groups and really enjoying the opportunity to slow down and sit quietly in the presence of the Divine each week.

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1174524

Accounts



AGM Reports 2023

Sunday 26th March

Reports Enclosed:

1. Minister (Rev. Sydney Samuel)
2. Leadership Team (Ross Richardson)
3. Pastoral Care (Ruth Evans)
4. Finance (Duncan Curtis)
5. Property (Chris Mills)
6. Safeguarding (Catherine Heffernan)
7. WMC Online (Christopher Heffernan)
8. Youth Group (Christopher Heffernan)
9. Sunday School (Catherine Heffernan)
10. Crèche (Eileen Boye)
11. Messy Church (Jeannette Curtis)
12. Friendship Club (Jeannette Curtis)
13. WITS (Rosanne Jackson)

Minister's Report

Revd. Sydney Samuel Lake

Dear Members of our Church Family,

We thank God that our church is now moving on from the challenging effects of the period of COVID and we are making strides towards a post COVID era with hopes of serving our members, adherents and community well. We therefore work to provide greater pastoral and practical care as well as providing for the spiritual development of all the people in contact with our Church Family. After weeks of preparations, delivery of resources and training to our young people. With the assistance of our Senior Steward, Brother Ross Richardson, we achieved the Confirmation of 5 young people into the Methodist Church. There was the Baptism of two Children and we also have had funeral and thanksgiving services for the passing of four members of our church whose links with us as our biological and church family goes back to decades and the influence of the departed will be felt over the years to come. We received legacies from the estates of some of our departed members and these will be detailed in the financial reports. I express our gratitude for the contributions made by living members, and descendants or executors for departed members to the wellbeing of Walton Methodist Church.

At the beginning of February 2023 two very long serving member of our Church Council came forward and stated that they do not wish to continue to serve as trustees of Walton Methodist Church. From my conversations with them, I understood that they wished to make way for younger and newer members of the church family to have an opportunity to serve. Moreover, they believed that the current and anticipated issues that the Church Council is making decisions on are quite legalistic and this demands more concentration and consideration from them than they wished to apply voluntarily. Firstly, I extend my appreciation to them for decades of impeccable service and dedication to the interest of Walton Methodist Church over the years. Secondly, I thank them for the noble phase that they are taking to step aside gracefully. Which means that, at this year's General Church Meeting we shall be looking for new people as representatives to join the Church Council.

I take this opportunity to thank each and every member of our church who have been serving as volunteers in one or more roles over the years. It is very important that volunteers know, and are reminded, that they are appreciated for the valuable

services they provide to the running of the Church of God. Without which the administration of Walton Methodist Church would be impossible. Therefore, I express a sincere thank you and well done to all our volunteers and officers who have served our church all these years. Several reports have been submitted to make up the level of accountability and stewardship of our mission, funds and building that is reported at various meetings of the church. These have been prepared by respective church members holding and serving in respective roles. May God, who is the master of all servants, reward them accordingly.

At least four members of our congregations lost their parents over the past year. As these parents pass on to life after life as we know it now, may they be received safe into the arms of Jesus Christ and may their souls be received into the place that Jesus Christ has prepared. The church continues to walk alongside those who are bereaved and we pray that they may be comforted by knowing that we believe in eternal life because we are reconciled to the God our eternal sovereign through the blood of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. He gave his life so that believers may gain peace and eternal life. This gift of salvation and justification to become children of God, we celebrate each time we remember the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ as we partake of the Holy Communion.

May God continue to bless our Church Family, day by day.

Loving regards

Sydney Samuel

The Leadership Team Report

Ross Richardson

Circuit Consultation Report from Walton on Thames Methodist Church (WMC)

Prepared by Ross Richardson

January 2023

Overview:

I contacted around 25 Church members, shared the Circuit document with them and asked them the following questions:

- What should our priorities be?
 - Are there specific projects to focus on: Youth? The Elderly? Mental Health?
 - (These are things we have explored in the past and are currently exploring)
 - Where should we spend our finite resources of time, energy and cash?
 - Are we meeting the spiritual needs of our members and community?
 - What can we do to make WMC: welcoming, relevant, useful and appealing to the wider, diverse community in Walton on Thames?
 - How can we be Salt and Light to Walton on Thames?
 - How do we attract new members? And then how can we retain the members we have?
 - How can we make more money from our assets (the building)?
 - How do we "succession plan" in the event of - for example: our youth group leader moving away next year, and WMC not being successful in getting a minister in the next round of stationing?
-

General Comments and status quo...

We believe that WMC is a well-run, well supported active church where its members feel happy & valued.

We are fortunate at WMC to have:

- a local landmark, with a big window on Terrace road.
- a Leadership Team (LT) of 5 people,
- a treasurer,
- a Church administrator who works for us 1 morning a week
- safeguarding and GDPR officers
- a property person,
- a strong pastoral team, and a wider caring community
- a lettings person,
- some Sunday School teachers, a Youth Group and some Leaders and helpers and a Messy Church programme (and children who come to these activities
- 3 organists and 3 local preachers.
- The 2 lead members of Breeze, our pop-up band
- a men's group and an active women's group.
- a well maintained website
- a well maintained facility (recently painted sanctuary and renovated roof) from which we derive lettings income.
- a socially and culturally diverse community
- well-connected ecumenically.
- stable financial situation
- a minister who has repaired and built ecumenical bridges and who encourages us to think about our cultural diversity in new ways and be mindful of those on the margins of our community.
- we have voted to allow same sex marriages at WMC.

- our members are well connected into our local community (some working in the food bank, charity shops and the local community centre.)
- we have a large heart for charity projects having supported local homeless and refugee charities

We have recently had a marriage, admitted 4 new adult members, run confirmation classes for 4 children as well – these were received into membership in addition to the 4 adults, and will hold a baptism for a new family in February.

We are well placed to run Local Arrangement services if we need to. These have provided us with opportunities to take risks and run different services on varied themes which have worked well and been very well received.

We have a tradition of hosting small group studies, as well as running a weekly prayer group for the past 22 years. We have developed our own unique successful café style worship session called Pudding and Praise. We have a fortnightly online service by Zoom as well.

In summary from the above we are well placed to enable WMC to run smoothly across the next 1 to 3 years.

However, our future **beyond 3 years** is uncertain for the following reasons.

- Our congregation is aging with a number of elderly people in key positions,
- We will go into stationing,
- Our Youth leader will have moved away,
- Our current crop of young people will have dispersed off out to tertiary education,
- Our musicians are aging,
- Our office holders are aging,
- Although our building is sound at present – it is nearly 150 years old, and we don't know what future issues may arise. We have spent a lot of money

on it over the past 25 years.

- At times we can be a little insular with a focus on maintaining our status quo.
- Our financial situation may be challenged.

Opportunities:

- Our motto is "All are welcome" – we need to ensure that we can live this out.
- Put a card payment device out to take non-cash donations.
- Remove the pews to make the Church a flexible space.
- Our local foodbank is expanding further into Walton – there are opportunities for our members to be more supportive and involved in this.
- Connecting and forging closer links with our local charities.
- A continued focus on the Youth, Elderly and Mental Health
- Think about ways to make some of our services attractive to young families - relaunch Pudding & Praise, build a congregation of people who enjoy this type of worship. We need to ensure we have a good mix of worship styles.
- Re-calibrate our Messy Church initiative.
- Invest in an online booking system for the premises to take the burden off our volunteer lettings person.
- Look at ways to make more revenue from our facilities, redecorate and renovate our Hall as a priority.
- Our minister has made an outreach connection with a retirement home in Kingston, which may offer us mission opportunities.
- Get training to make us more neuro diverse aware as we have a young family with a neuro diverse child. Ensure we have creche facilities for new families.
- Ensure our technology is working and up to date – especially our sound system.
- Ensure our website is well maintained.

- Advertise our premises more widely.

What would we want from the Circuit?

We are fortunate to be financially and administratively independent from the Circuit, so we do not have to ask for assistance with these aspects of Church life.

It would be good to try and foster greater circuit cohesion.

It would depend on whether there is an appetite for this or not and it may take careful planning - perhaps we could look at one or two opportunities to do things together across the year. Perhaps one social and one spiritual – perhaps a summer circuit tea party, barbeque; a coach trip to a Cathedral.... Perhaps a Circuit Lent or Advent Group....

Pastoral Care Report

Ruth Evans

It is very encouraging that our church family continues to grow. We hold onto our mission that ALL ARE WELCOME and we hope that all who attend our services do feel welcomed, as we worship and share together in the name of Jesus Christ. The church membership stands at 61. Sadly, one of our elderly members, Mrs Grace Baselgia who was 94 years old died at the end of December. The funeral took place on February 16th at Woking Crematorium and was conducted by Rev. Sydney Samuel. We remember her son and daughter in our prayers.

Recently we have received 6 members of our congregation into church membership and we have had two baptisms. So numbers are creeping up.

As well as our Sunday morning services there is a Saturday morning prayer group, which meets from 8 -9am by WhatsApp. Ross Richardson would be pleased to give you more details of this group.

There is now a fortnightly Tuesday afternoon Fellowship group, which meets in the church at 2.30 pm under the leadership of Colin and Sandra Wright. There is an average of 10 people, who attend regularly. More people are always welcome.

We look forward now to our Easter celebrations and into the months ahead. We continue to give thanks to God for Revd. Sydney Samuel, our leadership team and all who work to keep the Methodist Church alive in Walton-on-Thames

Finance Report

Duncan Curtis

Another satisfactory year is behind us and thankfully we are still on a sound financial footing. Can I thank you once again for your generosity, whilst so many other costs are increasing for us all.

These notes are meant to be read in conjunction with our annual accounts and are a way of explaining them more clearly than just in figures. Our Income and Expenditure statement for the year end highlights reasons why the predicted deficit ended up as a surplus. One of nine reasons listed was the very generous legacy from Eve Craske, which came very much out of the blue.

If you don't have a copy of the accounts and wish for one, please ask.

Because we did not start the redecoration of the hall as planned, the budget figure of £30k for Repairs and replacements was well over what we actually spent. As you may know, this work now starts we hope in Summer 23.

Thanks to Chris who works with me so well on all matters, property related. Also to Rosanne who has been instrumental, with help, in firing up our lettings again so that I am sure the rents next year will be up on this last one.

I also want to thank all those who took on board my point, in the notices, that the assessment, which has been effectively static since the Wey Valley Circuit started, is now going to increase, commencing in November 22. I was very pleased that some of our members increased their standing orders, or started paying by standing order. I worked out that the increases and a new standing order would cover the increase in full.

As you may know, our Electric and gas contracts run until 2024 so we must hope that some stability and reductions have been reached by then.

It is good to see that we have spent over £2,000 on our young people, a lot of which relates to 3Generate, the conference in Birmingham they are attending on the first weekend of October 22. It has been a shame that the money has been sitting so long unused and at last, Christopher has things moving again.

Our Charitable giving increased this year to a total of just over £6,500.

A final point. We still have £2,300 from the Gift day in 2019, allocated to

community projects and mental health, which has gone unspent. People were very fired up about this at the time but the fire seems to have gone out? Any suggestions? I don't think I need to draw your attention to anything else but please contact me if you want more information.

Other items

Bank interest on our funds is increasing but of course inflation is reducing the capital value and the cost of building work, (which most of the funds are for) is going up by leaps and bounds.

To keep it short, I decided unilaterally to close the Barclays account, having a year or so back taken a lot of effort to get them to operate it for no charge again. The reasons I am happy to share but suffice to say it involves inefficiency and red tape.

Many thanks again to Alan Weight, for all his help with both accounts and the Gift Aid claim. He is of great assistance.

As your treasurer I am at your service and in the event of any query please contact me.

Duncan E Curtis

Updated and amended Feb 23

Banks now used are the Charities Aid Bank and the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

Property Report

Chris Mills

Damp in the Emmaus Room

We have an issue with damp in the Emmaus Room, on the outside wall. We have tried to work out the cause ourselves, resulting in some repairs to the downpipe and drains on the outside wall. But, even after the very dry summer, the damp is still there (rising damp) and we have some remedial work to carry out this year.

Rotten Floorboards

We had to pull up a patch of floor covering in the back hallway because there was a definite sagging in the floor. There was a patch of rotten floorboards (dry rot), which has been treated and repaired. I think this may be the result of damp in the disabled toilet which is behind the area where the floorboards are. So we will be getting the damp in the toilet addressed this year too (2023).

Electrical stuff

In December, the electricians carried out the 5-yearly inspection of our electrics – always a stressful time with such an old building. I am pleased to say that our electrics passed the inspection, with some recommendations to update the consumer boards, to bring them up to current standards.

Outside space

In December, a team of gardeners came in to tidy up our outside area. Despite the far side of the church getting very little sunlight, it gets very weedy. So the area has been cleared and overhanging tree branches have been cut back. In addition, they managed to fill a skip with some rubble and various items which had been fly-tipped over the last few years (including an old TV and some car engine parts!).

Decorating the hall

It had been my aim to have the hall decorated last year, but, for various reasons, it wasn't possible. But I am very hopeful that this will be done this summer.

Safeguarding Report

Catherine Heffernan

Safeguarding is one of those jobs that never seems to end! There is always some paperwork which requires completing or checks that need to be made.

It is important to remember that although the legal responsibility for safeguarding rests with the church council members, safeguarding is the responsibility of **everyone** in the church. Together, by taking an interest and always being vigilant, we can ensure that our church can offer a safe space for everyone.

It is therefore vital that all leaders of groups make sure that their helpers have completed the necessary Safeguarding Paperwork, and then the Safeguarding Officer's job is to regularly audit the systems to make sure that we remain compliant and offer assistance where needed.

Circuit Safeguarding Audit

The Circuit ask us to complete a Safeguarding Audit every December and this is a great way to go through all our paperwork and make sure it is all up to date. I completed our audit on time, but did find some discrepancies in our paperwork. The audit comprises of 24 areas we are asked to check and provide data on. These include:

Safeguarding Form A – Parts 1 and 2

The Circuit have reiterated how important it is to make sure we follow The Methodist Church Policies and Procedures on Safer Recruitment.

Therefore, all those who wish to work with Children, Young People or Vulnerable Adults, need to complete Safeguarding Form A Parts 1 and 2, **before** taking on a role within the church. This includes giving two people who can be approached for references. Safeguarding Form A Part 2 includes a role outline/job description so that the person knows what their role is and this form is ideally reviewed every year by the group leader, to make sure that the role is the same and there hasn't been any 'role drift'. It is also a requirement for the person to undertake the relevant level of DBS check and complete Safeguarding Foundation Module training within 6 months of taking up their appointment and then every 4 years after that.

Having audited these forms, I have discovered that we do need to update quite a

few Safeguarding Form A Part 2s and this is in progress now.

Safeguarding Form SD/4 (Formerly Safeguarding Form C)

These self-declaration forms are needed for all roles within the church, where the role does not require the higher-level Safeguarding Form A or a DBS check. This form needs to be signed when someone agrees to take on a role and they should also be given a job description at the same time, so they know exactly what they are being asked to do.

The audit has highlighted various roles where this form has not been signed and a job description has not been issued. These forms are now in the process of being completed and job descriptions issued.

Safeguarding Form D

Whenever someone is issued a key for the church premises, they must sign Safeguarding Form D.

All these forms are up to date, together with a spreadsheet detailing which keys are held and by whom, for our church premises.

DBS checks

We have 32 DBS checked adults in our congregation. All DBS checks must be renewed after 5 years, or if someone is on the update service, then the DBS status must be checked after 5 years.

We currently have one person whose DBS check is over 5 years old, who could not renew it as they were in hospital. This person has been informed and now that they are recovering well, I hope to be able to do the check very soon.

Everyone else working with Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults in the church, has an up-to-date DBS check.

Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding Foundation training needs to be completed within 6 months of someone taking up a new role and thereafter every 4 years. We have just two church members whose safeguarding training is overdue and both of these are booked on the Foundation Module training here at the church on Friday 17th March, which will be delivered by Carol Morgan. 10 other church members will also be on the course, as their training comes up to being 4 years old this year.

We will then have everyone up to date with their Safeguarding Foundation training,

which is brilliant.

We have one new volunteer, who has also been offered this training date.

Church Safeguarding Policy

The Church Safeguarding Policy must be reviewed every year and this was carried out at the Church Council meeting on 4th October 2022. A copy of this is on the notice board in The Narthex and the updated copy is also available on our church website under Safeguarding. We also need to display the 'Safeguarding Policy statement' which reiterates that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and provides the phone numbers of the Church, Circuit and District Safeguarding Officers, along with local phone numbers for other safeguarding organisations. This is also displayed on the notice board in The Narthex and was reviewed in December 2022.

Lettings

It is important that the Church Safeguarding Officer works closely with the Lettings office to make sure that those hiring our premises also follow good safeguarding practice. I can confirm that Rosanne and I work very closely and between us make sure all the organisations are aware of our Safeguarding Policy and if they have their own, we have been given a copy, or in the case of the Uniformed Groups, the link to the website where it can be viewed.

Risk Assessments

All groups meeting in the name of the church must produce a risk assessment. We have a general risk assessment for Sunday services, but it should be remembered, that if we do anything differently within a service, which could create a new risk, that a specific risk assessment is undertaken, for example at the Carol Service, where there are many more candles being lit and the church is dark.

All Risk Assessments should be reviewed annually and I believe that there are several Risk Assessments that are over a year old, and so these will need reviewing urgently. I have informed the Leadership Team of the Risk Assessments which require renewal.

WMC Online: Digital Services & Website Report

Christopher Heffernan

Website

Our website has become more static than in recent years. With more generic content rather than dynamic content. This is a reflection on WMC's reduction in online worship and the time dedicated to keeping the site changing.

Nonetheless, the website remains a hub for worship times, premises hire, and a general insight into life at WMC.

Over the last year (1.02.22 – 1.02.23), there have been 1,649 visits to our website, 1,167 of which were unique visitors. People spend an average of 3 minutes exploring the site.

The 5 Most Popular Pages:

'Home' – 1,230 (down 9%)

'Our Premises' – 407 (up 66%)

'Calendar' – 290 (up 132%)

'Contact Us' – 161 (up 6%)

'Meet the Team' – 148 (up 15%)

As you can see, there has been a renewed interest in our premises hire, as life has opened up again after the pandemic.

Tea & Fellowship

Dave Paterson continues to lead the running of our twice monthly Tea & Fellowship with preachers assigned on the plan. This is held via Zoom at 4pm and enables people to join us for a time of worship from wherever they are. We continue to get a good attendance (around 8-10 people) and are pleased to be offering this additional time of worship.

YouTube Channel

We have utilised our YouTube Channel much less across 2022/23.

We did however livestream Revd. Sydney Samuel Lake's Testimony Service in June, which has been viewed over 200 times.

Live Streaming

We haven't offered regular streamed services this year. The equipment has been used though to broadcast our Carol Service on Zoom (watched by around 10 households live); record funeral services; and stream Revd. Sydney Samuel Lake's Testimony Service.

While we haven't chosen to move forward with a fully-installed system that could be used regularly. The equipment is there and can be set-up meaning we can adapt to circumstances as they arise.

Youth Group Report

Christopher Heffernan

Our monthly Youth Group has been running for a year now. The group meets once a month in the Church Hall with around 8 young people in attendance most months. Sessions normally consist of games (e.g. badminton, hockey, table tennis) with a time of reflection/Bible Study (we have just started a study series called 'Uncover John' which explores John's Gospel). Special sessions have also included a drama workshop, baking, games at Hurst Park, and our Christmas Party.

In March, the group attended 'This Event is Anti-Racist' at Wesley's Chapel in London, where we met a group from the Teddington Circuit. Our connection with this Sunbury-based Youth Group, 'Hangout', has strengthened over the year, as we have enjoyed several sessions together. We went to 3Generate with this group.

In October, 7 of our young people with 3 leaders joined hundreds of young Methodists from across the country, at 3Generate (the Annual Methodist Children & Youth Assembly). This was a residential trip (Fri 30th Sep – Sun 2nd Oct) with the group staying in tents at the venue (the NEC Birmingham). The weekend was filled with opportunities to spend time with other young Christians while attending workshops & discussions, getting crafty, playing sports, and worshipping.

Our monthly sessions have been run by Naomi Deacon and myself with support from Val Barker, Jeannette Curtis, Ruth Evans, David Lean, Joy Lord, Jean Maddock, Dave Paterson and Ross Richardson.

Sunday School

Catherine Heffernan

We have a lovely group of Sunday School children and on average have 6 young people every session. As they have grown older, the Sunday School teachers have needed to adapt their sessions, so they are relevant and interesting for the young people. We have had many very interesting discussions during our time together.

On the 1st Sunday in the month, when we have Holy Communion, we do not have Sunday School but the children are encouraged to still attend, but to stay in the service.

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays were covered by our three regular Sunday School teachers: Catherine Heffernan, Lynda Shaw and Pauline Wakefield, who each take one session a month.

However, since we realized that we urgently needed to reinstate the creche, Pauline Wakefield has very kindly said that she will help with the creche, instead of Sunday School. We offer Pauline our heartfelt thanks for being part of the Sunday School team since January 2013, so that's 10 years! She has brought a lot of fun to the Sunday School, including painting and cooking sessions. **Thank you, Pauline!**

With Pauline's departure, we now have a gap in the Sunday School rota, which Christopher has agreed to temporarily cover, with Alan and Eileen covering his slot on the Projection rota, to make this possible.

This highlights the problem that we currently have, where the same people are filling the rotas, and when spaces appear, all we can manage is a swap around!

It would be really great if someone could come forward and offer to take one Sunday School lesson a month, especially as Christopher hopes to move to Bristol in September and so this will then leave the Sunday School rota having one Sunday unfilled. We follow the material provided by 'Roots' which is available in a magazine and online. 'Roots' provide all the material and the Sunday School teacher just has to choose which items they think will work best for our groups, so they do not have to think up a lesson themselves!

So, if you are reading this and think you can spare one Sunday morning a month, please let us know!

When we have a 5 Sunday month, Jeannette Curtis very kindly covers that session,

so no teacher has to commit to more than one a month.

We are also very blessed that several members of the congregation have agreed to be a 2nd DBS checked adult, to sit in on our sessions.

All the Sunday School teachers and helpers have up- to-date DBS checks and have attended the relevant Safeguarding Training.

Crèche

Eileen Boye

Upon retuning to church following COVID -19 lockdowns last year, we did not have any babies/ toddlers coming to church and so an active crèche was not immediately reinstated.

However over the last few months we have welcomed 5 regularly-attending toddlers, plus a few occasional attendees.

We have had to revamp the creche and find volunteers to man it. The latter has been quite difficult as many previous volunteers have had to retire from such active pursuits as running around with toddlers!

After much discussion at the church council and leadership levels, we appealed to some of these older members, of our church family to come into creche when necessary (about once a quarter) purely as a second DBS-checked adult, to simply sit in and oversee proceedings while the other volunteer gets stuck in to playing with the children.

This arrangement has worked to some extent, but can present some challenges, especially when all the children are present. The ages of the children means that they really need to be watched constantly. They so easily get up to mischief that may be dangerous to themselves and the other children or sometimes they just need more engagement or encouragement and the one person can't manage that one child exclusively and keep an eye out efficiently look out for the others all at the same time!

Therefore, we do need several more able-bodied volunteers to help give these children a great and fun first church experience that they will remember. It is truly a reciprocal blessing to work with these bright, engaging children.

Please do catch up with me in church or contact me afterwards if you are able to help with this, even if it is just to be on the rota on one Sunday a quarter.

Your help will really be appreciated.

Messy Church Report

Jeannette Curtis

Last year we had 5 messy church meetings treading carefully after lockdown. We still had to keep to some of the lockdown rules. Such as not being too long in one room and using bigger, rather than smaller rooms. Also ensuring that hands were clean, when moving to different craft tables. Messy Mothers and Messy Easter went well and we had new families. Sadly I was not on the ball and let this information sit in a cupboard. So when we started up again in October I did not include the new families on the contact lists. October 2022 was a 10 year celebration of Messy Church. We did not have many families but the messy church family met up and shared some memories. Jess brought her two young children and Phil, Christopher and Naomi had chance to catch up with her. The four of them were the original young people to help as leaders with Messy church. In November we had advent calendars and made holly rings and advent cards and there were few families again. So in December we invited all the church family to Christingle. During tea after the Christingle it was lovely to look across the hall and see the families grand parents, parents and children.

So into the new year and I have made new contact lists have joined three facebook pages in Walton and will put information about Messy church on those pages. I have contacted the beavers and some of the people who have had children's parties at our church. So am looking at alternative ways of advertising.

Please pray for this work that God's hand will be over us as we plan for the next year. Maybe it is time to stop or maybe there is still a need for Messy Church at Walton.

Friendship Club Report

Jeannette Curtis

The friendship group met for many years, starting as a young wives club and changing its name over the years as the group of friends got to know each other better and got older.

The meetings started with interesting speakers or quizzes and puzzles. Sometimes there was a craft activity. It ended with a hot drink and a chat. It was not possible to organise the speakers so the formal meeting stopped last year. It is still a friendship group and members meet together in their homes and sometimes go for a walk. The friendships continue in a different way.

WITS

Rosanne Jackson

We are very grateful to Eileen who has organised our weekly prayer sessions on WhatsApp.

We enjoyed a lovely meal at the Queens Head in Weybridge in January and hope to meet up again in the summer.

Jeannette kindly hosted a "Book Club Session" in February to talk about our favourite books. The books were all so varied; they made a very interesting evening.

APPENDIX 6a: MODEL CHURCH SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Statement of Safeguarding Principles

It is the Methodist Church's intention to value every human being as part of God's creation and the whole people of God. At the heart of the Methodist community is a deep sense of the place of welcome, hospitality and openness, which demonstrates the nature of God's grace and love for all.

Our church communities are called to be places where the transformational love of God is embodied and life in all its fullness is a gift, which is offered to all people.

Principles

Safeguarding is about the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture. This means we will:

- **promote** the welfare of children, young people and adults
- work to **prevent** abuse from occurring
- seek to **protect** and respond well to those that have been abused.

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- safeguarding and protecting all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- establishing safe, caring communities, which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and The Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme in Scotland.

We will respond without delay to every safeguarding concern, which suggests that a child, young person or adult may have been harmed, working in partnership with the police and social services in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

Working with the Church Safeguarding Officer, we will support risk assessment of those who present a safeguarding risk within a church environment. We will ensure appropriate pastoral care is offered and measures are taken to address identified risks including referral to statutory agencies, suspension and the use of safeguarding contracts.

In all these principles, we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy for **Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church**

Purpose

The purpose of the church safeguarding policy is to check that procedures are in place and provide clarity about the roles and responsibilities of those trusted with promoting the church as a safe space for all its users.

This policy was agreed at a Church Council held on **3rd October 2023**

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults and affirms that the needs of vulnerable individuals at risk are paramount.

Walton-on-Thames Methodist recognises that it has a particular care for all who are vulnerable whether as a result of disabilities or reduction in capacities or by their situation. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and our wish to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to support the church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

Walton-on-Thames Methodist recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual, discriminatory, domestic or institutional abuse or neglect, abuse using social media, child sexual exploitation or human trafficking (slavery). It acknowledges the effects these may have on people and their development, including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

Walton-on-Thames Methodist commits itself to:

1. **RESPOND** without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed or may suffer harm, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.
2. **IMPLEMENT** the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, government legislation and guidance and

safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.

3. **PROVIDE** support, advice and training for lay and ordained people to ensure that people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults who may be vulnerable.
4. **AFFIRM** and give thanks for those who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults and also acknowledge the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding children, young people *and* vulnerable adults who are on our premises.

Church Council

Legal responsibility for safeguarding rests with the members of the Church Council. The safeguarding officer should be a member of the Church Council or have the right to attend at least annually to report on implementation of the safeguarding policy. Where an individual covers the role in more than one location, they must be able to cover the activities identified in the relevant role outline and be facilitated to attend meetings to report on safeguarding in each location.¹

Walton-on-Thames Methodist appoints

Mrs Catherine Heffernan Church Safeguarding Officer (Adults)

and

Mrs Catherine Heffernan Church Safeguarding Officer (Children)

and supports them in their role, which is to:

- provide support and advice to the minister and the stewards in fulfilling their roles with regard to safeguarding.
- ensure that a suitable, signed church safeguarding policy is available at all times in the church, along with names of current safeguarding officers, national helplines and other suitable information. This must be renewed annually.
- record all safeguarding issues that are reported to the church safeguarding officer, according to Methodist safeguarding policy.
- promote appropriate routes for reporting of concerns
- identify and inform those who are required to attend safeguarding training and maintain records of attendance. Work with the Circuit Safeguarding Officer and District Safeguarding Officer to arrange training.
- attend training and meetings relating to the role
- work in partnership with others including stewards and user groups to promote good safeguarding practice on church premises. This may include gaining written confirmation that

¹ *It is not appropriate for the minister in pastoral charge to hold the Church Safeguarding Officer role because of the potential conflict with their own responsibilities.*

hirers of church premises are aware of the church safeguarding policy or are using an appropriate policy of their own.

- check that safeguarding is included as an agenda item at all Church Council meetings and report to the Church Council annually.
- inform all those with responsibility for recruitment, whether paid or voluntary, of their obligation to follow safer recruitment procedures.
- advise the Circuit Safeguarding Officer and/or District Safeguarding Officer of any issues with compliance with safeguarding training, policy or safer recruitment requirements and respond promptly to any request from them about audit of safeguarding activities.

a) Good practice

We believe that good practice means:

- i) All people are treated with respect and dignity.
- ii) Those who act on behalf of the church should not meet or work alone with a child or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen unless this is necessary for pastoral reasons, in which case a written record will be made and kept noting date, time and place of visit.
- iii) The church premises will be assessed by the Church Safeguarding Officer with the property steward and/or their representatives at least annually for safety for children, young people and vulnerable adults and a written risk assessment report will be given annually to the Church Council. This will include fire safety procedures. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.
- iv) Any church-organised transport of children, young people or vulnerable adults will be checked to ensure that the vehicle is suitable and insured and that the driver and escort (where required) are appropriate. A record should be kept in the church file for each driver/car.
- v) Activity risk assessments will be undertaken before any activity takes place to minimise the risk of harm to those involved. Approval will be obtained from the event leader/minister. A written record of the assessment will be retained securely.
- vi) Promotion of safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks which enable all God's people to reach their full potential. The Church Council will actively consider the extent to which it is succeeding in this area.

These things are to safeguard those working with children, young people and those adults who may be vulnerable.

b) Appointment and training of workers in the church

Workers will be appointed after satisfactory criminal records check and following the safer recruitment procedures of the Methodist Church. Each worker will have an identified supervisor who will meet at regular intervals with the worker. A record of these meetings will be agreed and signed and the record kept. Each worker will be expected to undergo safeguarding training, within the first 6 months of appointment. The other training needs of each worker will be considered (such as food hygiene, first aid and lifting and handling).

c) Pastoral visitors

Pastoral visitors will be supported in their role with the provision of safeguarding training upon appointment. If they are undertaking tasks for which a criminal records check would be required, this will be undertaken prior to appointment.

d) Guidelines for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults

A leaflet outlining good practice and systems should be given to everyone who works with children, young people and vulnerable adults. This leaflet should be reviewed annually.

e) Ecumenical events

Where ecumenical events happen on church premises, safeguarding is the responsibility of this Church Council.

f) Events with church groups off the premises

Adequate staffing, a risk assessment and notification of the event will be given to the church safeguarding officer prior to the agreement for any event or off-site activity. Notification of the event will be given to the church council secretary: **Ms Carol Morgan**.

If the activity is unusual or considered to be high risk the Church Safeguarding Officer will contact the Circuit Safeguarding Officer in order that it can be ratified or any queries raised.

g) Other groups on church premises

Where the building is hired for outside use, the Church Safeguarding Officer should be informed. The Church Safeguarding Officer will keep the records and take advice as appropriate from the Circuit Safeguarding Officer.

h) Complaint's procedure

There is a formal complaints procedure within the Methodist Church, which allows concerns to be raised about actions or behaviour by a member or officer of the Church. In addition, employed staff will be subject to relevant contractual procedures. All complaints will be responded to with care, diligence and impartiality.

A complaint should be addressed to the superintendent minister, the **Revd Paul Glass**. If a complaint is made to another person, it should be referred to the superintendent. Meetings will be arranged with the person making the complaint and, usually, the person against whom the complaint has been made, in an attempt to resolve it. If the complaint is against the superintendent, it should be sent to the District Chair, the **Revd. Dr David Hinchliffe** at **The Methodist Church South East District Office, Unit 4B, Basepoint Business Centre, Metcalf Way, Crawley, RH11 7XX**.

Safeguarding officers must be informed of any complaint or issue relating to the potential abuse of children, young people or adults who may be vulnerable. They will support prompt action to respond to the circumstances of any safeguarding concern, whether or not any party involved wishes to make a formal complaint through the Methodist Church.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Church Council.

Next review date: **3rd October 2024**

i) Definition of Key Terms

- i) A child is anyone who has not yet reached their eighteenth birthday.
- ii) Vulnerable adults: any adult aged 18 or over who, owing to disability, mental function, age or illness or traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care or protect themselves.
- iii) Safeguarding: protecting children, young people or vulnerable adults from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.
- iv) Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity, which is undertaken to protect children, young people and/or adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.
- v) Abuse and neglect may occur in a family, a community or an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child, young person or vulnerable adult or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.
- vi) Worker: anyone working with children or vulnerable adults in the name of **Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church**, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity.

Signed  Chair of Church Council

Dated 3rd October 2023

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH
Income & Expenditure Account for the period 01/09/2022- 31/08/2023

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
2021/22	ITEM	2022/23	BUDGET	2021/22	ITEM	2022/23	BUDGET
	<i>Collections</i>			35,600	Circuit Assessment	38,275	38,275
28,756	Envelopes & Std Orders	31,374		4,688	Secretarial Expenses	4,244	5,250
5,445	Cash	5,086		971	Office Expenses	163	1,250
34,201		36,460	30,000	1,321	Worship Expenses	1,977	2,500
				329	Mission Expenses		1,000
25,621	Gift Day	23,115	18,000		Training	45	
14	Tax Rebate	25,816	25,000	3,060	Gift Day Charities	3,000	
	Circuit Grants				Transfer to Youth Work Fund	5,000	
21,000	Legacies	1,780			<i>Property</i>		
435	Interest	4,518	750	3,621	Utilities	4,356	5,000
8,596	Lettings	15,933	12,500	6,877	General expenditure	6,055	7,200
	Narthex Coffee			3,919	Cleaning	4,369	4,500
110	Fundraising	165		17,726	Repairs & Replacements	33,525	25,000
10	Donations	139		120	Junior Church	120	250
	Other Church Groups	371		2,425	Insurance	1,209	2,700
1,000	Sundry Income	309	500	500	Connexional Funds	500	500
				98	Bank Charges	61	
					Sundry Expense		
90,987		108,605	86,750	81,256		102,900	93,425
			6,675	9,731	SURPLUS re Unrestricted	5,704	
90,987	Grand Total	108,605	93,425	90,987	Grand Total	108,605	93,425

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH
Income & Expenditure Account for the period 01/09/2022- 31/08/2023

RESTRICTED FUNDS

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
2021/22	ITEM	2022/23	BUDGET	2021/22	ITEM	2022/23	BUDGET
	Benevolent Fund						
	Collections			50	Payments	12	
	Transfer from General Fund						
50	Deficit	12			Surplus		
50		12		50		12	
	Charitable Funds						
2,883	Collections	3,738		2,739	Paid to charities	3,852	
	Deficit	114		144	Surplus		
2,883		3,852		2,883		3,852	
	Connexional Funds						
85	Collections	75		85	Paid to Connexion	75	
	Deficit				Surplus		
85		75		85		75	
	Messy Church Fund						
25	Donations			213	Expenses	376	
	Tax Rebate						
188	Deficit	376			Surplus		
213		376		213		376	
	Youth Group						
(162)	Subs etc.				Expenses		
162	Deficit				Surplus		
	Youth Work Fund						
	Transfer from General Fund	5,000					
1,331	Donations	925			Salary		
115	Interest	1,009		2,214	Expenses	245	
	Tax Rebate						
768	Deficit				Surplus	6,689	
2,214		6,934		2,214		6,934	
					SURPLUS re Restricted	6,187	
	Grand Total	10,746			Grand Total	10,746	

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

Balance Sheet as at 31/08/2023

31-Aug-22			31-Aug-23		
<u>Current Assets</u>					
£	£	£	£	£	£
			Bank & Cash Balances		
	603				
	9,529			3,929	
	14,418			26,950	
	21,000			23,222	
				21,171	
	86,153			59,297	
				2,338	
	26,661			33,350	
	25			25	
	<u>158,390</u>			<u>170,281</u>	
 <u>Represented by:</u>					
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
	120,683			130,415	
	9,731	130,415		5,704	136,119
		130,415			136,119
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
	191			141	
	(50)	141		(12)	129
	38			182	
	144	182		(114)	68
	1,179			991	
	(188)	991		(376)	616
	162				
	(162)				
	27,429			26,661	
	(768)	26,661		6,689	33,350
		27,975			34,162
		<u>158,390</u>			<u>170,281</u>

Walton on Thames Methodist Church
Notes to the Annual accounts for the period ending 31st August 2023

Another satisfactory year is behind us and thankfully we are still on a relatively sound financial footing. Can I thank you once again for your generosity, whilst so many other costs are increasing for us all.

These notes are meant to be read in conjunction with our annual accounts and are a way of explaining them more clearly than just in figures. Our Income and Expenditure statement for the year end highlights reasons why the predicted deficit ended up as a surplus.

If you don't have a copy of the accounts and wish for one, please ask.

The Hall redecoration started this year rather than before and took our property related expenditure over budget, but this comes out of Gift Day monies which are in a Savings account. The cost was around around £13000. Around £9500 was spent on Electrical work over the year.

Thanks to Chris who works with me so well on all matters, property related. Also to Rosanne who has been instrumental, with help, in keeping up our lettings again so that the rents, as predicted last year, increased and were substantially over budget. However, for the benefit of the Charity commission and in relation to VAT rules, we are in no way profitable. Catherine and Tony save us money to and Catherine helps wherever she can on property matters.

As you may know, our Electric and gas contracts run until 2024 so we must hope that some stability and reductions have been reached by then. It looks more promising than last year and I have already found an electric contract which I have signed up to which commences on 1st April 2024; April Fools day which I very much hope is not a clue as to whether we have done the right thing. The new contract was referred to the Leadership Team. Gas we are leaving for the time being.

Our Charitable giving increased this year to a total of just over £7300.

Bank interest on our funds is increasing but of course inflation is reducing the capital value and the cost of building work, (which most of the funds are for) is going up by leaps and bounds. However it came in at £4500 as compared with the budget of £750.

Cash collections were around 14% of our total collections, the rest coming by standing order, cheque and internet banking.

Many thanks again to Alan Weight, for all his help with both accounts and the Gift Aid claim. He is of great assistance.

As your treasurer I am at your service and in the event of any query please contact me.

Duncan E Curtis

Jan 24

Banks now used are the Charities Aid Foundation Bank and the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

Charitable Giving

	2021/22		2022/23	
Connexional Funds				
Easter Offering	85.00		75.00	
World Mission	500.00	585.00	500.00	575.00
Other Donations				
Action Aid	71.50			
Action For Children	464.73		1,336.12	
All We Can	112.24		125.00	
Alzheimers			136.55	
Bible Society	133.49		193.04	
Cherry Trees			55.00	
Crisis			119.20	
Foodbank	69.90		86.40	
League Of Light	15.80			
Love Russia	10.00		70.00	
McMillan Cancer care	588.28		293.87	
MHA	591.23		297.00	
Ministers & Deacons Fund	188.90			
Princes Trust			279.75	
Red Cross	250.00			
Shelter	79.13			
Target Ovarian Cancer			453.71	
Tear Fund			47.95	
Unicef	307.50			
York Road	_____	2,882.70	_____	3,737.69
Gift Day Charities				
All We Can			500.00	
Anna Chaplaincy			500.00	
Christian Aid	1,020.00			
Eco Hub			500.00	
Elmbridge Can	1,020.00		500.00	
Foodbank			500.00	
MHA			500.00	
Mind	1,020.00	3,060.00	_____	3,000.00
		6,527.70		7,312.69

Sheet1

COPY FOR CHURCH COUNCIL FEB 2023

Walton Methodist Church. Charitable Giving 2023

Coffee collections (with one Minute for) to encourage support at Services for the charities

Feb. March	Target Ovarian Cancer	Gift Day Beneficiaries
April May	Bible Society	£500 each
June July	Alzheimer's Society	MHA
Aug Sept	Tear Fund	Local Foodbank
Oct Nov	Crisis	All We Can
Dec Jan	Action For Children	Elmbridge Can
NB		Anna Chaplaincy
Copy to Rita for the notices for		Elmbridge Ecohub
Coffee money		
these should include a reference to paying		Also Reserve Fund and
other than by cash		Youth work

The feeling was that with less cash being carried the congregation should be encouraged to look at other ways of paying. Cheque, Interbank, Website. All these involve advising the treasurer what the money is for

Mar 5 th	Gift Day See above for Charities and beneficiaries this year
May	Circle the City not going ahead this year. May be an alternative?
July	World Mission Fund £500 from Church funds as agreed by Church council. (Connexional Methodist Fund) Also Pauline Wakefield collects individual donations to this fund
September	Surrey Churches Preservation Trust Sponsored cycle ride in the local area / Ride and Stride/ Jeannette
29 th October	MacMillan coffee morning . Jeannette and Rosanne plus WI from Hersham Harvest Festival?
October	Animal charity collection organised by Pauline Wakefield with an address to congregation
November	Children's choir concert organised by Rebecca and Jeannette for Action For Children.
December	Love Russia. From Christmas cards . Ruth to do a" Minute for" at the beginning of Advent
December	It has been a tradition since Margaret's time that we collect for Action for Children at each service where we sing carols. Say Sunday morning and Candlelit service plus Christmas Day? Duncan and Jeannette to organise home Carol singing in lieu of Carol singing at Shops and station
Legacies.	A short paragraph to be included in the Gift Day letter to be drawn up by the treasurer requesting consideration to the making of a legacy in favour of WMC . Our Charitable giving is an important part of our work as a Charity and is also important to show we justify our Gift Aid claim. It also assists the presentation of our charitable status on the Charity Commission Website

**WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH
PHASED BUDGET 2022-23**

INCOME

ITEM	BUDGET 2022/23	Phased Cumulative Budget other qtrs		
		Q1	Q2	Q3
Unrestricted				
Collections	30,000	7,500	15,000	22,500
Tax Rebate	25,000	11,500	11,500	11,500
Interest	750	185	370	555
Lettings	12,500	3,125	6,250	9,375
Gift Day	18,000			18,000
Sundry	500	125	250	375
Grants				
Legacies				
Fundraising				
Donations				
Other Church Groups				
Restricted				
DEFICIT				
	6,675	8,877	20,150	10,827
	93,425	31,312	53,520	73,132

EXPENDITURE

ITEM	BUDGET 2022/23	Phased Cumulative Budget other qtrs		
		Q1	Q2	Q3
Unrestricted				
Circuit Assessment	38,275	9,570	19,140	28,710
Secretarial Services	5,250	1,315	2,530	3,845
Office Expenses	1,250	315	625	940
Worship Expenses	2,500	625	1,250	1,875
Mission Expenses	1,000	250	500	750
Utilities	5,000	1,250	2,500	3,750
Property - Gen Exp	7,200	1,800	3,600	5,400
Property - R&R	25,000	15,000	18,300	21,600
Cleaning	4,500	1,125	2,250	3,375
Junior Church	250	62	125	187
Insurance	2,700		2,700	2,700
Connexional Funds	500			
Restricted				
SURPLUS				
	93,425	31,312	53,520	73,132

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church

Governance – decision making

The following was agreed at the Church Council (CC) meeting 18 October 2016 and reviewed August 2023

- The property secretary can agree expenditure up to £2500. The Property Secretary will always check with the Treasurer if over £500. The Property Secretary will continue to report any expenditure to the next CC meeting.
- Any item over £2500 will be brought back to CC. If a decision is required in advance of the next scheduled CC meeting the Property Secretary and Treasurer will request the Leadership Team call an extraordinary CC meeting. 14 days' notice is required. If the matter is urgent and above £2500 emails can be used to approve the decision, with a minuted agenda item at the next CC meeting. Emails will not be used outside of these circumstances.
- Maintenance contracts are in place for expenditure such as the fire alarm, photocopier, fire extinguishers and sound system.
- All BACS payments have to be electronically released, and at present a nominated authorised signatory does them all, after the Treasurer enters them into the CAF bank system. This is for any amount. However, in future, a nominated authorised signatory will contact a member of the Leadership team for confirmation that s/he can release any item over £2500. This contact can be by phone, email or in person, but s/he will make a note of who has agreed and keep records which will be passed to the Treasurer each August and kept on file with the rest of the paperwork.
- All cheques are signed by two people (the Treasurer and an authorised signatory).
- If the Property Secretary receives a quote for £2,500 and over, she will seek a second quote unless a recognised provider is used whose standard of work has proved satisfactory in the past. She will then liaise with a Steward and then the Treasurer. This will be reported to the next CC meeting.
- The Benevolent Fund is to be used at the Minister's discretion. In the absence of a Minister, the Leadership team are allowed to authorise any amount from this fund when it was needed, and report back to CC.
- Any project which is done in the name of the Church should come to the CC for its approval, for example the Uganda project and 3Generate. CC should approve projects before plans go ahead. This helps to ensure projects are aligned with the vision and strategy of Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church and helps to achieve the widest reach of limited resources.
- Small raffles are allowed, at the discretion of the CC, in line with the Methodist Church Constitutional Practice and Discipline. A raffle can only be held within a fundraising event, the cost of prizes must be under £50 and no alcohol is allowed as prizes.

These notes will be filed in the front of the CC folders stored at the Church.

Current role holders –

- Chris Mills – Property Secretary
- Duncan Curtis – Treasurer
- Hilary Richardson – the only person (an authorised signatory) who can release the electronic payments

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Walton-on-Thames	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2023

Wey Valley Circuit	Circuit no.	36/6
--------------------	-------------	------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1174524

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 Sydney Samuel Lake

Church Stewards:

Sally Hoy

Ross Richardson

Dave Paterson

Jeannette Curtis (resigned 26/06/23)

Valerie Barker

Treasurer:

Duncan Curtis

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year	
		£	£	£	£	
a1	RECEIPTS					
	Note					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	86,065	925	86,990	61,150	
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	4,518	1,009	5,527	550	
a4	Lettings	15,933		15,933	8,596	
a5	Other receipts	2,089		2,089	22,000	
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	108,605	1,934	110,538 (a7)	92,296	
SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	38,275		38,275	35,600	
b3	Donations	3,500	12	3,512	3,610	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	43,950		43,950	28,522	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	5,565		5,565	6,046	
b6						
b7	Other payments	6,611	621	7,231	9,954	
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	97,900	633	98,533 (b9)	83,732	
SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	10,704	1,301	12,005	8,564
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		130,415	27,793	158,208 (c6)	149,644
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	141,119	29,094	170,213	158,208
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(5,000)	5,000		
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	136,119	34,094	170,213 (c8)	158,208 (c6)
SECTION D						
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS						
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures			£	£	
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			182	38	
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			3,813	2,968	
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			3,927	2,824	
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)		68	182	

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 Friendship Club		80	(80)		80	
e2 Walton Methodist Players		398	(398)		398	
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds		478	(478)		478 (e11)	(e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	110,538 (a7)	98,533 (b9)	12,005	(c7)	158,208 (c6)	170,213 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	110,538	99,011	11,527		158,686 (x)	170,213 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2023**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	25	25
f2 Bank Current Account	9,950	3,861
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	148,233	166,327
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	158,208 (c6)	170,213 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	478 (e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	158,686 (x)	170,213 (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)		
g3 Other Assets		
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 **Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church** No 1174524

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 *Duncan Curtis* Date *8/1/24*

Name and address of treasurer **Duncan Curtis**
1 Wadham Close, Shepperton Post Code TW17 9HT

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting *[Signature]*
Name of the Chair of the meeting *Rev Sydney Samuel Lake* Date *13/2/24*

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church

Charity Number 1174524

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the *Walton-on-Thames Methodist* Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 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 **Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church**

No 1174524

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 RLewis

Name of independent examiner Robert G Lewis

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCCA

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A

Address 15 SOUTHERLAND CLOSE

WEYBRIDGE, SURREY Post Code KT13 9EN

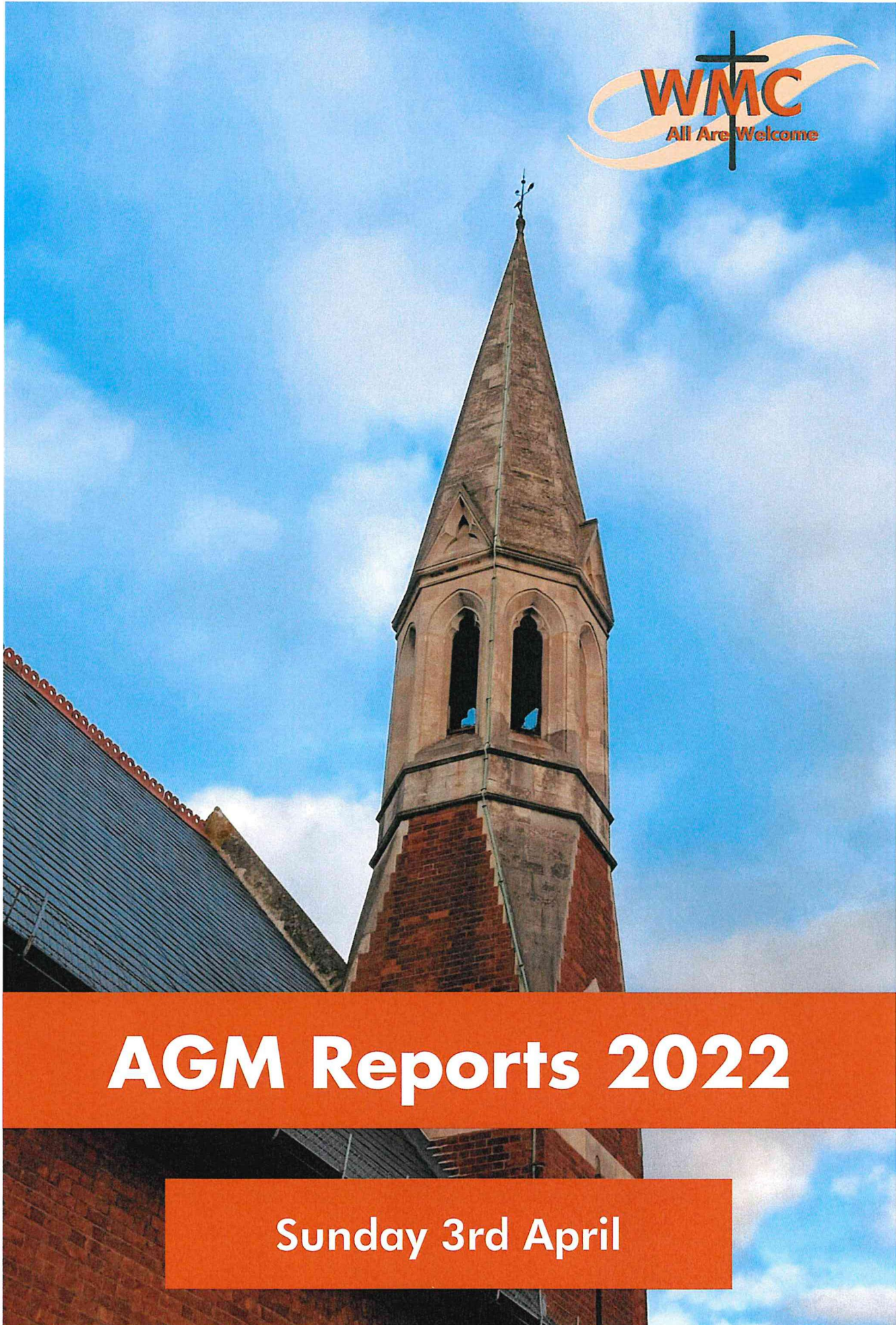
Date 12/1/24

* delete or circle as appropriate

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1174524

Accounts



AGM Reports 2022

Sunday 3rd April

Reports Enclosed:

1. Minister (Revd. Sydney Samuel)
2. Leadership Team (Ross Richardson)
3. Churches Together / Ecumenical Activities (Ross Richardson)
 4. Pudding & Praise (Ross Richardson)
 5. Pastoral Care (Ruth Evans)
 6. Finance (Duncan Curtis)
 7. Property (Chris Mills)
8. Safeguarding (Catherine Heffernan)
9. COVID-19 Task Force (Chris Mills)
10. WMC Online (Christopher Heffernan)
11. Youth Group (Christopher Heffernan)
12. Sunday School & Crèche (Catherine Heffernan)
 13. Messy Church (Jeannette Curtis)
 14. Prayer Group (Ross Richardson)
15. Walking Group (Jill Kenton and Sandra & Colin Wright)
 16. Friendship Club (Marion Wadley)
17. Thursday House Group (Sandra and Colin Wright)

Minister's Report

Revd. Sydney Samuel Lake

SPRING FORWARDS AS THE CLOCKS HAVE GONE FORWARDS

One way that we are reminded to change the time on our clocks and watches during autumn is to consider that by putting the clocks back by one hour, we fall back and go through winter. We then spring forwards as we put our clocks forward by one hour towards spring and hope to enjoy the good weather of summer. As a nation the periods of lockdown because of Covid-19 and the challenges we face from illness and emergency needs which almost brought the NHS to its knees, could be likened to a period in which our nations, homes and churches were held back. Some of our churches were seriously challenged and brought to their knees. We at Walton Methodist church were definitely rocked but we did not reel and tumble on the canvas, as though hit with a knockout punch. On the contrary, we weathered the storm, and we continue in resilience towards rehabilitation, regeneration and recovery. We spring forwards along with the natural growth of the spring season as we hope for better days of love, faith and solidarity ahead.

Our pastoral services were tested, as the need for taking members to hospitals for appointments, tests and admissions continued during the last year. All the pastoral visitors rallied around and kept visiting the members of our church family in their class groups and maintained full contact with them by phone and other means. Some members of our congregation did more than their share in giving people lifts to hospitals, care homes and families, without the need for them to use public transport. I want to thank all the "Good Samaritans" in our church for serving God by helping fellow human beings. We praise God for the people who have been generous in their service to others for whom Christ has died (2 Corinthians 8:5 and 1 Corinthians 8:11 NRSV). Thank you for loving God by loving his people. Please always remember that according to Jesus, "whatsoever you do for one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me". That is, you render services to their creator and saviour who died for them (Matthew 25:40).

Our membership is staying stable. We have lost some members of our church who have been called to their place in the heavenly mansions, where Jesus Christ has gone to prepare a place for believers to go and join Him and God our Father (John 14:1-3). May the souls of the departed rest in perfect peace. On the other hand, we

have had several new people worshipping with us over recent weeks and months. If and when they become members, our membership will increase. We are blessed to welcome a new couple into our church family and other new people including a drama teacher and a family who used to attend a Methodist church in Zimbabwe. We are also blessed with parents who are bringing their children for baptism and confirmation ceremonies. I wish to make it clear that adults are also welcomed to participate in these religious rites of passage into the body of Christ and become full serving members of His church on earth.

A candid reflection will tell us that we are still in the Covid era, so we are retaining the Zoom services in the afternoon, and we are going to look at keeping the in-church regulations which people are asked to observe as a matter of choice. We are considering the resumption of our long-kept tradition of coming up to the communion rail. However, as with other new practices developed during Covid, we have to decide whether we keep some form of the current system which means that the stewards take the bread and wine to members of the congregation in their seats. We have found out that whilst waiting for the bread and wine we have been able to say our personal prayers and engage in our spiritual relationship with God, before partaking of the elements together. In all this, the work of the stewards is very much appreciated. Therefore, we thank God for sending us all the helpers and volunteers who fill the different roles in our church, including the vital role of helping with our young people. We pray that God will continue to give you strength and wisdom to serve his people.

The young people in our church have participated in leading services and taking part in worship, to the approval of senior members who were pleasantly surprised! The challenge of not being able to employ a Youth Worker is being addressed by volunteers seeking to employ new ideas to engage our young people. After many failed attempts to employ a Youth Worker we are slightly disheartened but not dismayed. Practically, we are looking for ideas on how to provide activities appropriate for the youth and some of us are not ruling out miracles, because we believe with God all things work together for good according to God's plan. We hope that as the prevalence of Covid reduces, other groups of young people and community organisations will continue to meet on our premises and to use our church hall and other rooms in our building.

We are looking to continue our ecumenical partnership. In January we had a well-attended service in St Mary's church recognising Christian unity. At the time of

writing, we also plan to take part in the "World Day of Prayer", previously "Women's World Day of Prayer".

We are planning to hold a thanksgiving service to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Friendship Club which for many years has been led by Mrs Marion Wadley. The group began as a Young Wives Group with a creche staffed by other members of the church family. It changed over the years to become a more inclusive Friendship Club open to all, with a varied programme of speakers, fund raising events, celebration meals, barbecues and many memorable outings together. Thousands of pounds have been raised over the years for charities and for the church. With the advent of Covid restrictions and the loss of some members, sadly they are looking to close. Although life is busy and has changed over the past 18 months, we recognise that people still want to chat over a cup of tea and meet for fellowship, so new ideas are welcome.

Finally, we spring forward in our newly decorated church, refreshing the colour which has been on our walls for about 30 years. February 19th was a joyful occasion when a young couple was married in our church, and we pray that they will have a married life filled with love and happiness. We extend our congratulations to one of our members who has successfully completed her PhD. We hope to have a party to celebrate this achievement and to remind us to call her "Doctor"! Please continue to pray for the young people as they look to catch up in their schoolwork, after all the disruption and closures due to Covid. Pray also for our older young people in universities, further education or entering the world of employment.

I will finish by saying thank you to all our stewards, paid staff, volunteers and every member of our church family, especially those who have recently joined us and stayed on to become part of God's family in Walton Methodist Church. As part of the Body of Christ we need to respect and appreciate each other. May we continue to do our best by using the gifts and graces that God has given us to the praise and glory of God and for the benefit of one another.

The Leadership Team Report

Ross Richardson

The Church Stewards who (together with Rev. Lake) constitute the WMC Leadership Team have been Ross Richardson (Senior); Sally Hoy; Jeannette Curtis, Val barker and Dave Paterson over the last year.

Despite the pandemic continuing to provide the mood music and setting the backdrop to the past year we have managed to push our way through it, keeping our door open for services to the very best of our ability. We have also continued with our Zoom services as well, helping to keep our fellowship and connection with those people who could not come to church. Although we have recently scaled these back to 2 per month now that we are having gathered services each Sunday. We will keep the Zoom services in place for the foreseeable future as this allows people to connect with us and enhance their spiritual lives in a different way.

We managed to host 2 Lent Groups last Easter along the theme of the Climate Emergency, which caused several of us to begin to think and act about this topic in different ways. In Advent we ran a Christian Meditation and Mindfulness course and an away day which were led by Suzette Jones. These proved to be a useful way to explore our spirituality and find ways to centre our busy lives around our spirituality.

Through the year the stewards have played key roles in facilitating the smooth running of every service at WMC (gathered or by Zoom) and some of the background administration for our Church. We are supported by Catherine Heffernan our Church Secretary, Chris Mills and Duncan Curtis – we are very grateful for their work, time and energy as well.

At the time of writing our campaign (for it does seem like a campaign as this process has now run out across 5 years) to employ a Children and Youth Worker has been mothballed for the time being. We have run several adverts and put “feelers” out but have been unsuccessful in recruiting someone to the role. For this year Christopher Heffernan will lead ad hoc sessions with our young people supported by members of our congregation.

Looking forward across 2022, we hope to explore the book called Holy Habits by Andrew Roberts looking at a chapter per month. We will launch this through our Lent Groups across the Lent season. We will also look at exploring racial justice and

diversity as well.

As ever, we would appreciate your prayers for our efforts as stewards, for our Minister and his family, and for our Church across this year.

Churches Together / Ecumenical Activities

Ross Richardson

There were no Churches Together activities, other than Lent Groups last year and the CT service at the end of January this year.

Pudding & Praise

Ross Richardson

There is no pudding and praise at present.

Pastoral Care Report

Ruth Evans

Our membership at present stands at 61. Unfortunately several of our congregation have died over recent months. Their obituaries have been recorded in the church magazine, Aspire. Sadly one family, Joy and Neil moved away, but we wish them God's blessing on their new life, their home and church.

It has been very pleasing in recent weeks to see several new faces among us at Sunday worship. They have been warmly welcomed and we pray that our services are meeting their needs. Maybe there is hope for increasing our membership sometime.

It was necessary recently to re-jig our Pastoral Visitors lists as we were two pastoral visitors short. Sadly, Jo Smith died and Joy moved away. However, we are delighted to welcome three new pastoral visitors - namely Eileen, Hilary and Sharon. So far all is working well. The new worshippers are being taken care of. Everyone is due for a pastoral visit soon, when the new issue of Aspire comes out. In the meantime we remain "steadfast and sure while the billows roll".

Finance Report

Duncan Curtis

Finance Report for Annual review of WMC and Notes to WMC Annual accounts for the period ending 31st August 2021 - Unrestricted funds

INCOME

Firstly a big thank you to all of you who have kept up your giving, during the last difficult year. Some of you started new standing orders, which was excellent, and some continued their cash collections by posting cheques to me. I had kept the budget for collection income the same as the previous year and you topped it! This coming year I have reduced it as we have had a couple of deaths and someone is moving away. So an early plea for you to review your giving and check when you last increased your standing order? If it was a while back, a small increase might go some way towards making up for lost income from others no longer with us. Please consider this carefully and prayerfully.

Gift day was up to budget but, as expected by me, well down on previous years. Still a very worthwhile sum indeed and an excellent result allowing for the circumstances.

We certainly must hope for a big improvement in our **Lettings** income this coming year; it has been knocked sideways by Covid 19, and all the rules. There are early signs of green shoots of recovery but we could do with the Baby class and the Art class back. The baby class will return when another little one has grown a bit more!

EXPENDITURE - And now to the other side of the equation

Worship Expenses are well over budget. We spent a lot on working out how to stream live services and this is where some of that excess came from. And a tidy sum also came from property for new equipment.

Everything else however was within budget

The difference between income and expenditure, which was a lot, is largely made up for by drawing on our Gift day and Property accounts, where I keep the proceeds of previous Gift Days. This keeps it tidier for me and easier to understand, I hope, for you. The money was largely spent on the Hall roof.

Charitable Giving

I would draw this page to your attention. You can see that our giving during this last Connexional year has increased, largely due to the generous contributions made from Gift Day 2021. It is worth a look to see how these funds were distributed, in comparison with the year before, which also included a period of Covid 19 restrictions. Overall, I expect, the total increase was less than some people expected, or indeed worried about.

Once again, I owe a big debt of gratitude to Alan Weight, whose expertise helps to turn my figures into these documents. In addition, as always, I am more than happy to answer any questions you might have about our accounts.

Finally, thanks to Chris, Catherine, Rosanne, and the Leadership Team for their help in managing our estate and the finances, as without them we could not keep the Church building going.

Property Report

Chris Mills

Investigations into problems with the drains

These investigations, which start in the Autumn of 2020, continued for the first half of the year. It was found that an underpinning stake had gone through the problem drain, which allowed tree roots to penetrate and cause a blockage.

The loss adjuster appointed by the insurance company, decided that the best course of action was to fit a permanent pump in the well, to drain the water when the level get too high.

Decorating of the Church

I had hoped to get this big project carried out when we were still not opening weekly for worship. However, our decorators could not start until November. They carried out a wonderful job, completed in less than three weeks, so disruption to worship was kept to a minimum.

I am very pleased with the results – the church now looks so much fresher and cleaner and was well worth the disruption.

Quinquennial Inspection

A detailed inspection of the church premises is carried out by the surveyor every 5 years. This took place in 2021.

Thankfully, the report did not show up any major problems with our building, although, as ever, there is a list of smaller jobs which need looking at over time.

Safeguarding Report

Catherine Heffernan

The beginning of the year found us still with Covid restrictions in place and so normal worship was not possible. I was still following the Government guidance and working from home.

As part of the Covid-19 committee, I made sure that all Safeguarding measures were in place as we started to return to 'normal' worship.

September 2021 saw us returning to Sunday morning services in the church every week and I also returned to the church office.

Risk Assessments

All groups meeting in the name of the church have been asked to submit a new Risk Assessment before resuming.

Safer Recruitment

The Circuit have reiterated that as we start back to 'normal' church life it is very important that any new roles taken up, follow the 'Safer Recruitment' path. If the role requires a DBS check, then the person **cannot take up the role** until the DBS check is completed. Similarly, if a DBS check lapses, the volunteer must not continue until a new DBS is obtained.

DBS Checks

The ID check for DBS checks is now able to take place Face to Face (whereas it had to take place 'virtually during Covid). This has made carrying out DBS checks much easier. Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church is up to date on all its DBS checks.

It is the **volunteer's responsibility** to make sure they have a valid DBS check. In The Methodist Church, it is required to carry out a new DBS check every 5 years. As a backup, the group leader should regularly check the status of their volunteers to make sure their DBS checks are within these criteria. As a final back up, I check the records periodically and flag up any gaps in the system.

If someone is on the 'update service', then they are able to show their current DBS certificate to a verifier, who is then able to go on the Government website and check the status. Once this is done, then the DBS doesn't have to be checked for another 5 years, if the person remains in the same role.

Job Descriptions

A vital part of Safer recruitment is the Job Description, and everyone in a role at the church should have a Job Description and ideally this is reviewed every year. I am pleased to say that all roles at Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church have a Job Description and everyone has been 'Safely Recruited'

Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding training has now been able to resume Face to Face and we had our first Foundation Module training session at Trinity, Woking in January. Several of our volunteers were able to attend this training.

We just have two more volunteers who require Foundation training and they are booked on the next training on 6th May in Merrow.

Both these training courses are/will be taken by Carol Morgan and we are very grateful to her for her commitment to Safeguarding.

To keep our church a safe place requires hours of work, often done behind the scenes, unnoticed.

Please remember that Safeguarding is the responsibility of EVERYONE in the church. Together, by taking an interest and always being vigilant, we can ensure that our church can offer a safe space for everyone.

COVID-19 Task Force Report

Chris Mills

Team Members:

Ross Richardson, Jeannette Curtis, Rosanne Jackson, Catherine Heffernan, Chris Mills

The Covid team spent 2021 keeping up to date of all the changes to the guidance and regulations surrounding the ongoing Covid pandemic.

The Church continued to be open weekly for private prayer and, where possible, we offered gathered Sunday morning worship in the Church. We followed the Government and Methodist Church guidance, which included not being able to sing. But we were able to put together a small choir to sing in a few of the services. Weekly Tea & Fellowship continued on Sunday afternoons.

By the end of the summer, some of the restrictions to church services were lifted. So, from September, we were able to resume weekly gathered services, which included singing. And Tea & Fellowship reduced to twice a month.

The team spent the year feeling our way through the changes and aiming to make our times of worship as fulfilling as possible.

WMC Online: Digital Services & Website Report

Christopher Heffernan

Website

The website continues to evolve and adapt to the needs of the Church. While the amount of Online Content we have been producing has reduced, the website continues to provide a gateway to all that is going on at WMC.

Over the last year (12.02.20 – 12.02.21), 846 unique visitors have accessed our website, spending an average of 13m 14s exploring the site.

The 5 Most Popular Pages:

‘Home’ – 1,911 (391 up from 2020/21)

‘WMC Online’ – 503 (up 336 from 2020/21)

‘Our Premises’ – 392 (up 363 from 2020/21)

‘Meet the Team’ – 167 (up 130 on 2020/21)

‘Contact Us’ – 212 (up 203 on 2020/21)

As you can see, there has been a continued interest in Online Worship, which continued to dominate a lot of 2020-/21. There has also been a bounce back in interest for our Premises Hire page, which is positive.

Tea & Fellowship

Tea & Fellowship continues to offer an alternative, online worship via Zoom. From September 2021, Tea & Fellowship began running every second and fourth Sunday of the month (as opposed to every Sunday) and this seems to be working well. Thanks to David Paterson for keeping Tea & Fellowship running smoothly each week.

YouTube Channel

We have utilised our YouTube Channel less across 2020/21.

We have however produced the following content:

Lent Reflections: Giving it up for Lent (6 videos) – 25 average viewers per video

Experience Easter at WMC 2021 (3 videos) – 38 average viewers per video

Our YouTube Channel has also been home to the limited live streamed services that we have offered.

Live Streaming

We offered streamed services for **Easter Sunday** (4th April – 64 views) and then on **18th April** (64 views), **2nd May** (43 views) and **16th May** (32 views). We then decided to cease streaming services, as more people were able to worship back in the church building and the technical work to stream successfully is rather involved.

At Christmas, we produced a live feed of our Carol Service to Zoom and we live streamed our Christmas Day Service (61 views).

While we may have reduced the regularity of our live streams, we still have all the equipment ready to go for when we would like to live stream. The only difficulty to navigate is effectively capturing the sound of the organ and the congregation singing (so far we have always relied on pre-recorded tracks for any live streams).

Youth Group Report

Christopher Heffernan

Our attempts, over the last year, to recruit a Children's and Youth Worker have been unsuccessful and therefore the Youth Worker committee have made the decision to cease advertising for the position.

In lieu of a Youth Worker, I will be (voluntarily) leading a monthly Youth Group every second Saturday of the month with the support of volunteers and guest leaders.

The first session took place on Saturday 12th February in the Church Hall and was attended by 5 of our young people.

We currently have a potential attendance of around 15 young people (with established links to WMC).

Sunday School and Crèche Report

Catherine Heffernan

Sunday School

We decided to restart Sunday School on Sunday 12th September, following its temporary suspension during the Covid-19 pandemic. We carried out a Risk Assessment so we could make sure that we met in an environment where teachers and young people were kept as safe as possible. It has taken some time for our young people to return but I am happy to report that as of 30th January 2022, we have now seen all our families come to Sunday School, although not all at the same time yet!

On the 1st Sunday in the month, when we have Holy Communion, we do not have Sunday School but the children are encouraged to attend and stay in the service.

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays are covered by three regular Sunday School teachers: Catherine Heffernan, Lynda Shaw and Pauline Wakefield, who each take one session a month.

When we have a 5 Sunday month, Jeannette Curtis has very kindly offered to cover that session, so no teacher has to commit to more than one a month.

We are also very blessed that several members of the congregation have agreed to be a 2nd DBS checked adult, to sit in on our sessions.

All the Sunday School teachers and helpers have up- to-date DBS checks and have attended the relevant Safeguarding Training.

It would be great if we could recruit one more helper, so if you are reading this and think you can spare one Sunday morning a month, please let us know!

We follow the material provided by 'Roots' which is available in a magazine and online. 'Roots' provide all the material and the Sunday School teacher just has to choose which items they think will work best for our groups.

Crèche

We currently do not have any babies/ toddlers coming to church and so the creche rota has not been reinstated since returning to church after the lockdown.

We propose ramping up slowly, with crèche cover only during communion services (1st Sunday) initially and we would warmly welcome any new volunteers.

Messy Church Report

Jeannette Curtis

During last year, it was very difficult to have any sort of Messy Church. The rules kept us apart and as a church, we did not want to put anyone in danger. However, we did play outside games at Easter and then went into the hall suitably spaced out and Julia told the emotional story of Easter. Using coloured tissue to indicate the emotions. At the end of the session, the children took home bags of things to make.

Usually they would make the things in Messy Church and have the bag to take the made things home! You have to think out of the box sometimes.

In the summer we planned another outdoor session, sadly, it rained and as we did not have a large number of children, we went into the hall and played games in there. Ending up with drinks and biscuits. Listening to the children chatting their comments were that they so pleased to be doing something real after all the online lessons.

By November, the rules were getting a little easier and we had three sessions. We could not have some of the activities, and it was important not to stay too long in one room. It was important to use the biggest rooms that we had. I am very grateful to Elizabeth Gurd and Rev Julia Monaghan for helping me with these sessions. In November, we looked at light in the world. November was advent so they decorated the advent candle made many things, and took home, an advent calendar that told the Christmas story. On Christmas Eve Julia was there with her Magic. The children had made Christingles, angels and a few other things. In the church with the lights out and just the light from the candles, we all felt the wonder of Christmas quietly descending.

It has been good to have some of the young people from the church helping with Messy Church. Divine and Sidney did an excellent job with the technology at Christmas.

So looking to 2022 we will be having Messy Mothers' Day and Messy Easter. We are not meeting as often as we used to. We are still feeling our way. Please pray for the families that come, for our young people as they take on more responsibilities. And finally for the great team that keeps this work going.

Prayer Group Report

Ross Richardson

Our prayer group has been meeting since 1998 each Saturday morning.

As Christians – we are encouraged to “pray at all times” not just “some” times for all people and across the whole spectrum of life’s circumstances - joy, success, happiness, celebration, doubt, distress, illness and pain.

The Prayer Group prays through all these things, every Saturday from 8am for our Church, local community, nation and world.

We successfully moved our prayer meeting online as soon as we went into lockdown 2 years ago. We have not missed a week in the last year and meet online via WhatsApp each Saturday. Messages flow as we discuss the lectionary scriptures and pray through the needs of our world and community each week.

You are welcome to “pop in” and join the conversation any Saturday, our meetings are always uplifting. If you would like prayer for yourself or a friend, please contact the prayer group through the website or Ross.

Friendship Club Report

Marion Wadley

Due to the pandemic, we have been unable to meet as a group, but we have kept in touch by telephone and many interesting calls have been experienced. During lockdown we were also unable to celebrate our 60th Birthday, during 2021, but hope to do so in March of this year, with a Cream Tea at a local hotel. We now have several housebound members and with more members, moving away to be closer to their families, we have decided to close Friendship Club, but hope to meet up for coffee mornings and tea parties in the future.

A very sad decision.

Thursday House Group Report

Sandra and Colin Wright

We have had no meetings this past year due to the COVID-19 epidemic.

Walking Group Report

Jill Kenton and Sandra and Colin Wright

As we have had no formal meetings of this group this past year because of the Covid-19 epidemic, there is little to report. However, because of friendships formed within the group some individuals have been out walking together informally as allowed by Covid rules.

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH
Income & Expenditure Account for the period 01/09/2021- 31/08/2022

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
2020/21	ITEM	2021/22	BUDGET	2020/21	ITEM	2021/22	BUDGET
	<i>Collections</i>			35,600	Circuit Assessment	35,600	35,600
29,117	Envelopes & Std Orders	28,756		3,840	Secretarial Expenses	4,688	4,500
666	Cash	5,445		601	Office Expenses	971	1,000
29,783		34,201	26,000	2,474	Worship Expenses	1,321	1,000
				225	Mission Expenses	329	1,000
20,885	Gift Day	25,621	17,500		Training		
13,792	Tax Rebate	14	11,000	4,680	Gift Day Charities	3,060	
	Circuit Grants				<i>Property</i>		
	Legacies	21,000		2,916	Utilities	3,621	5,000
167	Interest	435		4,642	General expenditure	6,877	7,200
4,027	Lettings	8,596	8,000	3,730	Cleaning	3,919	4,500
	Narthex Coffee			74,583	Repairs & Replacements	17,726	30,000
1,000	Fundraising	110		104	Junior Church	120	250
(10,500)	Donations	10		2,260	Insurance	2,425	2,400
	Other Church Groups			500	Connexional Funds	500	500
270	Sundry Income	1,000	500	66	Transfer to Benevolent Fund		
					Bank Charges	98	
					Sundry Expense		1,500
59,424		90,987	63,000	136,221		81,256	94,450
76,797			31,450		SURPLUS re Unrestricted	9,731	
136,221	Grand Total	90,987	94,450	136,221	Grand Total	90,987	94,450

Main variances between the surplus of £9.7k and the budgeted deficit of £31.4k (approx £41k)

Collections	+ 8k
Gift Day	+ 8k
Tax Rebate	- 11k (will be received in next financial year)
Legacy	+21k
Gift Day Charities	- 3k
Repairs	+12k
Other Property	+ 2k
Sundry Exps	+ 2k
Other	+ 2k
	+41k

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH
Income & Expenditure Account for the period 01/09/2021- 31/08/2022

RESTRICTED FUNDS

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
2020/21	ITEM	2021/22	BUDGET	2020/21	ITEM	2021/22	BUDGET
	Benevolent Fund						
	Collections			50	Payments	50	
	Transfer from General Fund						
50	Deficit	50			Surplus		
50		50		50		50	
	Charitable Funds						
1,104	Collections	2,883		1,066	Paid to charities	2,739	
	Deficit			38	Surplus	144	
1,104		2,883		1,104		2,883	
	Connexional Funds						
	Collections	85			Paid to Connexion	85	
	Deficit				Surplus		
		85				85	
	Messy Church Fund						
	Donations	25		24	Expenses	213	
	Tax Rebate						
24	Deficit	188			Surplus		
24		213		24		213	
	Youth Group						
	Subs etc.	(162)			Expenses		
	Deficit	162			Surplus		
	Youth Work Fund						
10,500	Donations	1,331			Salary		
30	Interest	115		273	Expenses	2,214	
	Tax Rebate						
	Deficit	768		10,257	Surplus		
10,530		2,214		10,530		2,214	
	DEFICIT re Restricted	1,024					
	Grand Total	5,300			Grand Total	5,300	

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

Balance Sheet as at 31/08/2022

31-Aug-21			31-Aug-22		
<u>Current Assets</u>					
£	£	£	£	£	£
			Bank & Cash Balances		
	7,235			603	
	11,890			9,529	
	24,210			14,418	
				21,000	
	39,664			19,315	
	23,023			23,119	
	16,206			21,180	
				22,539	
	27,429			26,661	
	25			25	
	<u>149,682</u>			<u>158,390</u>	
 <u>Represented by:</u>					
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
	197,480			120,683	
	<u>(76,797)</u>	120,683		<u>9,731</u>	130,415
		120,683			130,415
					TOTAL OF UNRESTRICTED FUNDS
 RESTRICTED FUNDS					
	41			191	
	<u>(50)</u>	191		<u>(50)</u>	141
	38			38	
	<u>38</u>	38		<u>144</u>	182
	1,203			1,179	
	<u>(24)</u>	1,179		<u>(188)</u>	991
	162			162	
	<u>162</u>	162		<u>(162)</u>	
	17,172			27,429	
	<u>10,257</u>	27,429		<u>(768)</u>	26,661
		28,999			27,975
					TOTAL OF RESTRICTED FUNDS
	<u>149,682</u>				<u>158,390</u>

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

Charitable Giving

	2020/21		2021/22	
Connexional Funds				
Easter Offering			85.00	
World Mission	<u>500.00</u>	500.00	<u>500.00</u>	585.00
Other Donations				
Action Aid			71.50	
Action For Children	370.00		464.73	
All We Can	18.20		112.24	
Bible Society			133.49	
Crisis	60.00			
Foodbank			69.90	
League Of Light			15.80	
Love Russia			10.00	
McMillan Cancer care	606.00		588.28	
MHA			591.23	
Ministers & Deacons Fund			188.9	
Red Cross			250.00	
Shelter			79.13	
The Salvation Army	20.00			
Unicef			307.50	
Wood Green	<u>30.00</u>	1,104.20	<u> </u>	2,882.70
Gift Day Charities				
Action For Children	1,045.00			
All We Can	1,045.00			
Christian Aid	100.00		1,020.00	
Elmbridge Can			1,020.00	
Love Russia	100.00			
MHA	1,045.00			
Mind			1,020.00	
National Autistic Society	100.00			
NCT	100.00			
Surrey Churches P T	100.00			
Walton Charity	<u>1,045.00</u>	4,680.00	<u> </u>	3,060.00
		<u>6,284.20</u>		<u>6,527.70</u>

Walton on Thames Methodist Church
Year-end accounts 31 August 22

Annual financial report

Another satisfactory year is behind us and thankfully we are still on a sound financial footing. Can I thank you once again for your generosity, whilst so many other costs are increasing for us all.

These notes are meant to be read in conjunction with our annual accounts and are a way of explaining them more clearly than just in figures. Our Income and Expenditure statement for the year end highlights reasons why the predicted deficit ended up as a surplus. One of nine reasons listed was the very generous legacy from Eve Craske, which came very much out of the blue. If you don't have a copy of the accounts and wish for one, please ask.

Because we did not start the redecoration of the hall as planned, the budget figure of £30k for Repairs and replacements was well over what we actually spent. As you may know, this work now starts we hope in Summer 23.

Thanks to Chris who works with me so well on all matters, property related. Also to Rosanne who has been, instrumental, with help, in firing up our lettings again so that I am sure the rents next year will be up on this last one.

I also want to thank all those who took on board my point, in the notices, that the assessment, which has been effectively static since the Wey Valley Circuit started, is now going to increase, commencing in November 22. I was very pleased that some of our members increased their standing orders, or started paying by standing order. I worked out that the increases and a new standing order would cover the increase in full.

As you may know, our Electric and gas contracts run until 2024 so we must hope that some stability and reductions have been reached by then.

It is good to see that we have spent over £2000 on our young people, a lot of which relates to 3generate, the conference in Birmingham they are attending on the first weekend of October 22. It has been a shame that the money has been sitting so long unused and at last, Christopher has things moving again.

Our Charitable giving increased this year to a total of just over £6500.

A final point. We still have £2300 from the Gift day in 2019, allocated to community projects and mental health, which has gone unspent. People were very fired up about this at the time but the fire seems to have gone out? Any suggestions,

I don't think I need to draw your attention to anything else but please contact me if you want more information.

Other items

Bank interest on our funds is increasing but of course inflation is reducing the capital value and the cost of building work, (which most of the funds are for) is going up by leaps and bounds.

To keep it short, I decided unilaterally to close the Barclays account, having a year or so back taken a lot of effort to get them to operate it for no charge again. The reasons I am happy to share but suffice to say it involves inefficiency and red tape.

Many thanks again to Alan Weight, for all his help with both accounts and the Gift aid claim. He is of great assistance.

As your treasurer I am at your service and in the event of any query please contact me.

Duncan E Curtis

Updated and amended Feb 23

Banks now used are the Charities Aid Bank and the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church.

Walton Methodist Church. Charitable Giving 2022

Coffee collections (with one Minute for) to encourage support at Services for the charities

Feb. March	Bible Society	Gift Day Beneficiaries	12%? of Giving
April May	M H A		
June July	All We Can	Mind	Shared equally
Aug Sept	Local Foodbank	Elmbridge Can	
Oct Nov	Crisis	Christian Aid	
Dec Jan	Action For Children		

NB

Copy to Rita for the notices for

Coffee money

these should include a reference to paying

other than by cash

The feeling was that with less cash being carried the congregation should be encouraged to look at other ways of paying. Cheque, Interbank, Website. All these involve advising the treasurer what the Gift is for

Mar 27th	Gift Day
April 10th	Network offering for WMF. Palm Sunday
May 29th	Ride London no longer going past our Church. Transferred to Essex
May	Circle the City can be supported For Christian Aid if it goes ahead
June	Possible Concert/ show. Ross, Jeannette, Sam Monaghan and David Lean to decide. Fund Raiser to replace F/C Concert for AFC?

July World Mission Fund £500 from Church funds as agreed by Church council.
(Connexional Methodist Fund)

Also Pauline Wakefield collects individual donations to this fund
Sept 30th MacMillan coffee morning . Jeannette and Rosanne plus WI from Hersham
Harvet Festival?

2 or 9 October Animal collection organised by Pauline Wakefield with an address to

December Love Russia.From Christmas cards

December It has been a tradition since Margaret's time that we collect for Action for Children at each service where we sing carols. Say Candlelit and Christmas Day?

Legacies. A short paragraph to be included in the Gift Day letter to be drawn up by the treasurer and reviewed by Val or Ross or both requesting consideration to the making of a legacy in favour of WMC . Suggestion came from Sydney Samuel. Careful wording required

Our Charitable giving is an important part of our work as a Charity and is also important to show we justify our Gift Aid claim. It also assists the presentation of our charitable status on the Charity Commission Website

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church

Governance – decision making

The following was agreed at the Church Council (CC) meeting 18 October 2016

- The property committee can agree expenditure up to £1500. The Property Secretary will always check with the Treasurer if over £100. The Property Secretary will continue to report any expenditure to the next CC meeting.
- Any item over £1500 will be brought back to CC. If a decision is required in advance of the next scheduled CC meeting the Property Secretary and Treasurer will request the Leadership Team call an extraordinary CC meeting. 14 days' notice is required.
- Maintenance contracts are in place for expenditure such as the fire alarm, photocopier, fire extinguishers and sound system.
- Emails will not be used to achieve a decision outside of CC meetings.
- All BACS payments have to be electronically released, and at present a nominated authorised signatory does them all, after the Treasurer enters them into the CAF bank system. This is for any amount. However, in future, a nominated authorised signatory will contact a member of the Leadership team for confirmation that s/he can release any item over £2000. This contact can be by phone, email or in person, but s/he will make a note of who has agreed and keep records which will be passed to the Treasurer each August and kept on file with the rest of the paperwork.
- All cheques are signed by two people (the Treasurer and an authorised signatory).
- If the Property Secretary receives a quote for £2,500 and over she will seek a second quote. She will then liaise with a Steward and then the Treasurer.
- The Benevolent Fund is to be used at the Minister's discretion. In the absence of a Minister, the Leadership team are allowed to authorise any amount from this fund when it was needed, and report back to CC.
- The Worship Planning Meeting is to continue. The aims of the meeting are to help the preachers plan ahead and to talk about the style of worship. The group will continue to plan dates and to notify CC. There is no need for CC to ratify dates.
- Any project which is done in the name of the Church should come to the CC for its approval, for example the Uganda project and the new Thursday evening Fellowship meetings. CC should approve projects before plans go ahead. This helps to ensure projects are aligned with the vision and strategy of Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church and helps to achieve the widest reach of limited resources.
- Small raffles are allowed, at the discretion of the CC, in line with the Methodist Church Constitutional Practice and Discipline. A raffle can only be held within a fundraising event, the cost of prizes must be under £50 and no alcohol is allowed as prizes.

These notes will be filed in the front of the CC folders stored at the Church.

Current role holders –

- Chris Mills – Property Secretary
- Duncan Curtis – Treasurer
- Hilary Richardson – the only person (an authorised signatory) who can release the electronic payments

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Walton-on-Thames	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2022

Circuit	Circuit no.	36/6
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1174524

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 Sydney Samuel Lake

Church Stewards:

Sally Hoy
Ross Richardson
Dave Paterson
Jeannette Curtis
Valerie Barker

Treasurer:

Duncan Curtis

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS				
	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	59,955	1,194	61,150	65,460
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	435	115	550	197
a4	Lettings	8,596		8,596	4,027
a5	Other receipts	22,000		22,000	270
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	90,987	1,309	92,296 (a7)	69,954

SECTION B		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	35,600		35,600	35,600
b3	Donations	3,560	50	3,610	5,230
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	28,522		28,522	82,955
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	6,046		6,046	5,176
b6				0	
b7	Other payments	7,528	2,426	9,954	7,607
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	81,256	2,476	83,732 (b9)	136,568

SECTION C		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year	
		£	£	£	£	
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	9,731	(1,167)	8,564	(66,614)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	120,683	28,961	149,644 (c6)	216,258	
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	130,415	27,793	158,208	149,644
c4	Transfers and adjustments			0 (c7)		
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	130,415	27,793	158,208 (c8)	149,644 (c6)

SECTION D		£	£
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS			
(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)			
d1	Balance brought forward from last year	38	0
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	2,968	1,104
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	2,824	1,066
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)	38

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 Friendship Club			0		80	80
e2 Walton Methodist Players		885	(885)		1,283	398
e3			0			0
e4			0			0
e5			0			0
e6			0			0
e7			0			0
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	0	885	(885)	0	1,363 (e11)	478 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	92,296 (a7)	83,732 (b9)	8,564	(c7)	149,644 (c6)	158,208 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	92,296	84,617	7,679	0	151,007 (x)	158,686 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2022**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	25	25
f2 Bank Current Account	19,087	9,950
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	130,532	148,233
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	149,644 (c6)	158,208 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	1,363 (e11)	478 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	151,007 (x)	158,686 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2021	At 31 August 2022
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

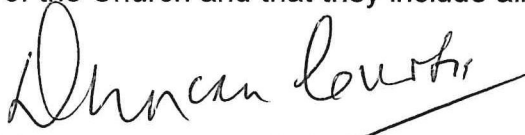
f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

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)

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.

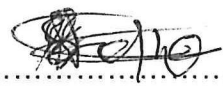
Signature of treasurer  Date..... 26/1/23

Name and address of treasurer **Duncan Curtis**

1 Wadham Close, Shepperton Post Code TW17 9HT

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

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Revd Sydney Samuel Latta Date 7 February 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church

Charity Number 1174524

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages 1 to 3. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

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.

~~the~~

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 *R Lewis*

Name of independent examiner *Robert G. Lewis*

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner *FCCA*

Name of firm (where appropriate) *N/A*

Address *15 SOUTHERLAND CLOSE,*

..... *WEYBRIDGE, SURREY* Post Code *KT13 9EN*

Date *23/1/23*

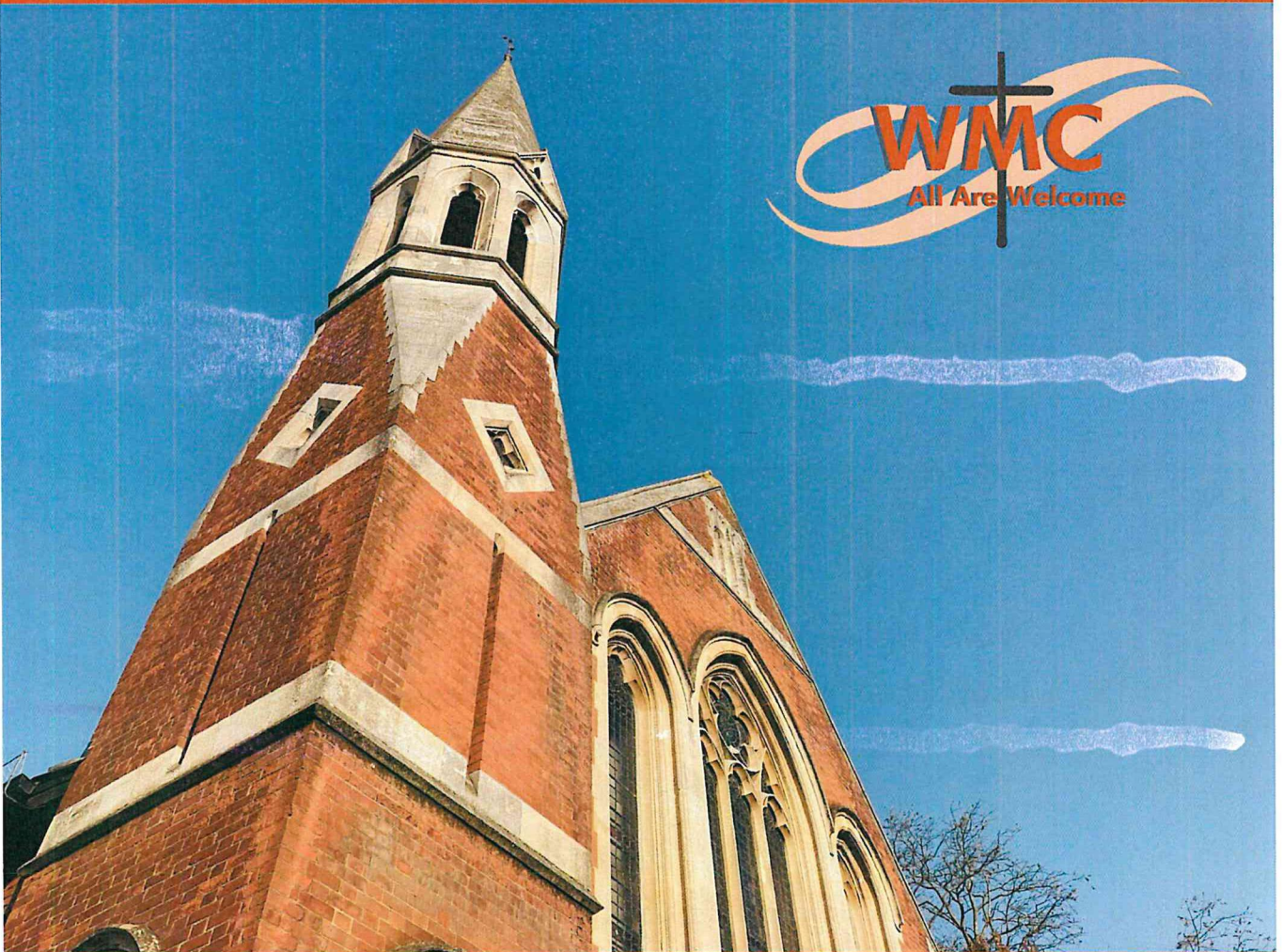
* delete or circle as appropriate

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1174524

Accounts

WMC Covid Chronicles



AGM Reports 2021

Sunday 28th March at 4pm

Minister's Report

Rev. Sydney Samuel Lake

The period of enforced sabbath: *There is a reward, our labours shall never be in vain!*

Challenges and even chastisements, sometimes come to people. Definitely we have been severely challenged during the last 12 months. In Jeremiah God reasoned with humans saying that when people fall down, they get up again. When a person turns away, why do they not turn back to face what is right. The prodigal son did just that, he turned back. So, God asks why do his people who have been called into an executive covenant, turn away and not turn back to Him (*Jeremiah 8:4-5*)?

Living out the Gospel of God in our discipleship may be started by obeying the commandments and examples of God. On the seventh day God rested. Then God commanded that we keep the sabbath day Holy. He said let the land rest and observe a year of Jubilee when the land will rest and repair. During this time the holiness of God will preserve you and feed you even though you are not working as hard as you usually do in the non-sabbath periods, days, or years of life.

In the last 12 months, so many things were forced to stop. The routines of our lives were routed. Animals were seen roaming the streets of London in places where in the past cars and human bodies may not have left enough space for the full length of a human shadow to be visible. Bird songs appeared much louder and the air was less polluted from vehicles and aeroplanes which were mostly grounded. All these changes happened during an imposed sabbath whilst the world responded to an enemy that is invisible to the naked eye, dubbed COVID-19.

The enforced sabbath means that our churches were forced to close our doors. At Walton our stewards prayed and sometimes it felt as though we were willing to collude on how to circumvent the law; but we failed because we are not outlaws, and the Lord did not allow us to be tempted beyond what we could bear. Our stewards were instrumental in pushing us to think about our spirituality and how to preserve good mental health. Church members quickly put-together a COVID-19 taskforce and compliance team. They gave us the pathway for opening our doors safely, knowing that what we were doing was compliant with the regulations from the government and the Methodist Church.

article presented that Christianity started expanding rapidly when the churches were all forcibly shut. With the example of such growth, in spite of challenges we can build up our expectations of growth in our Church in the UK including ours after COVID-19. This is especially so as we now stand to benefit from a vibrant presence on our website. Blessed by contributions of meditations and spiritual resources that address mental health and loneliness promoted by gifted people amongst us.

We have actually grown spiritually from the deepening of our personal relationship, fellowship and the pastoral work that goes on amongst our church members and community. A lot of people who had lived on their own are supporting one another. They are constantly meeting and going for walks, and this is building some positive and strong relationships as people get to know and appreciate one another. The Church is active with individuals making phone calls saying how are you doing. Church staff and volunteers produce our weekly notices preserving our friendship and circulating the pastoral letters. Our church made a stand against injustice, and promoted the campaign that Black Lives Matter, putting up posters to support the movement that equality for black people is an important issue for our church. We however faced a challenge to our campaign when somebody covered one of our posters with a sticker, but that attack was removed by another member of the public. Members within the middle age group are coming into leadership roles as we have a very talented group of people and many people have risen up to the occasion to do things in the Church that leads us into new ways of doing Church. Additionally, younger people are also taking their rightful place as Christians. The era of digital productions has made it practical to use the technical skills of young people in services. Currently, young people in their teens and twenties, working alongside some technically skilled adults, collaborate in coordinating and hosting our Zoom programmes, guiding us through the programme and introducing everyone who is on Zoom week by week every Sunday. Recently our stewards organised a service focussing on mental health where a former active member of our church, and mental health nurse, introduced us to the practice and benefit of Christian Mindfulness which was much appreciated. This was followed by a lively question-and-answer session.

The roles of principle officers in our Church includes the notable voluntary services provided by people who hold the offices as Church Stewards, Pastoral Workers, Treasures, Secretaries, in addition to, Maintenance Offices, Technicians, musicians, workers with children and young people, members of the COVID Taskforce and

and Harry, all of whom I sent you to invite so that you all may come and join in this dance?

Your answers may be as good as mine. Thankfully as Methodists we embrace the doctrine of 'Priesthood of Believers'. This means that we are all Priests, locked into a covenant of love with each other. We support and lean on one another, in spite of our brokenness, our strength or our vulnerability. Whilst we journey towards the perfection that is Christ Jesus. Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ. Not even trials, life, death, things past nor things to come (*Romans 8:35-39*). Yet, sometimes I feel that God's 'Love' which is so amazing and so divine; demands my soul, my life, and my all. Have you at any time surveyed your life and encountered such emotions? Then take heart and take that as an affirmation that we are Christians because such feelings express the emotions that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ may have experienced during his life on earth, and on the cross. Preceded three years earlier by the Holy Spirit leading Jesus into the wilderness for forty days and forty nights where he was tempted by Satan. Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and attended or waited on him, may it be so for us. (*Matthew 4:11*).

In conclusion, we are confident that the sounds of Joy and gladness will return. We shall give thanks to the Lord saying; "O give thanks to the Lord for he is Good. His love endures forever" (*Jeremiah 33:11*). I extend a big thank you to everyone for the hard work you have delivered over the year and for the roles you have fulfilled. When you feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; invite strangers amongst you, clothed the naked; visited those in hospital or in prison, you do this unto Jesus Christ (*Matthew 25:35*). Therefore, let us be grateful to God for the times that we have served with 'Pastoral passion' and may we be forgiven if we have served others with 'cracks in our delivery'.

Please note that although I have not mentioned names in this article except where I set out to reference written work. I am very sure that God knows the names of those people who have made a well appreciated sacrifice by applying their, time, talents and emotions to the work of the people of God. Sometimes in spite of the personal challenges that they themselves are facing. Had I mentioned names I may have forgotten some. So I extend gratitude to so many people who have risen to the occasion and put their shoulder behind the wheel, that is the whole ministry of God through the Methodist Church in Walton-On-Thames.

by the Black Lives Matter movement, we did some soul searching and questioning ourselves. We used our church window to show our Methodist roots and take a stand against racism through a poster campaign. It felt good to be adding our voice to this debate. We have gone on to use our window to communicate an Advent message of Hope, and our project to support Mental Health as well. These were both followed up with reflections on our website as well.

At the time of writing our campaign (for it does seem like a campaign as this process has now run out across 5 years) to employ a Children and Youth Worker continues. We have a new committee led by Val Barker and we are about to petition the Circuit at the end of March to move our project forward with a self-funded appointment or possibly through a project called The One Programme which is an initiative run by the Methodist Church to appoint Lay Workers into internship positions to Churches who are looking to expand their ministry. In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic the Circuit has proposed that no further Lay Workers are employed until there is more certainty and normal church life can resume. There is also a concern about the pressure that the pandemic has placed upon Circuit finances. We hope that our proposal will bring some positivity to the Circuit, so that at least in our far corner of it we are working at being salt and light to our community and engage with our mission statement.

As ever, we would appreciate your prayers for our efforts as stewards, for our Minister and his family, and for our Church in the coming months.

Finance Report

Duncan Curtis

Notes to Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church accounts.

Full year from 1st September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and for the Annual Church

Meeting in March 2021 (Amended)

NB To be read in conjunction with the Annual Accounts. Please ask for a copy if you need one.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Remarkably, apart from lettings, all income was over budget. Moreover, even lettings were not that much below target, as I normally tend to be cautious. Next year letting income will be down a lot more if the lockdown continues.

We received the Circuit Grant, before the year-end, towards the Hall roof.

Gift day was well down but Donations (a different category) were up.

As to expenditure, we gave away £2,500 to Charities from this year's Gift Day. These were agreed. Five £500 payments were paid to a range of charities.

Repairs and replacements included £30,000 approx. as the first payment on the Hall roof and the remainder of expenditure in that category was well within budget. The full cost of the roof is covered by monies we already hold, as shown in the Balance Sheet.

As agreed I paid the Circuit the balance of Catherine's back pay during this year. In addition, an adjustment has been made to the monthly standing order to the Circuit, regarding her increased hours, and an adjusting payment has been made, because the standing order has only been increased from this year (starting Sept 2020). Despite these payments, we are within budget.

We have kept paying our two staff despite the COVID-19 pandemic and I feel sure that this is what the majority of us would have wanted.

BUDGET

Not a great deal has been altered on this from last year. However, I have been very careful and reduced the budget for letting income by practically half. This is a guess! Anyone with any better idea can let me know.

Property Report

Chris Mills

January

The water boiler in the hall kitchen (for teas and coffees) was causing the electric circuit to trip. On inspection, the water boiler was found to be corroded (it was probably 10 years old). We replaced the boiler. However, the replacement was faulty and was overflowing. I called an engineer out three times before it was fixed (by which time we were in a national lockdown and the water boiler has not been used since!).

March

The Circuit agreed to a grant for £35,000 towards the roofing work (the re-slating of the hall and meeting rooms roofs, the replacement of the flat roof above the toilet block and the replacement of the glazed roof on the back entrance).

Unfortunately, the national lockdown delayed the start of the roofing work, as the Methodist Church stopped all but essential work to church buildings.

April

The small domestic boiler (which heats the two meeting rooms and provides hot water to the hall kitchen and the toilets) was playing up on a regular basis. It was decided to replace the boiler. This was done in April. We also put in a WiFi system to allow us to control the heating remotely.

September

The roofing company started the roofing work.

We also found that the lighting circuit for the two vestries and the Chancel was tripping regularly. The electrician could not find the fault. But, as there has been water penetration in Catherine's office, I decided to wait until the roofing work had been completed before getting the electricians back in, in case it is caused by water damage. Low and behold, since the roof has been fixed, the lighting problem seems to have resolved itself.

October - December

The boiler room started flooding. It was a wet October, but we have not had problems with flooding in the past. Tony pumped out the water and we discovered

Safeguarding Report

Catherine Heffernan

On 19th March 2020 we had to close our premises due to COVID-19 restrictions. This meant that our contact with our Church community had to change. More was done via the telephone and using online technology. It did not mean that Safeguarding was no longer a concern; it just changed the way in which we had to think about safeguarding issues.

Early on we realised that our Pastoral Visitors would play a key role in keeping our Church community together and so our Pastoral Secretary, Ruth, got in touch with all the Pastoral Visitors and asked them to regularly phone all those in their class, to make sure that they were ok. From a Safeguarding viewpoint, we realised that some of our Pastoral Visitors were shielding and so if they were asked to help out with shopping etc., they would not be able to do this, so we teamed each Pastoral Visitor up with a younger member of the community, who became their 'buddy'. Every Buddy was also DBS checked and were then available to help out, should the need arise.

The District Safeguarding Officer kept in regular contact, making sure that the churches knew all the Safeguarding requirements for online worship. Where necessary, I passed this information on to the relevant groups.

The online safety information we were sent, made it clear that there must always be two DBS checked adults present throughout any zoom sessions involving children or vulnerable adults. Therefore, when Christopher started his Zoom sessions with the youth, there was always another DBS checked adult online with him.

We were encouraged by our District Safeguarding Officer to use this time of the church being closed, to make sure all our paperwork was up to date.

Job Descriptions

I went through all the roles in the church to make sure they had up to date job descriptions. I contacted the relevant group leaders and asked for new job descriptions where necessary.

Risk Assessments

I checked that all church groups, who previously met on the premises, had up to date Risk Assessments and contacted the relevant group leaders and asked for new risk assessments where necessary. It was also agreed at Church Council on 9th

COVID-19 Task Force Report

Chris Mills

We could not have foreseen at the beginning of 2020 that there would be a need to set up a new committee.

The Task Force is made up of:

Chris Mills – Chair (Property)

Ross Richardson (Senior Steward)

Jeannette Curtis (Steward)

Rosanne Jackson (Lettings)

Catherine Heffernan (Safeguarding)

We met for the first time in June 2020, able to gather in Jeannette's garden, to discuss a way forward. This involved reading reams of guidelines issued by the Government and The Methodist Church on how Places of Worship and community halls could be made COVID secure to allow for them to be used again.

The first thing we were able to work towards was opening for private prayer in July. We wrote, reviewed and edited a risk assessment. We moved furniture, cushions and hymn books, taped off pews, put up signage and generally considered how we could ensure we had minimised the risk to anyone visiting the church of catching the virus.

We were then able to work towards allowing the groups who use the hall and meeting rooms to meet again. Again, this involved writing risk assessments, working out the practicalities of having groups on the premises, and putting up signage. Only two of our lettings have resumed meeting so far.

We were then able to hold a gathered service at the beginning of September and have been able to worship together on just a handful of occasions.

The Task Force has met regularly since June either in person or via zoom. We have reviewed the risk assessments to ensure we have them right. We have kept up to date with the regular changes to the guidelines, reviewing our decisions with the

WMC Online: Digital Services & Website Report

Christopher Heffernan and Dave Paterson

Tea & Fellowship

On Sunday 26th April 2020, we launched Tea & Fellowship, our first Online Worship offering. Tea & Fellowship has since run every Sunday afternoon at 4pm via Zoom. The first 40 minutes is a time of worship (songs, prayers, and talk) with then a time for Fellowship. The services are well attended with around 30 Zoom accounts attending each week. Thanks to Elikem Dowokpor and David Paterson for their technical support in keeping Tea & Fellowship running smoothly each week.

Website

This year has put a lot of demands on our website, as following the closure of our church building in March 2020, the website became the only 'gateway' to our Church. The Home Page was therefore redesigned accordingly, focussing on everything that people could access at home: 'WMC at Home'. This page, still active at the time of writing, provides links to everything we are doing at WMC to support people through the pandemic e.g. 'Online Worship', Revd. Sydney Samuel's Pastoral Letter, how to get in 'Contact'. We have also included topical/community pages such as 'Weekly Reflections', 'Tackling Racism', 'A Place of Hope' etc.

Over the last year (12.02.20 – 12.02.21), 846 unique visitors have accessed our website, spending an average of 13m 14s exploring the site.

The 5 Most Popular Pages:

'Home' – 1,520 (295 up from 2019/20)

'Weekly Reflections' – 335 (new for this year)

'Tea & Fellowship' – 288 (new for this year)

'WMC Online' (info about WMC's online worship) – 167 (new for this year)

'Online Worship' (info about external online worship) – 161 (new for this year)

As you can see, all of these (if you consider that the Home Page was redesigned) are new for this year and were created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. People have therefore been interested in the new website content we have created.

In December 2020, we updated our website address to better reflect our identity as a charitable organisation. The new address is waltonmethodist.org

exposed cabling and is not flexible) or whether we stick with the set-up we have and stream on a more ad-hoc basis (e.g. Christmas, Easter, Remembrance Sunday). The greatest challenge though remains staffing, as we can only continue to operate such services with the necessary volunteers.

We are keen to continue using Zoom and YouTube in the future, even when we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. There is certainly an interest in investigating how Zoom and YouTube can compliment our 'normal' services. These online platforms provide us with ways of connecting with people wherever they are. There may be ways to keep up a connection with people who find they can no longer attend the church in person (e.g. provision of tablets with recorded services on). We are certainly keen to keep hold of Zoom and YouTube in the future and incorporate them into our future strategy.

Messy Church

Jeannette Curtis

At the start of 2020 we had two good sessions.

January was 'Faithful sheep' taken by Elizabeth Gurd, and February was 'Loving and serving' taken by Rosemary Lee.

I had planned March and April but they were not to be. Just before Easter I did deliver some Easter eggs and Easter stories.

I am sorry to say that when, in the middle of March, the government decided to close everything down and tell all the over 70s to stay home it did make any plans for Messy Church go out of the window.

There were a number of emails from the Messy Church Organisation and I read these with interest, to see what would be the way forward. During those first few months, there were very few suggestions.

However, when September came and we still could not meet in the same way, I knew that we had to find a different way, so, as we had been doing zooms on Sunday afternoons, this seemed the best way for Messy Church.

We planned an advent Messy Church, which would be on zoom but the craft activities would have to be done at home before the zoom. So I bagged up the four activities and asked parents to collect them from the church the week before. Not many came so I delivered some as well. Rev. Julia Monaghan took the zoom and at the same time she talked about Las Posadas, in Spanish this is lodging or accommodation, and in this case it refers to the inn that Mary and Joseph arrived at.

Mary, Joseph, and the Donkey were packed into a little box and would visit various homes in the weeks before Christmas. They visited Anya and Ashvir first, they went on to a few more places before arriving back at the church on Christmas Eve.

On Christmas Eve we had a Christingle, which was to be live streamed from the church. It was, but no one was there. Ross took the bags to the different homes for me, and we started with a livestream with Julia and then went into a Zoom so everyone could see each other and see what they had made.

So some good times thinking out side of the box. I pray for all the families that are connected with Messy Church and hope that in February we can do some more Zoom sessions.

WITS Report

Rosanne Jackson

We enjoyed a pleasant evening at the Ashley Hotel in February and I expect this was probably the last time any of us were able to meet again in such a large group. Jeannette, very kindly invited us to a pancake party on Shrove Tuesday. The pancakes were very tasty as were the delicious toppings.

At the beginning of lockdown in March, a WhatsApp Group was set up, which has been a lifeline for us all. We have shared news, experiences and concerns, along with photos, heart-warming videos, quotes and prayers. Eileen has overseen our Friday prayer sessions when we come together to pray for all our concerns. We light a candle at home and share this special time together. A group has joined a zoom book club addressing issues of racism.

We have also led two of the Tea and Fellowship sessions and arranged for homemade cakes to be delivered to the congregation. Many thanks to our amazing bakers and for Catherine who organised the distribution of this mammoth task.

Walking Group Report

Jill Kenton and Sandra and Colin Wright

It has been great to hear that many folk in the Walking Group have been going out together, when regulations have allowed, to enjoy each other's company in twos and small groups. Telephone calls and catchups have also broken the tedium of COVID-19 restrictions. We hope to organise further walks and hopefully lunches this summer when regulations permit.

Statement of safeguarding principles

Every person has a value and dignity, which comes directly from the creation of humans in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ.

Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Principles

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- safeguarding and protecting all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- establishing safe, caring communities, which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with¹ the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond without delay to every safeguarding concern, which suggests that a child, young person or adult may have been harmed, working in partnership with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

Working with the District Safeguarding Officer, we will support risk assessment of those who present a safeguarding risk within a church environment. We will ensure appropriate pastoral care is offered and measures are taken to address identified risks including referral to statutory agencies, suspension and the use of safeguarding contracts. We will recognise and apply the restrictions to appointment laid down in Standing Order 010 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church.

In all these principles, we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

¹ Or membership of (PVG scheme Scotland).

a) A model church policy

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy for Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church

This policy was agreed at a Church Council held on 5th October 2021

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable and at risk are paramount.

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church recognises that it has a particular care for all who are vulnerable whether as a result of disabilities or reduction in capacities or by their situation. It is recognised that this increased vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and our wish to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church fully agrees with the statement reiterated in *Creating Safer Space* 2007:

As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual, discriminatory, domestic or institutional abuse or neglect, abuse using social media, child sexual exploitation or human trafficking (slavery). It acknowledges the effects these may have on

people and their development, including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church commits itself to:

1. **RESPOND** without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed or may suffer harm, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.
2. **IMPLEMENT** the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance; government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.
3. **PROVIDE** support, advice and training for lay and ordained people *to* ensure *that* people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.
4. **AFFIRM** and give thanks for those who work with children and vulnerable adults and also acknowledge the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding children *and* vulnerable adults who are on our premises.

Church Council

It is the responsibility of each Church Council to appoint a Church Safeguarding Officer and there should be no gaps in this crucial provision. The safeguarding officer should be a member of the Church Council or have the right to attend at least annually to report on implementation of the safeguarding policy. Where an individual covers the role in more than one location, they must be able to cover the activities identified in the relevant role outline and be facilitated to attend meetings to report on safeguarding in each location.

It is not appropriate for the minister in pastoral charge to hold the church safeguarding officer role because of the potential conflict with their own responsibilities. It is acknowledged that to avoid any disruption in safeguarding provision, it may be necessary for the minister in pastoral charge to take responsibility for some or all of the activities temporarily while other arrangements are made. However, this should only be for a very short period to enable the sharing of the role with another church or the identification of an alternative person to take on the role.

The role will usually be undertaken on a voluntary basis although expenses should be met. Ultimate responsibility for safeguarding within the church lies with the Church Council.

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church appoints Mrs Catherine Heffernan

as church Safeguarding Officer (Adults) .

and Mrs Catherine Heffernan

as church Safeguarding Officer (Children) and supports them in their role, which is to:

- provide support and advice to the minister and the stewards in fulfilling their roles with regard to safeguarding.
- ensure that a suitable, signed church safeguarding policy is displayed at all times in the church on a safeguarding noticeboard, along with names of current safeguarding officers, national helplines and other suitable information. This must be renewed annually.
- record all safeguarding issues that are reported to the church safeguarding officer, according to Methodist policy and procedure.
- promote appropriate routes for reporting of concerns
- identify and inform those who are required to attend safeguarding training and maintain records of attendance. Work with the circuit safeguarding officer and DSO to arrange training.
- attend training and meetings relating to the role
- work in partnership with the lettings officer, stewards and user groups to promote good safeguarding practice on church premises. This will include gaining written confirmation that hirers of church premises are aware of the church safeguarding policy or are using an appropriate policy of their own.
- check that safeguarding is included as an agenda item at all Church Council meetings and report to the Church Council annually.
- inform all those with responsibility for recruitment, whether paid or voluntary, of their obligation to follow safer recruitment procedures.
- advise the circuit safeguarding officer and/or DSO of any issues with compliance with safeguarding training, policy or safer recruitment requirements and respond promptly to any request from them about audit of safeguarding activities.

a) Purpose

The purpose of the church safeguarding policy is to check that procedures are in place and provide clarity about the roles and responsibilities of those trusted with promoting the church as a safe space for all its users. It is to be read in conjunction with the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance (2020).

b) Good practice

We believe that good practice means:

- i) All people are treated with respect and dignity.
- ii) Those who act on behalf of the Church should not meet or work alone with a child or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen unless this is necessary for pastoral reasons, in which case a written record will be made and kept noting date, time and place of visit.
- iii) The church premises will be assessed by the church safeguarding officer with the property steward and/or their representatives at least annually for safety for children and vulnerable adults and a written risk assessment report will be given annually to the Church Council. This will include fire safety procedures. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.
- iv) Any church-organised transport of children or vulnerable adults will be checked to ensure that the vehicle is suitable and insured and that the driver and escort (where required) are appropriate. (See 6.10.7.1 of the Safeguarding Policies, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church). A record to be kept in the church file for each driver/car.
- v) Activity risk assessments will be undertaken before any activity takes place to minimise the risk of harm to those involved. Approval will be obtained from the event leader/minister. A written record of the assessment will be retained securely.
- vi) Promotion of safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks which enable all God's people to reach their full potential. The Church Council will actively consider the extent to which it is succeeding in this area.

These things are to safeguard those working with children, young people and those adults who may be vulnerable.

c) Appointment and training of workers in the church

Workers will be appointed after a satisfactory DBS disclosure and following the safer recruitment procedures of the Methodist Church. Each worker will have an identified supervisor who will meet at regular intervals with the worker. A record of these meetings will be agreed and signed and the record kept. Each worker will be expected to undergo Foundation Module (2020 Edition) safeguarding training, within the first 6 months (agreed by Methodist Conference in 2011 - *Creating Safer Space Report*) of appointment. The other training needs of each worker will be considered (such as food hygiene, first aid and lifting and handling).

d) Pastoral visitors

Pastoral visitors will be supported in their role with the provision of Foundation Module (2020 Edition) safeguarding training upon appointment. If they are undertaking tasks for which a DBS

would be required, this will be undertaken prior to appointment.

e) Guidelines for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults

A leaflet outlining good practice and systems should be given to everyone who works with children, young people and vulnerable adults. This leaflet will be reviewed annually².

f) Ecumenical events

Where ecumenical events happen on church premises, safeguarding is the responsibility of this Church Council.

g) Events with church groups off the premises

Adequate staffing, a risk assessment and notification of the event will be given to the church safeguarding officer PRIOR to the agreement for any event or off site activity. Notification of the event will be given to the church **council** secretary.

If the activity is unusual or considered to be high risk the **church safeguarding officer** will contact the circuit safeguarding officer in order that it can be ratified or any queries raised.

h) Other groups on church premises

Where the building is hired for outside use, the **hirer** signing the letting agreement (www.tmcp.org.uk/property/letting-property-and-third-party-use) will be given a copy of that agreement [...]. The lettings secretary will consider the various users of the building in making lettings. All lettings will be notified to the church safeguarding officer who will keep the records and take advice as appropriate from both the DSO and circuit safeguarding officer.

i) Complaints procedure

There is a formal complaints procedure within the Methodist Church, which allows issues to be raised about actions or behaviour by a member or officer of the Church. In addition, employed staff will be subject to relevant contractual procedures. All complaints will be responded to with care, diligence and impartiality. The provisions of Part 11 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church will be followed.

A complaint should be addressed to the superintendent minister, the Revd. Keith Beckingham. If a complaint is made to another person it should be referred to them. Meetings will be arranged with the person making the complaint and, usually, the person against whom the complaint has been made, in an attempt to resolve it. If the complaint is against the superintendent, it should be sent to the District Chair, the Revd. Dr. David Hinchliffe at 39 Lines Avenue, Horley, Surrey. RH6 9DG.

² The Code of Safer Working Practice can be found at Appendix V of the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policies, Procedures and Guidance.

Safeguarding officers must be informed of any complaint or issue relating to the potential abuse of children or adults who may be vulnerable. They will support prompt action to respond to the circumstances of any safeguarding concern, whether or not any party involved wishes to make a formal complaint through the Methodist Church.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Church Council. **Next review date: October 2022**

j) Key concepts and definitions

- i) A child is anyone who has not yet reached their eighteenth birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, a member of the armed forces, in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change *their* status or entitlements to services or protection.
- ii) Vulnerable adults: any adult aged 18 or over who, owing to disability, mental function, age or illness or traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care or protect themselves.
- iii) Safeguarding: protecting children or vulnerable adults from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.
- iv) Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity, which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.
- v) Abuse and neglect may occur in a family, a community or an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

Signed  Chair of Church Council

Dated 05th October 2021

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH
Income & Expenditure Account for the period 01/09/2020- 31/08/2021

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
2019/20	ITEM	2020/21	BUDGET	2019/20	ITEM	2020/21	BUDGET
	<u>Collections</u>			35,600	Circuit Assessment	35,600	35,600
26,242	Envelopes & Std Orders	29,117		4,406	Secretarial Expenses	3,840	4,500
3,663	Cash	666		365	Office Expenses	601	1,000
29,905		29,782	28,000	487	Worship Expenses	2,474	1,000
				655	Mission Expenses	225	1,500
21,019	Gift Day	20,885	20,000	4	Training		
13,775	Tax Rebate	13,792	12,000	2,500	Gift Day Charities	4,680	
40,000	Circuit Grants				<u>Property</u>		
	Legacies			3,740	Utilities	2,916	5,000
638	Interest	167	400	2,106	General expenditure	4,642	7,200
11,807	Lettings	4,027	8,000	3,648	Cleaning	3,730	4,500
	Narthex Coffee			35,202	Repairs & Replacements	74,583	85,000
82	Fundraising	1,000		218	Junior Church	104	250
11,700	Donations	(10,500)		2,257	Insurance	2,260	2,400
250	Other Church Groups			500	Connexional Funds	500	500
100	Sundry Income	270	500		Transfer to Benevolent Fund		
				135	Bank Charges	66	
					Sundry Expense		
129,276		59,424	68,900	91,823		136,221	148,450
	DEFICIT re Unrestricted	76,797	79,550	37,453			
129,276	Grand Total	136,221	148,450	129,276	Grand Total	136,221	148,450

Note: The large negative figure in Donations reflects the correction of a gift in the previous accounting year which should have gone to Restricted Funds (Youth Worker Fund) and not Unrestricted Funds.

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH
Income & Expenditure Account for the period 01/09/2020- 31/08/2021

RESTRICTED FUNDS

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
2019/20	ITEM	2020/21	BUDGET	2019/20	ITEM	2020/21	BUDGET
	Benevolent Fund						
	Collections			500	Payments	50	
	Transfer from General Fund						
500	Deficit	50			Surplus		
500		50		500		50	
	Charitable Funds						
2,442	Collections	1,104		2,621	Paid to charities	1,066	
179	Deficit				Surplus	38	
2,621		1,104		2,621		1,104	
	Connexional Funds						
	Collections				Paid to Connexion		
	Deficit				Surplus		
	Messy Church Fund						
31	Donations			374	Expenses	24	
	Tax Rebate				Surplus		
343	Deficit	24					
374		24		374		24	
	Youth Group						
	Subs etc.				Expenses		
	Deficit				Surplus		
	Youth Worker Fund						
	Donations	10,500			Salary		
566	Interest	30		1,352	Expenses	273	
	Tax Rebate				Surplus		
786	Deficit					10,257	
1,352		10,530		1,352		10,530	
					SURPLUS re Restricted	10,221	
	Grand Total	11,634			Grand Total	11,634	

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

Balance Sheet as at 31/08/2021

31-Aug-20			31-Aug-21		
<u>Current Assets</u>					
£	£	£	£	£	£
			Bank & Cash Balances		
	15,195			7,235	
	50,699			11,890	
	56,722			24,210	
	53,454			39,664	
	22,991			23,023	
				16,206	
	17,172			27,429	
	25			25	
	<u>216,258</u>			<u>149,682</u>	
 <u>Represented by:</u>					
UNRESTRICTED FUNDS					
160,027			197,480		
<u>37,453</u>	197,480		<u>(76,797)</u>	120,683	
		197,480			120,683
RESTRICTED FUNDS					
741			241		
<u>(500)</u>	241		<u>(50)</u>	191	
179			0		
<u>(179)</u>			<u>38</u>	38	
Connexional Funds (balce b/f 01/09/20)					
Surplus / Deficit ()					
1,546			1,203		
<u>(343)</u>	1,203		<u>(24)</u>	1,179	
162			162		
	162			162	
17,958			17,172		
<u>(786)</u>	17,172		<u>10,257</u>	27,429	
		18,778			28,999
	<u>216,258</u>			<u>149,682</u>	

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

Charitable Giving

	2019/20	2020/21	
Connexional Funds			
World Mission	500.00	500.00	
Other Donations			
Action For Children	482.09	370.00	
All We Can	951.03		
All We Can Afghan Refugees		18.20	
Bible Society	67.09		
Crisis		60.00	
Love Russia	150.00		
MHA	100.00		
McMillan Cancer care		606.00	
Mission Direct	200.00		
Shooting Star Trust	63.90		
Tear Fund	427.80		
The Salvation Army		20.00	
Wood Green	2,441.91	30.00	1,104.20
Gift Day Charities			
Action For Children		1,045.00	
Age UK	500.00		
All We Can		1,045.00	
Christian Aid		100.00	
KCAH	500.00		
Love Russia		100.00	
MHA		1,045.00	
Mind	500.00		
National Autistic Society		100.00	
NCT		100.00	
Princess Alice Hospice	500.00		
Surrey Churches P T		100.00	
Urban Fund	500.00		
Walton Charity	2,500.00	1,045.00	4,680.00
	<u>5,441.91</u>	<u>1,045.00</u>	<u>4,680.00</u>
	<u>5,441.91</u>	<u>6,284.20</u>	

**WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH
PHASED BUDGET 2021-22**

INCOME

ITEM	BUDGET 2021/22	Phased Cumulative Budget other qtrs		
		Q1	Q2	Q3
Unrestricted				
Collections	26,000	6,500	13,000	19,500
Tax Rebate	11,000			
Interest				
Lettings	8,000	2,000	4,000	6,000
Gift Day	17,500			17,500
Sundry	500	125	250	375
Grants				
Legacies				
Fundraising				
Donations				
Other Church Groups				
Restricted				
DEFICIT	31,450	26,762	39,925	30,287
	94,450	35,387	57,175	73,662

EXPENDITURE

ITEM	BUDGET 2021/22	Phased Cumulative Budget other qtrs		
		Q1	Q2	Q3
Unrestricted				
Circuit Assessment	35,600	8,900	17,800	26,700
Secretarial Services	4,500	1,125	2,250	3,375
Office Expenses	1,000	250	500	750
Worship Expenses	1,000	250	500	750
Mission Expenses	1,000	250	500	750
Utilities	5,000	1,250	2,500	3,750
Property - Gen Exp	7,200	1,800	3,600	5,400
Property - R&R	30,000	20,000	24,000	27,000
Cleaning	4,500	1,125	2,250	3,375
Junior Church	250	62	125	187
Insurance	2,400		2,400	
Connexional Funds	500			500
Sundry	1,500	375	750	1,125
Restricted				
SURPLUS	94,450	35,387	57,175	73,662

Notes to Walton on Thames Methodist Church Annual accounts

For the period ending 31st August 2021

Unrestricted funds

Income

Firstly a big thank you to all of you who have kept up your giving, during the last difficult year. Some of you started new standing orders, which was excellent, and some continued their cash collections by posting cheques to me. I had kept the budget for collection income the same as the previous year and you topped it! This coming year I have reduced it as we have had a couple of deaths and someone is moving away. So an early plea for you to review your giving and check when you last increased your standing order? If it was a while back, a small increase might go some way towards making up for lost income from others no longer with us. Please consider this carefully and prayerfully.

Gift day was up to budget but, as expected by me, well down on previous years. Still a very worthwhile sum indeed and an excellent result allowing for the circumstances.

We certainly must hope for a big improvement in our **Lettings** income this coming year; it has been knocked sideways by Covid 19, and all the rules. There are early signs of green shoots of recovery but we could do with the Baby class and the Art class back. The baby class will return when another little one has grown a bit more!

Expenditure And now to the other side of the equation

Worship Expenses are well over budget. We spent a lot on working out how to stream live services and this is where some of that excess came from. And a tidy sum also came from Property for new equipment.

Everything else however was within budget

The difference between income and expenditure, which was a lot, is largely made up for by drawing on our Gift day and Property accounts, where I keep the proceeds of previous Gift Days. This keeps it tidier for me and easier to understand, I hope, for you. The money was largely spent on the Hall roof

Charitable Giving

I would draw this page to your attention. You can see that our giving during this last Connexional year has increased, largely due to the generous contributions made from Gift Day 2021. It is worth a look to see how these funds were distributed, in comparison with the year before, which also included a period of Covid 19 restrictions. Overall, I expect, the total increase was less than some people expected, or indeed worried about.

Once again, I owe a big debt of gratitude to Alan Weight, whose expertise helps to turn my figures into these documents. In addition, as always, I am more than happy to answer any questions you might have about our accounts.

Finally, thanks to Chris, Catherine, Rosanne, and the Leadership Team for their help in managing our estate and the finances, as without them we could not keep the Church building going.

From Duncan Curtis Treasurer

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church

Governance – decision making

The following was agreed at the Church Council (CC) meeting 18 October 2016

- The property committee can agree expenditure up to £1500. The Property Secretary will always check with the Treasurer if over £100. The Property Secretary will continue to report any expenditure to the next CC meeting.
- Any item over £1500 will be brought back to CC. If a decision is required in advance of the next scheduled CC meeting the Property Secretary and Treasurer will request the Leadership Team call an extraordinary CC meeting. 14 days' notice is required.
- Maintenance contracts are in place for expenditure such as the fire alarm, photocopier, fire extinguishers and sound system.
- Emails will not be used to achieve a decision outside of CC meetings.
- All BACS payments have to be electronically released, and at present a nominated authorised signatory does them all, after the Treasurer enters them into the CAF bank system. This is for any amount. However, in future, a nominated authorised signatory will contact a member of the Leadership team for confirmation that s/he can release any item over £2000. This contact can be by phone, email or in person, but s/he will make a note of who has agreed and keep records which will be passed to the Treasurer each August and kept on file with the rest of the paperwork.
- All cheques are signed by two people (the Treasurer and an authorised signatory).
- If the Property Secretary receives a quote for £2,500 and over she will seek a second quote. She will then liaise with a Steward and then the Treasurer.
- The Benevolent Fund is to be used at the Minister's discretion. In the absence of a Minister, the Leadership team are allowed to authorise any amount from this fund when it was needed, and report back to CC.
- The Worship Planning Meeting is to continue. The aims of the meeting are to help the preachers plan ahead and to talk about the style of worship. The group will continue to plan dates and to notify CC. There is no need for CC to ratify dates.
- Any project which is done in the name of the Church should come to the CC for its approval, for example the Uganda project and the new Thursday evening Fellowship meetings. CC should approve projects before plans go ahead. This helps to ensure projects are aligned with the vision and strategy of Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church and helps to achieve the widest reach of limited resources.
- Small raffles are allowed, at the discretion of the CC, in line with the Methodist Church Constitutional Practice and Discipline. A raffle can only be held within a fundraising event, the cost of prizes must be under £50 and no alcohol is allowed as prizes.

These notes will be filed in the front of the CC folders stored at the Church.

Current role holders –

- Chris Mills – Property Secretary
- Duncan Curtis – Treasurer
- Hilary Richardson – the only person (an authorised signatory) who can release the electronic payments

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Walton-on-Thames	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 August 2021

Wey Valley	Circuit	Circuit no	36/6
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1174524

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 Sydney Samuel Lake

Church Stewards:

Sally Hoy
Ross Richardson
Dave Paterson
Jeannette Curtis
<i>VALERIE BARRETT</i>

Treasurer:

Duncan Curtis

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year	
		£	£	£	£	
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	54,960	10,500	65,460	76,761	
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	167	30	197	1,205	
a4	Lettings	4,027		4,027	11,809	
a5	Other receipts	270		270	40,100	
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	59,424	10,530	69,954 (a7)	129,874	
SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	35,600		35,600	35,600	
b3	Donations	5,180	50	5,230	3,500	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	82,955		82,955	40,956	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	5,176		5,176	5,997	
b6						
b7	Other payments	7,310	297	7,607	7,997	
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	136,221	347	136,568 (b9)	94,050	
SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(76,797)	10,183	(66,614)	35,824
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		197,480	18,778	216,258 (c6)	180,434
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	120,683	28,961	149,644	216,258
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	120,683	28,961	149,644 (c8)	216,258 (c6)
SECTION D						
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS						
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)			£	£	
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			0	179	
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			1,104	2,442	
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			1,066	2,621	
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)		38	0	

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

SECTION E

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1 Friendship Club		250	(250)		330	80
e2 Walton Methodist Players		43	(43)		1,326	1,283
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds		293	(293)		1,656 (e11)	1,363 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	69,954 (a7)	136,568 (b9)	(66,614)	(c7)	216,258 (c6)	149,644 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	69,954	136,861	(66,907)		217,914 (x)	151,007 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2021	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	25	25
f2 Bank Current Account	65,894	19,087
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	150,339	130,532
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	216,258 (c6)	149,644 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	1,656 (e11)	1,363 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	217,914 (x)	151,007 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2020	At 31 August 2021
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
g3 Other Assets		
g4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
g5 Other Liabilities		

f4 Include only Funds held at the Central Finance Board

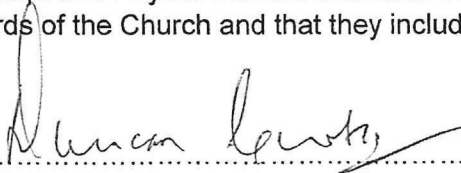
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of Church **Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church** No 1174524

Declarations and Scrutiny

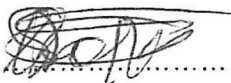
I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2021 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer  Date 26 11 21

Name and address of treasurer **Duncan Curtis**
1 Wadham Close, Shepperton Post Code TW17 9HT

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting Revd. Sydney Samuel Holt Date 01.02.2022

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church

Charity Number 1174524

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2021 set out on pages 1 to 3. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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 **Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church** No 1174524

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.

~~the the~~

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 *R Lewis*

Name of independent examiner *ROBERT G. LEWIS*

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner *FCCA*

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address *15 SOUTHERLAND CLOSE*

..... *WEYBRIDGE* Post Code *KT13 9EN*

Date

* delete or circle as appropriate

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales - Charity number 1174524

Accounts

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Walton-on-Thames

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2020

Wey Valley	Circuit	Circuit no	36/6
------------	---------	------------	------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1174524

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 Sydney Samuel Lake

Church Stewards:

Sally Hoy

Ross Richardson

Dave Paterson

Jeannette Curtis

Treasurer:

Duncan Curtis

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year	
		£	£	£	£	
a1	RECEIPTS	Note				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	76,730	31	76,761	91,539	
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	638	567	1,205	902	
a4	Lettings	11,809		11,809	17,504	
a5	Other receipts	40,100		40,100	100	
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	129,276	598	129,874 (a7)	110,045	
SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	35,600		35,600	35,600	
b3	Donations	3,000	500	3,500	500	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	40,956		40,956	9,048	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	5,997		5,997	6,379	
b6						
b7	Other payments	6,271	1,726	7,997	7,608	
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	91,823	2,226	94,050 (b9)	59,135	
SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	37,453	-1,629	35,824	50,910
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	160,027	20,406	180,434 (c6)	129,523	
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	197,480	18,778	216,258	180,434
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)	
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	197,480	18,778	216,258 (c8)	180,434 (c6)
SECTION D						
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS						
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)			£	£	
d1	Balance brought forward from last year			179	47	
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			2,442	3,942	
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			2,621	3,810	
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)		0	179	

SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**SECTION E**

Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
1 Friendship Club	705	510	195		135	330
2 Walton Methodist Players		43	(43)		1,369	1,326
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	705	553	152		1,504 (e11)	1,656 (e12)
9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page totals column)	129,874 (a7)	94,050 (b9)	35,824	(c7)	180,434 (c6)	216,258 (c8)
10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	130,579	94,603	35,976		181,938 (x)	217,914 (y)
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS				

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

SECTION F**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2020**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
1 Cash in hand	25	25
2 Bank Current Account	20,268	65,894
3 Bank Deposit Account		
4 Central Finance Board	160,140	150,339
5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
6 Other funds		
7 TOTAL - Church accounts	180,434 (c6)	216,258 (c8)
Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	1,504 (e11)	1,656 (e12)
8 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	181,938 (x)	217,914 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2019	At 31 August 2020
1 Investments (include Endowments)		
2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)		
3 Other Assets		
4 Loan(s) - show amount outstanding at year end		
5 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 **Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church** No 1174524

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.


Signature of treasurer  Date..... 2 12 2020

Name and address of treasurer **Duncan Curtis**

1 Wadham Close, Shepperton Post Code TW17 9HT

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting ...Revd. Sydney Samuel Lake..... Date ...09th February 2021...

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church

Charity Number 1174524

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages ... to 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 **Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church** No 1174524

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 *Robert G Lewis*

Name of independent examiner ROBERT G LEWIS

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner FCCA

Name of firm (where appropriate)

Address 15 SOUTHERLAND CLOSE
WEYBRIDGE Post Code KT13 9EN

Date 8.12.20

* delete or circle as appropriate

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH
Income & Expenditure Account for the period 01/09/2019- 31/08/2020

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
2018/19	ITEM	2019/20	BUDGET	2018/19	ITEM	2019/20	BUDGET
	<u>Collections</u>			35,600	Circuit Assessment	35,600	35,600
25,586	Envelopes & Std Orders	26,242		3,502	Secretarial Expenses	4,406	4,500
5,239	Cash	3,663		261	Office Expenses	365	1,000
30,825		29,905	28,000	1,888	Worship Expenses	487	2,500
				583	Mission Expenses	655	2,000
42,600	Gift Day	21,019	20,000	87	Training	4	
17,748	Tax Rebate	13,775	12,500		Gift Day Charities	2,500	
	Circuit Grants	40,000			<u>Property</u>		
	Legacies			4,180	Utilities	3,740	5,000
902	Interest	638	500	2,982	General expenditure	2,106	7,200
17,504	Lettings	11,809	15,000	3,893	Cleaning	3,648	5,000
	Narthex Coffee			2,173	Repairs & Replacements	35,202	10,000
115	Fundraising	82			Junior Church	218	250
80	Donations	11,700		2,198	Insurance	2,257	2,400
125	Other Church Groups	250		500	Connexional Funds	500	500
100	Sundry Income	100	500		Transfer to Benevolent Fund		
				140	Bank Charges	134	
					Sundry Expense		
110,000		129,276	76,500	57,987		91,823	75,950
				52,013	SURPLUS re Unrestricted	37,453	550
110,000	Grand Total	129,276	76,500	110,000	Grand Total	129,276	76,500

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH
Income & Expenditure Account for the period 01/09/2019- 31/08/2020

RESTRICTED FUNDS

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
2018/19	ITEM	2019/20	BUDGET	2018/19	ITEM	2019/20	BUDGET
	Benevolent Fund						
	Collections				Payments	500	
	Transfer from General Fund				Surplus		
	Deficit	500					
		500				500	
	Charitable Funds						
3,099	Collections	2,442		2,966	Paid to charities	2,621	
	Deficit	179		133	Surplus		
3,099		2,621		3,099		2,621	
	Connexional Funds						
844	Collections			844	Paid to Connexion		
	Deficit				Surplus		
844				844			
	Messy Church Fund						
46	Donations	31		430	Expenses	374	
	Tax Rebate				Surplus		
384	Deficit	343					
430		374		430		374	
	Youth Group						
	Subs etc.			39	Expenses		
39	Deficit				Surplus		
39				39			
	Youth Worker Fund						
	Donations				Salary		
	Interest	567		680	Expenses	1,352	
	Tax Rebate				Surplus		
680	Deficit	785					
680		1,352		680		1,352	
	DEFICIT re Restricted	1,808					
	Grand Total	4,847			Grand Total	4,847	

WALTON-ON-THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

Balance Sheet as at 31/08/2020

Current Assets

£	£	£	£	£	£
			Bank & Cash Balances		
	9,828		Barclays Bank, Current A/c		15,195
	10,620		CAF Bank		50,699
	88,565		Central Finance Board - Deposit A/c		56,721
	53,074		Gift Day 2019		53,454
			Gift Day 2020		22,991
	18,501		Special Projects Youth Worker		17,172
	25		Petty Cash		25
		<u>180,613</u>			<u>216,258</u>

Represented by:

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

108,014			General Fund (balce b/f 01/09/19)	160,027	
<u>52,013</u>		160,027	Surplus / Deficit ()	<u>37,453</u>	197,480
		160,027	TOTAL OF UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		197,480

RESTRICTED FUNDS

741			Benevolent Fund (balce b/f 01/09/19)	741	
<u>741</u>		741	Surplus / Deficit ()	<u>(500)</u>	241
47			Charity Collections (balce b/f 01/09/19)	179	
<u>132</u>		179	Surplus / Deficit ()	<u>(179)</u>	0
			Connexional Funds (balce b/f 01/09/19)		
			Surplus / Deficit ()		
1,931			Messy Church Fund (balce b/f 01/09/19)	1,546	
<u>(384)</u>		1,547	Surplus / Deficit ()	<u>(343)</u>	1,203
201			Youth Group (balce b/f 01/09/19)	162	
<u>(39)</u>		162	Surplus / Deficit ()		162
18,638			Youth Worker Fund (balce b/f 01/09/19)	17,958	
<u>(680)</u>		17,958	Surplus / Deficit ()	<u>(785)</u>	17,172
		20,586	TOTAL OF RESTRICTED FUNDS		18,778
		<u>180,613</u>			<u>216,258</u>

Notes to Walton on Thames Methodist Church accounts

Full year from 1st September 2019 to 31 August 2020

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Remarkably, apart from lettings, all income was over budget. Moreover, even lettings were not that much below target, as I normally tend to be cautious.

You will notice the Circuit Grant, which we received before the year-end, towards the Hall roof.

Gift day was well down but Donations (a different category) were up.

As to expenditure, we paid away £2500 to Charities from this year's Gift Day. These were agreed.

Repairs and replacements included £30,000 approx. as the first payment on the Hall roof and the remainder of expenditure in that category was well within budget. The full cost of the roof are covered by monies we already hold, which show up in the Balance Sheet.

As agreed I paid the Circuit the balance of Catherine's back pay during this year. In addition, an adjustment has been made to the monthly standing order to the Circuit, regarding her increased hours, and an adjusting payment has been made, because the standing order has only been increased from this year (starting Sept 2020). Despite these payments, we are within budget.

We have kept paying our two staff despite the covid and I feel sure that this is what the majority of us would have wanted. Now we are back in the Church continued cleaning will be necessary, and it is to be hoped that some at least of our lets will recommence in the not too distant future.

BUDGET

Not a great deal has been altered on this from last year. However, I have been very careful and reduced the budget for letting income by practically half. This is a guess! Anyone with any better idea can let me know.

I have included the balance of the payments for the hall roof in the R and R budget. Otherwise it would have been the same as last year. With one or two other items of expenditure, I have aligned the budget a bit more closely with what we actually spend. This will offset against somewhat reduced income.

As usual, I have to thank Alan Weight for his help this year and on these figures. Thank you all for your willing cooperation and for keeping up your collections during the crisis. This has made my life a whole lot easier as well as the financial well-being of Walton Methodist. Particular thanks to those who have sent cheques or cash, or switched to standing order this year. I should also mention especially Catherine Chris and Rosanne, who work closely with me, and whose support is invaluable. However, picking individuals out is always invidious and as I say, all your help is an example of true Christian spirit and much appreciated

Duncan Curtis Treasurer

WALTON ON THAMES METHODIST CHURCH

CHARITABLE GIVING	2018/19	2019/20	
Connexional Funds			
Easter Offering	178.00		
Training Fund	665.80		
World Mission	<u>500.00</u>	<u>500.00</u>	
	1,343.80		500.00
Other Donations			
Action For Children	1,365.94	482.09	
All We Can	284.83	951.03	
Bible Society	54.76	67.09	
Christian Aid	572.07		
Crisis	55.05		
Hillside Animal Sanctuary	56.59		
Love Russia		150.00	
MHA	137.20	100.00	
Missing People	64.08		
Mission Direct	115.00	200.00	
National Churches Trust	128.83		
Shooting Star Trust	53.67	63.90	
Surrey Air Ambulance	137.21		
Tear Fund		427.80	
White Chapel Mission	<u>73.45</u>		
	3,098.68		2,441.91
	<u>4,442.48</u>	<u>2,941.91</u>	

Statement of safeguarding principles

Every person has a value and dignity, which comes directly from the creation of humans in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this potential as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Principles

We are committed to:

- the care and nurture of, and respectful pastoral ministry with, all children, young people and adults
- safeguarding and protecting all children, young people and adults when they are vulnerable
- establishing safe, caring communities, which provide a loving environment where there is informed vigilance as to the dangers of abuse.

We will carefully select and train all those with any responsibility within the Church, in line with safer recruitment principles, including the use of criminal records disclosures and registration with¹ the relevant vetting and barring schemes.

We will respond without delay to every safeguarding concern, which suggests that a child, young person or adult may have been harmed, working in partnership with the police and local authority in any investigation.

We will seek to work with anyone who has suffered abuse, developing with them an appropriate ministry of informed pastoral care.

We will seek to challenge any abuse of power, especially by anyone in a position of trust.

Working with the District Safeguarding Officer, we will support risk assessment of those who present a safeguarding risk within a church environment. We will ensure appropriate pastoral care is offered and measures are taken to address identified risks including referral to statutory agencies, suspension and the use of safeguarding contracts. We will recognise and apply the restrictions to appointment laid down in Standing Order 010 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church.

In all these principles, we will follow legislation, guidance and recognised good practice.

¹ Or membership of (PVG scheme Scotland).

a) A model church policy

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy for Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church

This policy was agreed at a Church Council held on 6th October 2020

The Methodist Church, along with the whole Christian community, believes each person has a value and dignity which comes directly from God's creation in God's own image and likeness. Christians see this as fulfilled by God's re-creation of us in Christ. Among other things, this implies a duty to value all people as bearing the image of God and therefore to protect them from harm.

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church is committed to the safeguarding and protection of all children, young people and adults and affirms that the needs of children or of people when they are vulnerable and at risk are paramount.

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church recognises that it has a particular care for all who are vulnerable whether as a result of disabilities or reduction in capacities or by their situation. It is recognised that this increased-vulnerability may be temporary or permanent and may be visible or invisible, but that it does not diminish our humanity and our wish to affirm the gifts and graces of all God's people.

This policy addresses the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults. It is intended to be a dynamic policy. It is intended to support the Church in being a safe supportive and caring community for children, young people, vulnerable adults, for survivors of abuse, for communities and for those affected by abuse.

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church fully agrees with the statement reiterated in *Creating Safer Space* 2007:

As the people of the Methodist Church we are concerned with the wholeness of each individual within God's purpose for everyone. We seek to safeguard all members of the church community of all ages.

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church recognises the serious issue of the abuse of children and vulnerable adults and recognises that this may take the form of physical, emotional, sexual, financial, spiritual, discriminatory, domestic or institutional abuse or neglect, abuse using social media, child sexual exploitation or human trafficking (slavery). It acknowledges the effects these may have on

people and their development, including spiritual and religious development. It accepts its responsibility for ensuring that all people are safe in its care and that their dignity and right to be heard is maintained. It accepts its responsibility to support, listen to and work for healing with survivors, offenders, communities and those who care about them. It takes seriously the promotion of welfare so that each of us can reach our full potential in God's grace.

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church commits itself to:

1. **RESPOND** without delay to any allegation or cause for concern that a child or vulnerable adult may have been harmed or may suffer harm, whether in the church or in another context. It commits itself to challenge the abuse of power of anyone in a position of trust.
2. **IMPLEMENT** the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance; government legislation and guidance and safe practice in the circuit and in the churches.
3. **PROVIDE** support, advice and training for lay and ordained people *to* ensure *that* people are clear and confident about their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults who may be vulnerable.
4. **AFFIRM** and give thanks for those who work with children and vulnerable adults and also acknowledge the shared responsibility of all of us for safeguarding children *and* vulnerable adults who are on our premises.

Church Council

It is the responsibility of each Church Council to appoint a Church Safeguarding Officer and there should be no gaps in this crucial provision. The safeguarding officer should be a member of the Church Council or have the right to attend at least annually to report on implementation of the safeguarding policy. Where an individual covers the role in more than one location, they must be able to cover the activities identified in the relevant role outline and be facilitated to attend meetings to report on safeguarding in each location.

It is not appropriate for the minister in pastoral charge to hold the church safeguarding officer role because of the potential conflict with their own responsibilities. It is acknowledged that to avoid any disruption in safeguarding provision, it may be necessary for the minister in pastoral charge to take responsibility for some or all of the activities temporarily while other arrangements are made. However, this should only be for a very short period to enable the sharing of the role with another church or the identification of an alternative person to take on the role.

The role will usually be undertaken on a voluntary basis although expenses should be met. Ultimate responsibility for safeguarding within the church lies with the Church Council.

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church appoints Mrs Catherine Heffernan

as church Safeguarding Officer (Adults) .

and Mrs Catherine Heffernan

as church Safeguarding Officer (Children) and supports them in their role, which is to:

- provide support and advice to the minister and the stewards in fulfilling their roles with regard to safeguarding.
- ensure that a suitable, signed church safeguarding policy is displayed at all times in the church on a safeguarding noticeboard, along with names of current safeguarding officers, national helplines and other suitable information. This must be renewed annually.
- record all safeguarding issues that are reported to the church safeguarding officer, according to Methodist policy and procedure.
- promote appropriate routes for reporting of concerns
- identify and inform those who are required to attend safeguarding training and maintain records of attendance. Work with the circuit safeguarding officer and DSO to arrange training.
- attend training and meetings relating to the role
- work in partnership with the lettings officer, stewards and user groups to promote good safeguarding practice on church premises. This will include gaining written confirmation that hirers of church premises are aware of the church safeguarding policy or are using an appropriate policy of their own.
- check that safeguarding is included as an agenda item at all Church Council meetings and report to the Church Council annually.
- inform all those with responsibility for recruitment, whether paid or voluntary, of their obligation to follow safer recruitment procedures.
- advise the circuit safeguarding officer and/or DSO of any issues with compliance with safeguarding training, policy or safer recruitment requirements and respond promptly to any request from them about audit of safeguarding activities.

a) Purpose

The purpose of the church safeguarding policy is to check that procedures are in place and provide clarity about the roles and responsibilities of those trusted with promoting the church as a safe space for all its users. It is to be read in conjunction with the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Guidance (2020).

b) Good practice

We believe that good practice means:

- i) All people are treated with respect and dignity.
- ii) Those who act on behalf of the Church should not meet or work alone with a child or vulnerable adult where the activity cannot be seen unless this is necessary for pastoral reasons, in which case a written record will be made and kept noting date, time and place of visit.
- iii) The church premises will be assessed by the church safeguarding officer with the property steward and/or their representatives at least annually for safety for children and vulnerable adults and a written risk assessment report will be given annually to the Church Council. This will include fire safety procedures. The Church Council will consider the extent to which the premises and equipment are suitable or should be made more suitable.
- iv) Any church-organised transport of children or vulnerable adults will be checked to ensure that the vehicle is suitable and insured and that the driver and escort (where required) are appropriate. (See 6.10.7.1 of the Safeguarding Policies, Procedures and Guidance for the Methodist Church). A record to be kept in the church file for each driver/car.
- v) Activity risk assessments will be undertaken before any activity takes place to minimise the risk of harm to those involved. Approval will be obtained from the event leader/minister. A written record of the assessment will be retained securely.
- vi) Promotion of safeguarding is recognised to include undertaking those tasks which enable all God's people to reach their full potential. The Church Council will actively consider the extent to which it is succeeding in this area.

These things are to safeguard those working with children, young people and those adults who may be vulnerable.

c) Appointment and training of workers in the church

Workers will be appointed after a satisfactory DBS disclosure and following the safer recruitment procedures of the Methodist Church. Each worker will have an identified supervisor who will meet at regular intervals with the worker. A record of these meetings will be agreed and signed and the record kept. Each worker will be expected to undergo Foundation Module (2020 Edition) safeguarding training, within the first 6 months (agreed by Methodist Conference in 2011 - *Creating Safer Space Report*) of appointment. The other training needs of each worker will be considered (such as food hygiene, first aid and lifting and handling).

d) Pastoral visitors

Pastoral visitors will be supported in their role with the provision of Foundation Module (2020 Edition) safeguarding training upon appointment. If they are undertaking tasks for which a DBS

would be required, this will be undertaken prior to appointment.

e) **Guidelines for working with children, young people and vulnerable adults**

A leaflet outlining good practice and systems should be given to everyone who works with children, young people and vulnerable adults. This leaflet will be reviewed annually².

f) **Ecumenical events**

Where ecumenical events happen on church premises, safeguarding is the responsibility of this Church Council.

g) **Events with church groups off the premises**

Adequate staffing, a risk assessment and notification of the event will be given to the church safeguarding officer PRIOR to the agreement for any event or off site activity. Notification of the event will be given to the church **council** secretary.

If the activity is unusual or considered to be high risk the **church safeguarding officer** will contact the circuit safeguarding officer in order that it can be ratified or any queries raised.

h) **Other groups on church premises**

Where the building is hired for outside use, the *hirer* signing the letting agreement (www.tmcp.org.uk/property/letting-property-and-third-party-use) will be given a copy of that agreement [...]. The lettings secretary will consider the various users of the building in making lettings. All lettings will be notified to the church safeguarding officer who will keep the records and take advice as appropriate from both the DSO and circuit safeguarding officer.

i) **Complaints procedure**

There is a formal complaints procedure within the Methodist Church, which allows issues to be raised about actions or behaviour by a member or officer of the Church. In addition, employed staff will be subject to relevant contractual procedures. All complaints will be responded to with care, diligence and impartiality. The provisions of Part 11 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church will be followed.

A complaint should be addressed to the superintendent minister, the Revd. Keith Beckingham. If a complaint is made to another person it should be referred to them. Meetings will be arranged with the person making the complaint and, usually, the person against whom the complaint has been made, in an attempt to resolve it. If the complaint is against the superintendent, it should be sent to the District Chair, the Revd. Dr. David Hinchliffe at 39 Lines Avenue, Horley, Surrey. RH6 9DG.

² The Code of Safer Working Practice can be found at Appendix V of the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policies, Procedures and Guidance.


Safeguarding officers must be informed of any complaint or issue relating to the potential abuse of children or adults who may be vulnerable. They will support prompt action to respond to the circumstances of any safeguarding concern, whether or not any party involved wishes to make a formal complaint through the Methodist Church.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Church Council. Next review date: October 2021

j) Key concepts and definitions

- i) A child is anyone who has not yet reached their eighteenth birthday. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, a member of the armed forces, in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change *their* status or entitlements to services or protection.
- ii) Vulnerable adults: any adult aged 18 or over who, owing to disability, mental function, age or illness or traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care or protect themselves.
- iii) Safeguarding: protecting children or vulnerable adults from maltreatment; preventing impairment of their health and ensuring safe and effective care.
- iv) Adult/child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity, which is undertaken to protect children/specific adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm, including neglect.
- v) Abuse and neglect may occur in a family, a community or an institution. It may be perpetrated by a person or persons known to the child or vulnerable adult or by strangers; by an adult or by a child. It may be an infliction of harm or a failure to prevent harm.

Signed  Chair of Church Council

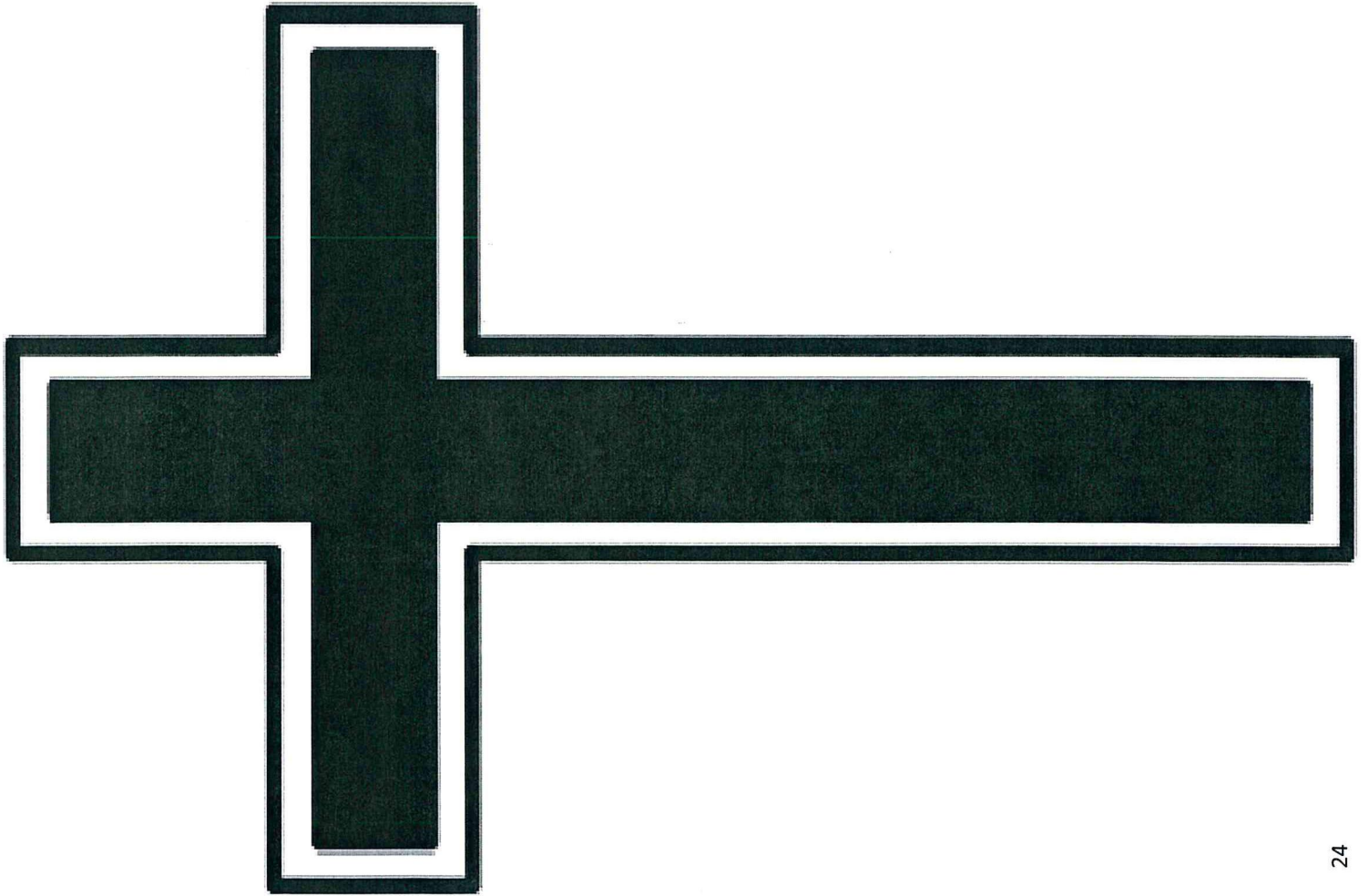
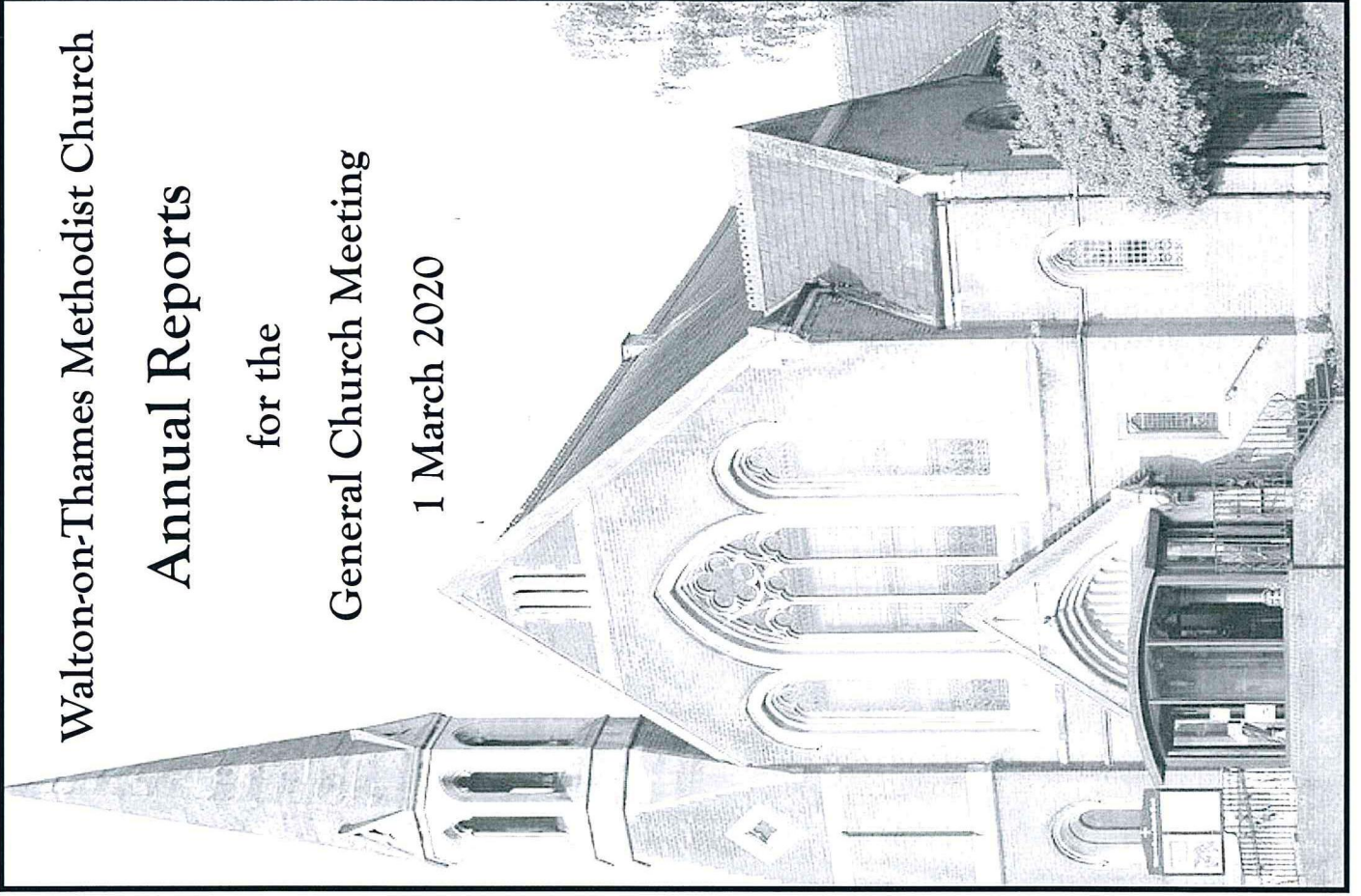
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Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church

Annual Reports

for the
General Church Meeting

1 March 2020



WITS

As a group we have met together a few times this last year.

In February we tried putting a few different toppings on our pancakes and had a good time chatting in the conservatory at Jeannette's. Eileen brought some delicious chocolates, which we also enjoyed.

In the summer a group of us met at the church and walked along the river to the Weir where we enjoyed a meal by the river. Chris Mills kindly had her car there and so some people could have a ride back after the meal.

In September, we worked with the WI and held the Macmillan Coffee morning. It was great to meet with them and Marion before the coffee morning and get to know them better. We hope that we will be able to do the coffee morning again next year.

In October Chris Mills hosted an evening for Carol Morgan to celebrate a special birthday.

So we have done a few things this year and will plan some more for next year.

Jeannette Curtis

Walton Churches Working Together

Walton Churches Together arranged several events during 2019,

We had a joint service in January to mark the beginning of the week for Christian unity.

Then there was an open air sunrise service at Cowey sail on Easter Sunday

Also in mid summer we held a service in the park along New Zealand Avenue. This was during the celebrations held for the start of the game of Baseball.

Our final joint service was held at the war memorial at the junction of New Zealand Avenue and Walton High street. All the joint services were well attended by a mix of the different denominations and some of the wider community.

Other joint ventures are the regular services led by a group of Koreans which each Church takes a turn in hosting.

C.W.T also manned a stall @ the Festival of Light celebration at which leaflets were distributed giving details of services and events held by each of the local Walton Churches. Finally we ended the year by singing Carols in the Heart shopping centre.

We hope the events planned for 2020 will be equally well attended.

Joy Walshe

List of Reports and Author

1. Minister (Sydney Samuel)
2. Leadership (Ross Richardson)
3. Finance (Duncan Curtis)
4. Property (Chris Mills)
5. Messy Church (Jeannette Curtis)
7. House Groups (Colin and Sandra Wright)
10. Walk and Talk (Colin and Sandra Wright)
11. Pastoral Care (Ruth) Evans
12. Website (Christopher Heffernan)
13. Sunday School & Creche (Catherine Heffernan)
14. Prayer Group (Ross Richardson)
15. Friendship Group (Marion Wadley)
16. Churches Together / Ecumenical? (Joy Walshe)
17. WITS (Jeannette Curtis)

THE MINISTER

1. The Minister's Report - Rev Sydney Samuel Lake

In order to reflect on the experience from the past year since our last Annual General Meeting, we may look at some highlights including, the Appreciating Men Service, which was held after the Mothering Sunday service. A Cultural Service brought out the finerities and stories from our different cultural backgrounds, which were proudly displayed amongst our congregations of White, Asian and Black people. All standing on our sometimes united history although with some notably different traditions that makes us who we are today. The cultural service also reminded us of who we are and what valued traditions we originate from and identify with. Especially including some of the traditional practices that formed our present identity and personalities. Attending the Methodist Church's 3Generate event in the Autumn was both an exciting and fun time for the young people. It was also hard work for key adults who worked on the administration and served as leaders and volunteers for the event that took place in Southport during the weekend of 22-24 November 2019.

As regards our engagement with other churches in Walton, we experienced good ecumenical relationships with Churches Together in Walton. We took part in a blessed and lovely Easter Morning Sunrise Service along the banks of the River Thames, near the Walton Bridge which was well attended. Our church also partners with the other churches in regular activities in the town centre such as singing carols and going into schools for visits and other evangelical activities. Our collaboration with neighbouring churches has resulted in the hosting of a very good and spiritual experience during our regular prayer meeting with the Koreans who visit Walton-on-Thames on the first Friday of the month. We have participated in many united services and ecumenical activities in addition to our activities with the Elmbridge Borough Council. Such as, launching an initiative for safe spaces in partnership with the police and other community partners or setting out strategies for tackling homelessness and rough-sleeping in Elmbridge.

We have an annual outing and in 2019 we had a relaxing visit to Molesey Cricket Club for a delicious tea with plenty of time for chat and laughter and time to enjoy our pleasant surroundings alongside the river Thames. After tea, those who felt more energetic, could take a walk by the Thames.

For many years, Treble Clef, a local choir, have entertained us with an excellent concert enabling us to raise hundreds of pounds for Action for Children, a charity supported by The Methodist Church, and whose Area Representative gave us an update on the current projects being undertaken to help children and families in need.

As well as working in many capacities within the church, our members take their skills into the wider community of Walton.

Do come and join us and share in our fun, friendship and fellowship.

Marion Wadley

Friendship Club Report 2019/2020

We continue to meet on the first and third Mondays of each month from September to July and remain a friendly (as reflected by our name) and happy group, ready to help each other when needed.

But how did this begin? Sixty years ago this year, we had a group of young wives and their children needing a chance to get out and meet with their contemporaries. The Young Wives met in what was then known as the Church Parlour (now The Wesley Room), with their off spring being cared for by a group of older ladies from the church, in the Hall. The wives were able to enjoy a cuppa with refreshments and have time to chat and share experiences. This proved to be a successful venture and thus The Young Wives Club began life at Walton Methodist Church.

As the children grew older our name changed several times to Wives Fellowship Club and then finally to Friendship Club to embrace all our members.

We now have a more structured programme with a variety of interesting speakers, some craft evenings and using the resources and skills of many of our members. See the Church website and our Notice Board in the Hall for the current programme.

During the summer months we hold coffee evenings and tea afternoons, with cake stalls and Bring and Buy stalls and raise money for charities chosen by our hostesses.

I must extend a huge thank you to the people in our church family who have proved very reliable in carrying out the affairs of the Church. Various roles are covered here including: running the Church Office, Messy Church functions, the Friendship Club, home Bible study, providing the weekly notice sheet, providing tea and coffee, welcoming visitors and pastoral visitors making numerous pastoral visits. In addition to those services listed above, are others which involve voluntary service as stewards and members of the Leadership Team, members of the Church Council, and other people who work as volunteers or paid staff to facilitate the work of our church. This may be seen as helping to praise and worship God and serve the people of God. Some also look after our building, organise transport for needy members to be brought to Sunday worship, arrange the flowers in the church and prepare the elements for Holy Communion. Our members also assist in supporting the local Food Bank as well as liaising with our ecumenical partners, the list goes on and on. I here say, thank you, one and all; may God continue to bless you and hugely reward you for your service to God's people for whom Jesus died on the cross.

Alongside the very good work that is discharged by the roles above, the following areas have brought us some notable frustration, and disappointment. For instance, we have not been able to recruit a youth worker, especially after we were not successful even after 2 serious attempts. However, we take courage from a view that this might be a blessing and an opportunity for parents and other church members to step up to the task. Also, as a probationer I have to attend lectures and do assignments. Whilst the experience provides a good opportunity for learning about the context of circuit ministry. The need to balance ministry, family and study is sometimes only achieved by prayers, faith and casting a lot of burdens onto Jesus who cares for all believers.

Thankfully in the midst of the challenges, for me, God has blessed me with people in the church who could check my understanding of local issues and make sure I got the correct understanding of various traditions in our church life.

As a church, we are now taking soundings on how to bring the gifts and blessings of having different preachers leading our All Age Worship closer to the good work that the teachers of the Sunday School achieve and move on to encourage the Young People to be taking part as leaders in the All Age Worship, as well as in other services, so that the children would come into church and be more involved through helping with taking the offertory, doing Bible readings, singing songs, playing musical instruments, taking part in discussions and leading prayers and other parts of the Sunday worship.

Consultations are now imminent with both the children and teachers of the Sunday School who put time and effort into planning lessons, to bring the fruits of such planning into the allocated dates for All Age Services, usually the 3rd Sunday of each month. The Church Council is also being approached with a request from the Young People of the Church to set up and operate a Youth Group. The interest for this is a spin off from the 3Generate programme that was attended in November 2019. The experience of having younger people in worship is expected to assure us of the continuation of the Methodist Church, whilst the young people learn “how to be The Church” in the hope that that will continue in worship during and after their university years. As the church try out new events and involves more members, it must be expected that we put ourselves in a position to capture the new ideas and possibilities that the Spirit of God will bring our way.

Prayer Group

Our prayer group has been meeting since 1998 each Saturday morning. As Christians – we are encouraged to “pray at all times” not just “some” times and across the whole spectrum of life’s circumstances - joy, bereavement, success, happiness, celebration, doubt, distress, illness and pain.

The Prayer Group pray through all these things, every Saturday from 8am for our Church, local community, nation and world. If you would like prayer for yourself or a friend please contact one of the members (Ross, Sydney Samuel, Colin, Sandra, Ruth, Jill and Jeannette). We also offer prayers for healing and anointing with oil at each communion service.

Additionally, we now have an Ecumenical Prayer Meeting in our Church on the 3rd Sunday of every month with other members of Walton Churches Together, and an occasional prayer and praise service with members from the Wimbledon Korean church who have a mission to pray from Walton and its Churches. You are welcome to pop in any Saturday, our meetings are always uplifting.

Ross Richardson

The children tell us they love coming to Sunday School and in turn ask their parents to bring them to church. This is so positive.

Given Christopher's lack of availability over the last year, he hasn't been able to run any activity sessions for the children. However, he was able to arrange another New Year Party and trip to see Aladdin which was attended by 13 children which was enjoyed by all. A big thank you to Pauline and Mick for their support with the party food.

Catherine, Pauline, Dave, Sam and Christopher

The Sunday School Teachers

Footnote:

Crèche

The crèche rota was becoming very difficult to fill and with no young children coming to church the rota was suspended. We are hoping, now that we have a regular little one coming to church, that the rota will be reinstated.

As members of the family of Jesus worshipping at Walton-on-Thames Methodist church, we therefore, hold on to the faith that God is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or even imagine, using his power that is at work within us (Ephesians 3:20). Whilst we look to receive positive enrichment, we must also be on the look out to guard against being led astray by selfish ego, self-aggrandisement or material greed be it in the form of financial gains, pride, stubbornness, points scoring or self-righteousness of any kind. May we seek first the good of the kingdom of God, and the righteousness of knowing God. Whereby, in return for our openness and focus on God, Jesus has promised that all other things shall be added unto us (Matthew 6:33).

Personally, I work with other churches in the circuit and do my bests to juggle the affairs of these churches as best as is humanly possible for me. This is therefore the time for the members of our church to stand on duty and work as members of 'Team Jesus Christ', so that our Church will flourish and make individual and corporate advancement on the road to develop our faith alongside good works, as worthy servants of God whom we worship in Spirit and in truth. Additionally, may we endeavour to serve our fellow human's as brothers and sisters in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (1, Corinthians 1:10).

Moreover, when we serve, may we work hard, even though sometimes it seems our efforts may bring us no direct material reward, may we in such cases remember that a great reward awaits us in heaven (Matthew 5:12). Finally, may our mantra be, he who began a good work in us, he is faithful to complete it (Philippians 1:6).

Loving regards,

Sydney Samuel

THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

2. The Leadership Report — Ross Richardson

The Church Stewards in the last year have been Ross Richardson; Sally Hoy; Dave Paterson and Jeannette Curtis. They were ably supported by Chris Mills who was our excellent secretary, and an extra voice of wisdom at our meetings for many years until September 2019. We are very grateful, for her many years of help with this aspect. Additionally, Ross Richardson is a Circuit Rep, Dave Paterson is Circuit Treasurer and Sally Hoy is part of the Invitations Committee which will oversee ministerial appointments across our circuit.

At the time of writing Sydney Samuel Lake has been with us as our probationer minister since September 2019. In the course of the past year he prompted us to try some themed new services - namely an "Appreciating Men service" which celebrated the men in our congregation, and a "Cultural service" which successfully celebrated the diversity of the different cultural groups within our community.

Our chief frustration this year is that we have been unable to recruit a Youth Worker despite 2 rounds of advertising and interviewing 1 candidate. Following a successful trip to the 3Generate Youth Event in November, we are looking at starting a Youth Group to meet the needs of our young people, and we continue to look at creative ways to support our young people in their faith, in whatever form this may take.

In 2019, we addressed our Circuit Leadership Team request to every circuit church to undertake a review of their plans, purposes and future direction. We held a successful away day retreat in February 2019—and the results of this continues to be work in progress as we seek to work out our plans at VMC through the ideas that were generated from this "appreciative enquiry". We are grateful for all the opportunities that we have as a faith community in Walton-on-Thames and look forward to working through some of these across the coming year.

We would appreciate your prayers for our efforts as stewards, for our Minister and his family, and for our Church in the next year.

Sunday School and Crèche Catherine Heffernan

The Sunday School takes place in the Emmaus room - where there are always 2 DBS checked helpers. We have 5 Sunday School teachers at the moment - Catherine Heffernan, Christopher Heffernan (when he is not away working), Pauline Wakefield, Dave Paterson and Sam Monaghan. Jeannette Curtis is also a very willing reserve! We all do, on average, one session per month.

Following last year's plea for an extra Sunday School teacher, we were so pleased when Sam Monaghan agreed to join the team, to do every other Sunday with Dave Paterson. Dave is training to be a Local Preacher and so does not have many free Sundays! We are also very grateful to Jeannette Curtis, who stepped in and covered the gap until Sam joined us and who continues to help us out in emergencies!

We follow the 'Roots' book, which gives us a lot of material to choose from. This allows us to tailor the lesson to our age groups and strengths. We work well together and each have our own strengths and interests so Sunday School is always varied. We always have our bible story and prayers - but then might act, cook, paint, draw or maybe make something. We continue to go out to Sunday School after the second hymn and then finish when the main church service finishes. On Communion days we go out after the first hymn, so we can return for communion and often share what we have been doing.

The Sunday School continues to flourish. It is wonderful that in the past year, we have always had children present and not had to cancel a Sunday School session. We have a regular band of between 4 and 10 children on average. As the children get older, we are nearly at the point where we need two Sunday School groups again, so the older ones are having a lesson tailored more suitably to their age. Unless we have more helpers come forward, we won't be able to do this, so if there is anyone reading this who feels the call, please get in touch!

There have not really been any big changes to the website in the last year, as it seems to be fulfilling its purpose well.

However, I have found it difficult to keep on top of the weekly editing of the website's Homepage therefore Catherine Heffernan has kindly offered to support me ensuring the website is updated on a weekly basis. Please do still contact me via wmchurchwebsite@gmail.com with any articles, pictures or news to be posted on the website. The only change will be that Catherine will update the website based on the weekly diary provided in the Notice Sheet.

We continue to regularly receive emails via the website concerning premises hire as well as general enquiries and we are frequently told of how helpful it is having clear images of our premises.

I thought I'd also give you a few statistics about the website over the last year:

5, 253 pageviews (down 276 page views). 84.9% of visitors to the website are new.

Home-1,753 (down 266 on 2018/19)

Premises Hire-503 (down 19 on 2018/19)

Calendar-434 (up 145 on 2018/19)

Contact us-316 views (up 40 on 2018/19)

Meet the Team-210

Please do have a look at the website (waltonmethodist.com) and let me know what you think; I am always happy to receive feedback.

Your feedback is invaluable as we want the website to accurately reflect the spirit of the church. Feel free to send me anything you think that we should be displaying on it

(wmchurchwebsite@gmail.com). Pictures are really useful whether of church events, church outings, morning worship, Pudding and Praise, whatever they might be send them in!

3. The Finance Report - Duncan Curtis

Notes to accounts for the year-end 31st August 2019 and Report for the

Unrestricted funds

Overall, I think we have had a good year financially. Our 2019 Gift Day produced another excellent result which I am sure is an all-time record. However, collections are dropping a bit and I have reduced the budgeted income from this source for next year. I shall be more than happy to find out that I have underestimated. Cash collections seem to be down.

Lettings are up a bit and thanks are due to Rosanne for the work she puts in on this. Whilst quite a lot of our income is from regular lettings such as the Scouts and AA there is probably more from other sources all of which involves Rosanne in a lot of work.

Unrestricted funds-continued

We missed our normal contribution from VMP this year as they did not do a show but I suppose the Gas and electric must have been down a bit! Less rehearsal time. Otherwise, the income side is fine.

On expenditure, mostly everything was within budget (apart from £2). Property spending has been lower but I expect us to spend a lot more in the coming year. We did however pay for necessary repair work on the boiler at the rear of our premises and the CCTV has been upgraded. The money we spend on Church cleaning is I am sure well worth it and must help to keep our rentals up. Thanks to Nancy for her hard work.

Restricted funds

Nothing to comment about here except that the Connexional funds collections included a collection at the service we had to welcome Sydney Samuel, which went to the Training fund.

Balance Sheet

This looks healthy but will not look so good, once we get started on the Hall roof! Funds are still awaiting the appointment of a youth and families lay worker in the Youth worker fund. However, we did use some of this fund for advertising and the 3Generate weekend.

House Group.

Throughout the year we have continued to hold, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter House Groups, with about five or six meetings on selected topics. Our studies, starting last spring followed this order: a series using the book "The mystery of everything", based on the film "The theory of everything"; a number of members evenings when different members of the group lead a discussion on a Bible character they had selected; a study on Peter then on the letter 1 Peter; recently we have been using the Cover to Cover book, "Barnabas – Son of encouragement". Many of our group will join the ecumenical Lent Groups that are expected to start very soon this month.

Sandra and Colin

Pastoral Care

On Covenant Sunday in January our eleven Pastoral Visitors were commissioned into service for another year. We all endeavour to keep an eye on our church family by praying for them and visiting regularly. Sadly one of our members died last year. However we have welcomed several new folk in our congregation recently and hope that they feel at home amongst us. The Pastoral Visitors meet every six months to review how we are doing and voice any concerns they might have regarding the folk they visit. We feel this is an important part of care for our church as a whole.

Our current membership stands at 66 members.

Ruth Evans

Looking across the hall, when the craft activities are being done, it is good to see families, teenagers and the grandparents all working together, it is a real family afternoon. I thank God that he has brought us together for this work

What we need most of all, is prayer, for the team, as they plan the sessions, and for the families that see the advertising and those that have been already, that they may come to Messy Church and find out a little more about God's love for them.

Jeannette Curtis

Walk and Talk.

We have continued to organise a walk and lunch together every month, often to places we have not been to before. Details of the next outing are always put in the church notices, so it is easy for new people to join us if they wish. There are usually about 12 to 14 people on the walks and often one or two extra for lunch. Interesting new places we have visited included Horsell Common, adjacent to Heather Farm Café near Woking, and nearer to home we read about the impressive history of Chertsey Abbey and looked at its sparse remains. It is great to have visitors such as David and Jane join us when they come from the United States to visit family. Looking ahead, the Spring and Summer months are special times to go for a walk and enjoy the beautiful countryside around here.

Jill, Sandra and Colin

Budget

Some modest adjustments here. I have also doubled the Mission budget as agreed by the Church council. Secretarial expenses will be a little higher in view of the small increase in Catherine's hours. I also dealt with her back pay as agreed with the Church council up to August, although the payments to the Circuit in this financial year have yet to be ironed out.

We seem to be spending a bit less on utilities so I have reduced that budget. So long as we do not get a particularly cold winter, we should be Ok.

I repeat that I am not prepared to prepare any projections for more than a year. Our reliance on free will gifts from an ageing congregation makes any such estimate pure guesswork in my opinion.

As I said in the earlier part of the report, collections are down. If you can increase your giving that would I am sure be appreciated and likewise, if you are making or amending your will, then please consider the Church as a worthy beneficiary. Charitable giving reduces inheritance tax.

And finally

Thanks are due to Rosanne, Joy and Hilary who covered my absence between them during October last. Thanks also to all of you who interact with me through the year on finance. We seem to all work well together and it makes this job so much easier. Once again I should mention Alan Weight, our ex member, now living in Alton, who is so helpful when it comes to preparing the quarterly and annual reports as well as preparing our Gift Aid claim. I find his help invaluable.

It is a bit early as I write to say exactly what we will put in our Gift Day letter but you can be sure of one thing. We shall be looking for your continued support! We hope to put some of that money towards various charities this year but more on that later.

Duncan Curtis (Treasurer)

PROPERTY

ACM MARCH 2020

PROPERTY REPORT FOR 2019

This is a summary of the work and costs we carried out during 2019:

Updating of CCTV system	£1500
Plumbing/Heating (servicing & repairs)	£ 980
Installing new water boiler in hall kitchen	£ 400
Fire Alarm (servicing & repairs)	£ 375
Electrical work (including PAT)	£ 510
General Repairs	£ 180

During 2020, we will be re-slating the church hall roof, including the meeting rooms, flat roofs and replacing the glass lantern roof to the rear entrance (which has been leaking and causing damage to the fire door). The cost of this is just under £100k. We are waiting, with anticipation, for our application for a Circuit Grant to be accepted.

Thank you to Tony Heffernan for all the work he has done around the Church premises.

Chris Mills

MESSY CHURCH

In the last year we have had 9 Messy Church meetings, we base the planning on Messy Church Books and magazines, which are a tremendous help with this.

We are pleased to have the help and assistance of Rosemary Lee, Elizabeth Gurd and Julia Monaghan not just with the celebration but also with the craft activities. We also have had help from many of the teenagers, we particularly thank Victoria and Danielle helping with the crafts. Seram, Divine, Sydney and Grace have also helped.

In May we thought about weddings and in particular the wedding in Cana. In September we made Messy Music with lots of musical instruments and some good music; October we thought about everywhere prayer, and November we thought about advent and the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth. Christmas Eve we made Christingles and thought about the hosts of angels that visited over the Christmas period. In January, we were separating the sheep from the goats. We have had a good year and we really appreciate the help and support from the Church community.

Through the year, we have used a number of the Meaningful Chocolate company's products, these are not just fair traded products, but they come with the Christmas / Easter story and now there are quizzes and puzzles to do as well. It is good that these can be taken home and done there.

We still have good funds in the kitty and a fantastic team who all work so hard to make Messy Church afternoons go well. Numbers go up and down, but we still get new families and some stay and some move on.