

MARKET HARBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS
31 AUGUST 2025

Charity Number 1178813

MARKET HARBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the independently examined financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025.

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:

Rev'd Nathan Falla (Superintendent Minister)
Revd Andrew T Murphy (Chair)
Neil Hadkiss (Secretary)
Richard Huntington (Treasurer)

Church Stewards

Catherine Clarke
Paul Colliss
Emma Ferreri
Helen Green
Maggie Hadkiss
Rachel Hounsfield
Emily Murphy

Other members of the Church Council

Anita Beer
Gill Billington
Susie Colliss
Alan Cox
Margaret Cox
David Haddow
Peter Hales
Shirley Hales
Christine Hodgson
Sue Nixon
Caroline Osborne
John Pearce
Susan Routley
Hannah Russell
Ruth Thomas-Twinn

MARKET HARBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

THE TRUSTEES (Church Council) (continued)

In attendance from the East Mercia Methodist Circuit:

Marilyn Calvert

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). 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 attendees, maintenance of membership roll and promotion of fellowship through church groups.

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.

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TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

Church & Community Chaplain

The Circuit has appointed a lay chaplain to assist the minister in the pastoral work of the church and in community outreach. She works 18 hours per week, of which approximately 6 hours are spent in our church and community in Market Harborough.

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.

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.

MARKET HARBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

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YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

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

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.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

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.

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. £30,438 (2024 £27,802) of funds has been donated during the year to support a number of local and overseas projects which help people in need.

MARKET HARBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (continued)

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 2024-25, we received seven new members and conducted two baptisms of adults. 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 the young people once again presented our Christmas Nativity Service. In total, 37 young people attended (with around half of them attending 10 sessions or more).
- '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 2024-25, the minister was involved in 32 live assemblies, two visits from GCSE classes to the church, one school carol service, and 5 classroom talks.

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.

MARKET HARBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Church achieved a small surplus for the year ended 31 August 2025 as expenditure on routine maintenance of the buildings returned to more normal levels. Offerings from members were 9% higher than the previous year and Gift Aid increased accordingly. During the year, it became necessary to replace the front part of the Church roof, at a cost of £48,000 due to deterioration of the underlying felt. Church members donated over half the cost; the balance being covered by a grant from the East Mercia Circuit.

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 45.9% of annual General Fund expenditure. (2024 = 40.7%).

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Market Harborough	Church
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2025

East Mercia Methodist	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 Mr Paul Colliss

Mrs Emma Ferrerei Mrs Rachel Hounsfield

Mrs Emily Murphy

Treasurer:

Mr Richard Huntington

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	77,998	58,272	136,270	78,225
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	2,781	2,834	5,615	5,442
a4	Lettings	25,402		25,402	26,047
a5	Other receipts	544	9,656	10,200	11,563
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	106,725	70,762	177,487 (a7)	121,277

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	50,334		50,334	45,390
b3	Donations		17,782	17,782	23,409
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	30,438	48,173	78,611	27,802
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	12,248		12,248	10,766
b6	Capital Projects	1,870		1,870	3,090
b7	Other payments	6,088		6,088	7,095
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	100,978	65,955	166,933 (b9)	117,552

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR (a6-b8)	5,747	4,807	10,554	3,725
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	46,564	71,910	118,474 (c6)	112,883
c3	Sub total (c1+c2)	52,311	76,717	129,028	116,608
c4	Transfers and adjustments	1,331		1,331 (c7)	1,866
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR (c3+c4)	53,642	76,717	130,359 (c8)	118,474 (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		
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 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 Benevolence Fund	1,137	1,375	(238)		1,182	944
e2 Bowls Club					202	202
e3 Together Lunches	2,893	2,309	584	(700)	534	418
e4 Tuesday Coffee Mornings	2,102	2,105	(3)	(631)	1,213	579
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	6,132	5,789	343	(1,331)	3,131 (e11)	2,143 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	177,487 (a7)	166,933 (b9)	10,554	1,331 (c7)	118,474 (c6)	130,359 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	183,619	172,722	10,897		121,605 (x)	132,502 (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		
f2 Bank Current Account	2,015	1,044
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	52,497	63,283
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	63,962	66,032
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	118,474 (c6)	130,359 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	3,131 (e11)	2,143 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	121,605 (x)	132,502 (y)

SECTION G**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1 Investments (include Endowments)	34,836	35,122
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	3,400,374	3,488,795
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)

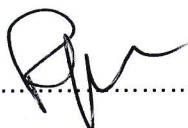
Name of Church: Market Harborough Methodist Church

No: 1178813

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 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.....

5/11/25

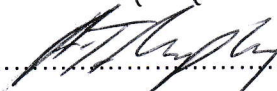
Name and address of Treasurer: Richard Huntington, 16 Horsefair Close, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 9QP

Presentation to the Church trustees

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

9/10/25

Signature of the Chair of the meeting



Name of the Chair of the meeting

Rev Andrew Murphy

Date

08/11/25

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 2025 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.

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 Sarah Atwell-King

Name of Independent Examiner: Mrs Sarah Atwell-King

Relevant professional qualification of Independent Examiner CIMA

Name of firm (where appropriate) nb

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

Date 2/11/25

* delete or circle as appropriate

RESERVES POLICY of

Market Harborough Church Council

1.	General Funds held at Y/E 31/08/2025	£53,642 (2024 = £46,563)
2.	Restricted Funds held “	£41,595 (2024 = £37,075)
3.	Endowment Funds held “	£35,122 (2024 = £34,836)

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 45.9% of annual General Fund Expenditure. (2024 = 40.7%)

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 £ 26,269. (2024 = £27,314).

The index-linked portion of the Ivy Peach Bequest which is available for major repairs amounted to £11,449 (2024 = £9,760).


In addition, £3,877 (2024 = £nil) remains in the Roof Fund available for Church Refurbishment work.

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 £11,449 and is shown as a restricted fund above. The freely available amount at the year-end was £nil (2024 = £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 