

West Preston Methodist Church Minister's report 2026 for the Annual General Church Meeting

Minister's Report 2026- West Preston Methodist Church

This last year has yet again been challenging for various reasons, yet we still have many highlights as we journey together.

I want to begin by expressing my appreciation as to how many of you volunteer and support the wide range of activities across West Preston Methodist Church with little fuss each week. Where would we be without you? Sometimes our individual conversations, care, serving, prayers and work done in the background may seem insignificant, but without them where would we be? It is when we see all these together we discover how we play our part in God's mission together. Special thanks to Sheila Sheldon who is stepping down as a Worship Steward after more than 20 years in the role. We are aware that many of our volunteer teams seem stretched at times, whether it is for our preparations for Sunday worship or mid-week activities if you would like to support or know someone suitable to ask then please do talk with Jennie, one of the secretaries or stewards or myself.

Last summer we engaged the church in a time of reflection following last year's AGCM where we were challenged about how many were tired in their roles and how we can better worship and pray together to draw us closer to God. Over 50 of you came along to our away day and based on our reflections and feedback we decided to take undertake a **Season of Prayer and Discernment** in the Autumn - during which we worshipped and prayed together each Sunday as West Preston Methodist Church. We shared stories and came before God in prayer to better understand what God is calling us to be as West Preston (rather than just do). The feedback which we collected in various ways was very useful. Many thanks to the worship stewards and secretaries who helped with this. See separate summary from our **Season of Prayer and Discernment** which we will be reflecting on during our service / meeting.

Our the year our Sunday worship continues to develop, with the Connexional worship themes for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter being much appreciated. Our ecumenical links are building up – with the Walks of Witness in Ashton in the run up to Christmas and on Good Friday attracting a good attendance. Also the continued work of Share It! in Ingol, which had a first joint ecumenical service for a few years at Ingol on Palm Sunday. Many thanks to Jennie for her good work on these projects (we will here more in the service). With new incumbents; Father Andrew at Holy Family and Vicar Kate at St. Margaret's, we are looking forward to building on these ecumenical links in Ingol as well.

Looking back, if I am honest, the stresses were building up before last Autumn, then by December I realised I needed to stop. I was off ill for 6 weeks till the end of January. I wasn't expecting to have to stop for so long but the advice has been good. I have appreciated people's prayers, and to those stepping up to cover things I have had to lay aside awhile – including Jennie Lockett, Deacon Rebecca-Joy, and Rev. Linda for covering services over Christmas and into the new year.

Just as I was preparing to come back the circuit had the news that Rev Jane has stepped down as Superintendent and Denise Johnson has been off as well. We continue to pray for them and for the Circuit Leadership team as they set in place provision until a replacement is found for Jane hopefully in September 2027. We give thanks for her ministry and leadership, praying God guides her for the way forward.

It is important as a church that we have a clear sense of direction which will help us in the coming months and year for the ways forward and how we deal with difficult decisions. We will be looking for your responses again as we evaluate our mission statement / purpose / vision at our meeting, hoping to update and better communicate our mission.

I commend the attached reports and look forward to meeting you on Sunday at our Annual General Church Meeting.

Grace and Peace to you all in the name of Christ,

Rev Mike Grimsley

Pastoral report

It has been a quiet year, especially with Rev. Mike having been ill. We appreciate the on going work of our Pastoral Visitors and will be looking to add to the team.

Those who have gone to glory in the last year - Margaret Farrow, Margaret Clayton and June Hodge.

We have had 2 Baptisms and no Weddings

We are currently updating our pastoral lists, thanks to those who work on this.

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

West Preston	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2025

Preston Ribble	Circuit	Circuit no.	1/28
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1178663

**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 Mike Grimsley

Church Stewards:

Peter Taylor, Gillian Mason, Rebecca Ainsworth, Zoe Ainsworth, Karen Martin, Pam Eaton, Steve Gregory

Treasurer:

Steve Gregory

Steve Gregory

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	54,389		54,389	73,475
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	19,277		19,277	22,895
a4	Lettings	25,996		25,996	21,671
a5	Other receipts	15,635	6,212	21,847	30,752
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	115,297	6,212	121,509 (a7)	148,793

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	34,714		34,714	59,487
b3	Donations	12,794		12,794	4,581
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	29,733		29,733	16,358
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	23,001		23,001	17,927
b6	Rent	1,166		1,166	1,364
b7	Other payments	31,839	13,547	45,386	43,029
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	133,247	13,547	146,794 (b9)	142,746

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(17,950)	(7,335)	(25,285)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		395,111	8,514	403,625 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	377,161	1,179	378,340
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	377,161	1,179	378,340 (c8)

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		401
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	3,292	3,233
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	3,097	3,634
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	195	

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 Ashton Fellowship		177	(177)		177	
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds		177	(177)		177 (e11)	(e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	121,609 (a7)	146,794 (b9)	(25,285)	(c7)	403,625 (c6)	378,340 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	121,509	146,971	(25,462)		403,802 (x)	378,340 (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 Cash in hand		649
f2 Bank Current Account	9594	2,355
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	25,999	11,442
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	368,032	364,089
f6 Other funds		(195)
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	403,625 (c6)	378,340 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	177 (e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	403,802 (x)	378,340 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	110,618	110,807
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	6,512,650	6,734,015
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 WEST PRESTON METHODIST CHURCH No.....

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 29/5/26

Name and address of treasurer STEPHEN GREGORY, FAIRACRE
CUMMAGH LANE, WHITTINGHAM, PRESTON Post Code PR3 2AL

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 13/10/25

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting REV M GRAMSLEY Date 29/05/26

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

..... West Preston Methodist

Charity Number . 1178663 0

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the West Preston Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2025 set out on pages 2 to 3. As the Church's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

* delete or circle as appropriate

Name of Church West Preston Methodist Church

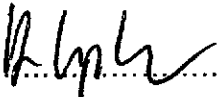
Independent Examiner's Statement

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

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

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

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

Signature of independent examiner 

Name of independent examiner DAVID KIPLING

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner MAAT

Name of firm (where appropriate) JOHN A. PORTER & CO.

Address 74 DICKENSON ROAD,

..... RUSHOLME MANCHESTER Post Code M14 5HF

Date 29/05/2026

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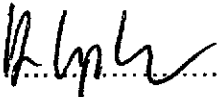
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