

MARKET HARBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
31 AUGUST 2024

Charity Number 1178813

MARKET HARBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the independently examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2024.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Name: Market Harborough Methodist Church

Charity Registration Number: 1178813

THE TRUSTEES (Church Council)

The Trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Revd Andrew Farrington (Superintendent Minister)
(To 31 August 2024)

Rev'd Nathan Falla (Superintendent Minister)
(From 1 September 2024)

Revd Andrew T Murphy (Chair)

Neil Hadkiss (Secretary)

Richard Huntington (Treasurer)

Church Stewards

Catherine Clarke

Paul Colliss

Emma Ferreri

Helen Green

David Haddow (to 31 August 2024)

Maggie Hadkiss

Rachel Hounsfield

Emily Murphy (from 1 September 2024)

Kate Upcraft (to 22 September 2024)

Other members of the Church Council

Anita Beer

Gill Billington

Susie Colliss

Alan Cox

Margaret Cox

Brenda Davies (to 31 August 2024)

David Haddow (from 1 September 2024)

Peter Hales

Shirley Hales

Christine Hodgson

Audrey Huntington (to 31 August 2024)

Sue Nixon

Caroline Osborne

John Pearce

Susan Routley

Hannah Russell

Ruth Thomas-Twinn

MARKET HARBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

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THE TRUSTEES (Church Council) (continued)

In attendance from the East Mercia Methodist Circuit:

Marilyn Calvert

In attendance as an observer, the Circuit Growth and Nurture support worker:

Melissa Wheeler (to 31 August 2024)

Independent Examiner

Sarah Atwell-King

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Market Harborough Methodist Church is part of the East Mercia Methodist Circuit, which in turn is a component of the Northampton District of the Methodist Church of Great Britain.

With effect from 1st September 2022, the Market Harborough Methodist Circuit merged with the Kettering and Corby and the Rugby and Daventry Methodist Circuits to form the East Mercia Methodist Circuit, a component of the Northampton District of the Methodist Church of Great Britain. The Superintendent Minister oversees the whole Circuit, with a Circuit Leadership Team of lay and ordained people.

The Superintendent Minister delegates responsibility for the church to the Minister in pastoral charge, who is supported by internal groups and committees as follows:

Church Council

The Superintendent Minister, the Minister appointed to the Church, Church Stewards, Treasurer, Church Council Secretary, up to 21 representative Church Members (elected annually by the General Church Meeting). In attendance is the Circuit Growth and Nurture worker. All appointments are made annually, although there is an expectation that members will serve for a number of years.

All the Committees listed below report to the Church Council, which meets at least twice annually.

Church Stewards

8 stewards are elected by the General Church Meeting, for a maximum of six years. Responsible, with the Minister, for leadership over a whole range of the church's life and for acting on decisions and policies of the Church Council.

Church Leadership Team

Regular meetings of Church Stewards and all other Church officers to ensure a forward-vision in the life of the Church and bring bringing proposals to the Church Council.

Pastoral Committee

Minister and Pastoral Visitors. Concerned with the pastoral care of Church members and attenders, maintenance of membership roll and promotion of fellowship through church groups.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Safeguarding Officer

The Church Council appoints a Safeguarding Officer who is appropriately trained and qualified, and this officer is supported by the Circuit Safeguarding Officers, and those at a District level.

Children and Youth Work Activities

Leaders of the various groups of children's activities are accountable to the Church Council, and to the Church and Circuit Safeguarding Officers, and their activities are reviewed regularly.

Prayer Ministry Team

This team of volunteers is active on a Sunday morning to provide prayer support when requested.

Worship and Music Team

Worship services are led by our Minister and other Preachers appointed by the Circuit. Musicians are co-ordinated by our music co-ordinator, and the wider church is occasionally consulted by the Minister in reviewing our provision of worship services.

Governance

Our statutes of governance and procedures such as the appointment of Trustees and other officers follows '*The Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church*' (CPD), which is revised annually by the Methodist Conference and published annually by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes (TMCP).

The primary governing body of Market Harborough Methodist Church, in accordance with CPD, is the Church Council. Members of the Council are the Managing Trustees, and the Council is chaired by the Minister. Church Council representatives and Church Stewards are elected at the General Church Meeting which is held annually. All church members can attend this meeting and are entitled to vote and raise any issues for discussion. The Trustees actively seek nominations for new Trustees who can represent all aspects of the church community and its activities.

At the first Church Council meeting of each year, new members receive documentation explaining their role as Trustees, which includes information provided by the Charity Commission. The Trustees receive no remuneration or other financial benefits from their work. All decisions taken at the Church Council meetings are minuted, and a summary is made available to church members and others by newsletters and in the weekly church service notices. A full copy of the Council minutes is displayed on a church noticeboard.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Management

The Trustees have maintained financial management arrangements requiring dual signatures on all cheques and other payment methods, and prior approval for all except minor items of expenditure.

The Trustees have maintained a Safeguarding policy with appropriate DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks for all aspects of the work of the Church with children and vulnerable adults.

The Trustees have maintained a system of formal risk assessment and a risk register. This includes mitigation strategies and is reviewed annually by the Trustees and by relevant sub-committees.

Day to Day management of the premises of the Church and the caretaking staff is delegated to the Minister, with support from members of the Church Leadership Team, some members of which are members of the Church Council.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Market Harborough Methodist Church seeks to achieve its purpose of advancing the Christian Faith by holding public worship on Sundays and on occasional weekdays, and by encouraging its members to live up to the priorities of the Methodist calling: evangelism, worship, service, learning and caring. The Methodist Church is called to be a growing, inclusive, evangelistic and justice-seeking church.

Every effort is made to ensure that the services are excellent in quality and accessible and inviting to all. As part of the 'Inclusive Church' network and as an 'Eco-Church' (silver award), the church endeavours to be both inclusive to all and ecologically sound.

The church buildings are open during the week both as a resource for local community groups to utilise and to provide a space for prayer, reflection and rest. Facilities are offered for baptisms, weddings and funerals, together with accompanying pastoral care.

The Church is an active member of 'Churches Together in Harborough' which promotes ecumenical dialogue, services and inter-denominational activities within Market Harborough and the surrounding area.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship

The pattern of Sunday worship has been sustained with weekly services at 10.15am every Sunday, and occasional other services for special days and festivals. The church has a willingness to innovate as well as maintaining a tradition of excellence, and continues to welcome visitors and new members. Our congregation is regularly around 80 people.

The 'live streaming' system to the church's YouTube internet site continues to allow housebound and other members to experience worship in their own homes alongside the congregation in the Church or at a later date. Our Sunday services regularly gain 50-100 views online.

MARKET HARBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Property & Finance

A steady programme of maintenance has continued through the year to ensure that the buildings provide a safe and welcoming space and to reduce their carbon footprint. £23,409 (2023 £16,049) of funds has been donated during the year to support a number of local and overseas projects which help people in need.

Growth in Membership / Loss of Members

Market Harborough Methodist Church encourages people to express their Christian commitment in terms of baptism, confirmation and church membership, and to continue to grow, learn and serve, in fellowship, worship and service in the community. In the year 2023-24, we received five new members and conducted one baptism. Sadly, three members died during this period, while a further two funerals were conducted by our minister on behalf of the church. There were no weddings conducted during the year. The current membership is just over 100.

Community Service

The premises remain available to a wide range of community groups and activities, including youth and community organisations, various charities, musical groups, and mutual interest groups such as the U3A. Church members engage as volunteers with a number of these organisations and others outside of church premises. In particular, members support the Jubilee Food Bank, the Bower House counselling service, and are involved in collecting for Christian Aid.

We have continued our regular café for Ukrainian people, established in 2022 as a safe meeting place and a source of information for Ukrainian families living within the area. It has been well supported.

Work with Children & Young People

- 'Fishes' is our regular Sunday School which meets 2 or 3 times per month, with currently around 7 children regularly attending.
- 'Pizza Club' is a fortnightly gathering for young people in school years 4-9, who meet for 2 hours with a group of leaders to socialise, eat together, play games and grow in Christian discipleship. Over the year we had 21 sessions, and one youth residential weekend at a national Methodist event, and the young people presented our Christmas Nativity Service. In total, 39 young people attended (with 26 of them attending 10 sessions or more). We also started an after-school 'Homework Club' for young people aged 11 and above. This was attended regularly by 4 young people.
- 'Stay, Play and Weigh' is a fortnightly group for parents with babies, run by volunteers from the Church. This has continued to grow in popularity, and is always very busy, with 30-40 families regularly attending.
- The Minister also regularly leads assemblies or classroom sessions in two Market Harborough primary schools, and Welland Park Academy (secondary school), as well as two other village schools in the area. In 2023-24, the minister was involved in 32 live assemblies, two visits from GCSE classes to the church, one school carol service, and 5 classroom talks.
- Our Methodist Circuit employed a Growth and Nurture Support Worker (up until 31st August 2024), to work in Market Harborough Methodist Church and others, whose job included pastoral work, children's work, outreach and nurture, organising a network of small groups for Christian fellowship and education including helping to prepare study material.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

Ecumenical Links

The Church has participated actively in Churches Together in Harborough (CTH) and supported the ecumenical events organised. Our premises also hosted a 'Holiday at Home' event for older citizens during the summer holidays, organised by CTH.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Church achieved a small surplus for the year ended 31 August 2024 as expenditure on maintenance of the buildings returned to more normal levels. Offerings from members were maintained at their previous levels although Gift Aid reduced in the year. All other costs were minimised wherever possible. Energy costs have reduced from the highs of 2023 and the benefits are being felt throughout the Church.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees aim to maintain free reserves in the unrestricted General Fund at a level which equates to approximately six months of unrestricted expenditure. The Trustees consider that at this level, the reserves will provide sufficient working capital to cover the normal fluctuations in income and expenditure and to meet emergency calls on cash, for example for unexpected repairs. At the end of the year, General Funds equated to 40.7% of annual General Fund expenditure. (2023 = 37.6%).

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Market Harborough

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2024

East Mercia	Circuit	Circuit no.	23/14
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1178813

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 Andrew T Murphy

Church Stewards:

Mrs Maggie Hadkiss Joint Senior Steward

Mrs Helen Green Joint Senior Steward

Miss Catherine Clarke Mrs Emma Ferreri

Mr Paul Colliss Mrs Kate Upcraft to 22 September 2024

Mrs Rachel Hounsfield Mr David Haddow to 31 August 2024

Mrs Emily Murphy from 1 September 2024

Treasurer:

Mr Richard Huntington

SECTION A			Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		Note	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS					
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered		65,707	12,518	78,225	79,515
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income		2,738	2,704	5,442	3,245
a4	Lettings		26,047		26,047	23,987
a5	Other receipts		673	10,890	11,563	9,241
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS		95,165	26,112	121,277 (a7)	115,988

SECTION B						
b1	PAYMENTS					
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share		45,390		45,390	46,920
b3	Donations			23,409	23,409	16,049
b4	Repairs and Maintenance		27,802		27,802	25,939
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)		10,766		10,766	12,634
b6	Capital Projects		3,090		3,090	10,850
b7	Other payments		4,766	2,329	7,095	8,377
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS		91,814	25,738	117,552 (b9)	120,769

SECTION C						
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	3,351	374	3,725	(4,781)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		41,347	71,536	112,883 (c6)	113,577
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	44,698	71,910	116,608	108,796
c4	Transfers and adjustments		1,866		1,866 (c7)	4,087
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	46,564	71,910	118,474 (c8)	112,883 (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			
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(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 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
e1	Benevolence Fund	2,240	2,046	194		988	1,182
e2	Bowls Club					201	201
e3	Ladies Contact Group		444	(444)	(350)	794	
e4	Together Lunches	2,982	2,002	980	(900)	454	534
e5	Tuesday Coffee Mornings	1,912	1,511	401	(616)	1,428	1,213
e6							
e7							
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	7,134	6,003	1,131	(1,866)	3,865 (e11)	3,130 (e12)
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	121,277 (a7)	117,552 (b9)	3,725	1,866 (c7)	112,883 (c6)	118,474 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	128,411	123,555	4,856		116,748 (x)	121,604 (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
f1	Cash in hand		
f2	Bank Current Account	5,995	2,015
f3	Bank Deposit Account		
f4	Central Finance Board	45,194	52,497
f5	Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	61,694	63,962
f6	Other funds		
f7	SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	112,883 (c6)	118,474 (c8)
f8	Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	3,865 (e11)	3,130 (e12)
f9	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	116,748 (x)	121,604 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

		At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
g1	Investments (include Endowments)	34,522	34,836
g2	Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	2,975,594	3,400,374
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)

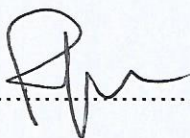
Name of Church: Market Harborough Methodist Church

No: 1178813

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.....

8/10/24

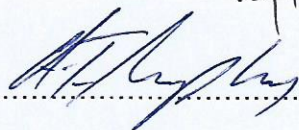
Name and address of Treasurer: Richard Huntington, 16 Horsefair Close, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 9QP

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

10/10/24

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting: Rev Andrew T Murphy

Date 10/10/2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

Market Harborough Methodist Church

Charity Number: 1178813

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Market Harborough 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: Market Harborough Methodist Church

No: 1178813

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 Mrs Sarah Atwell-King

Relevant professional qualification of Independent Examiner n/a.

Name of firm (where appropriate) n/a.

Address: 8 Ancaster Way, North Luffenham, LE15 8LH

Date 6/10/24

* delete or circle as appropriate

RESERVES POLICY of

Market Harborough Church Council

1.	General Funds held at Y/E 31/08/2024	£46,563 (2023 = £41,347)
2.	Restricted Funds held “	£37,075 (2023 = £37,014)
3.	Endowment Funds held “	£34,836 (2023 = £34,522)

4. Reserves policy for General Funds

The Trustees aim to maintain free reserves in the General Fund (unrestricted) at a level which equates to approximately six months of unrestricted expenditure.

The Trustees consider that at this level, the reserves will provide sufficient working capital to cover the normal fluctuations in income and expenditure and to meet emergency calls on cash, for example for unexpected repairs. At the end of the year, General Funds equated to 40.7% of annual General Fund Expenditure. (2023 = 37.6%)

5. Policy for Restricted Funds

The principal Restricted Funds held are for the support of children's and youth work in the Church. At the end of the year they amounted to £ 22,949. (2023 = £24,842).

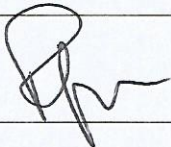
The index-linked portion of the Ivy Peach Bequest which is available for major repairs amounted to £9,760 (2023 = £7,910).

6. Terms relating to Endowment Funds held

The principal Endowment Fund is the Ivy Peach Bequest, which is invested with TMCP, Manchester. This permanent endowment amounts to £28,240. The interest on this bequest can be used for the maintenance of the Church buildings and the organ. The Church Council has designated that the capital in this trust should be index-linked each year to provide a fund for major repairs. Any surplus funds over and above the index-linked amount are freely available for general Church maintenance. At the end of the year, the index-linked amount was £9,760 and is shown as a restricted fund above. The freely available amount at the year-end was £nil (2023 = £nil), and is included in General Funds above.

This Reserves Policy has been approved by

Market Harborough Church Council

Treasurer	Trustee
Full name Richard Huntington	Full Name Rev Andrew T Murphy
Signature 	Signature 