

Glenfield Methodist Church

Minutes of the Church Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17 January 2024, 7pm

Present: Revd Helen Bell (Chair), Jane Sowler (Secretary), Viv Asher, Alison Asher, Alison Blane, Mary Bothwell, Elizabeth Casely, Geoff Clarke, Liz Clarke, Trevor Davies, Tom Limb, Vivienne Limb, Peter Sowler, Linda York, Wally York

Apologies: David Almey, Margaret Almey, Andy Cereseto, Celia Davis, Anne Fenton, Janet Mouland, David Postlethwaite (Circuit Steward)

Not in attendance: Donna Jobling

Revd Helen Bell welcomed everyone to the meeting which opened with devotions.

Helen asked the meeting to stand to remember Yvonne Meadows and Alison Blane's father, John, who had died since our last meeting.

1. Appointments and make-up of the Church Council

- i) As the largest membership in the circuit, our representation at Circuit meetings is not as great as it should be. Elizabeth Casely offered to attend as a representative from this meeting. Jane agreed to ask those who had given apologies if they might be interested in attending Circuit meetings.
- ii) Trevor Davies will be resigning as a steward at the Annual Church Meeting in April. Revd Helen will be considering who to approach to fill this role.
- iii) Kathryn Devonport had resigned as Bookings Officer. Revd Helen and the Property Committee will be considering who to approach to fill this role.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on 2 October 2023 were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising and other news

- i) Toddler Group leadership – Vicky and Claire, the two helpers, had not yet completed the Methodist Church Safeguarding Foundation training. Revd Helen said there were training courses becoming available.
- ii) Property & Finance – black and yellow tape had been fixed onto the step from the church into the foyer for safety purposes, and a steward was on duty for funerals and other 'outside' events to highlight the step.
- iii) The plaque to commemorate Pearl Ives, which had been agreed at the 2023 Annual Church Meeting, had arrived and would be blessed at the service on 4 February. This plaque will be put up in the concourse.
- iv) Two bible study groups had met during Advent, both with small numbers but good discussions.
- v) The Nativity Festival had gone well but would perhaps have benefitted from better publicity. The fact it was held the week following the Christmas Market meant some church members were not able to offer assistance. It was agreed that if the Christmas Tree Festival went ahead in December, it should be later in the month.
- vi) Revd Helen confirmed that the United Service at St Peter's would be at 10am, and would be a service of Holy Communion, with non-alcoholic wine available. Church Council members were concerned that a chalice only would be used, but it was explained that the wafer could be dipped into the wine of a separate chalice so no cross-infection should occur.

4. Connexion & District

Revd Helen reported that across the country, there was a shortage of ministers, especially in rural areas such as Lincolnshire and in Scotland, with some circuits only having one minister.

Revd Helen Cameron would be finishing as Chair of District in May, to prepare for the role of President in September.

5. Circuit Steward's Report

David Postlethwaite's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

- i) Revd Sydney-Samuel Lake had been invited to be Circuit Superintendent and Minister for Glenfield and New Parks churches and he had accepted the invitation for September 2024. This will be ratified at the Methodist Conference in June.

- ii) Enderby Life Church was hoping to purchase Enderby Methodist Church, and Revd Helen and Liz Clarke were going to be meeting with representatives next week.
- iii) Justin Moulder is in discussion with the District to see if the Men's Shed at New Parks qualified under the 'New Place for New People' project within the Circuit.
- iv) Work will be continued over the summer to prepare the manse on Triumph Road for Revd Lake.
- v) Revd Helen will be attending the District Disability Awareness workshop via Zoom in February, with the invitation open to anyone else who might like to attend.

6. Church Life

i) Pastoral

Revd Helen was delighted to be able to make 4 new members at the service in January.

ii) Worship and Plan issues

Due to a shortage of preachers, our church had been given 2 Local Arrangements on the next plan.

Dates for the Plan:

28 March – Maundy Thursday – United Service at New Parks

29 March – Good Friday – Hot Cross Buns and coffee/tea served in the morning, with a service at 12noon.

31 March, 10.15am – Easter Day – Revd Helen Bell

14 July – Revd Helen's leaving service

iii) Diary Dates

Saturday 13 April, 10am-2pm – Church Open Day

Tuesday 23 April, 7pm – Annual Church Meeting

iii) Church Groups

- ***Sunday Club & Friday Club*** – the numbers at Friday Club have grown as some of our younger children have become old enough to attend and have settled in well. This is staffed by Justin and Annabel, Linda, Wally and Celia with the time of fun and relaxation ending with a five-minute epilogue.
Sunday Club continues with a group of 3-12 year olds who don't always attend each week, but Linda and Celia are diligent in providing a place where our youngsters can go to learn during our church services. They are grateful for the help that Annalie gives and to Theo for setting the room up each week.
- ***Monday Warm Space*** – This continues to be a good place for those on their own, or as couples to come along and chat with their often 'new-found' friends. The soup lunches have been greatly appreciated in our warm lounge.
- ***Memory Café*** – This new group which meets once a month started in October, and between 14-23 people have attended. It has been so well received, and there is currently a waiting list to join. The café starts off with a short act of worship and then activities such as singing, craft work, quizzes, games, chair exercises, word searches and colouring take place. Volunteers are usually on duty 2 out of 3 sessions.
- ***Thursday Fellowship*** – Alison Blane told the meeting that their fellowship was continuing to study Thessalonians and it was of benefit to all who attended.
- ***Playgroup and Toddlers*** – Liz reported that while Playgroup were still struggling with numbers, there had been some further enquiries. She told the meeting that the staff were working well with the families on a pastoral basis.
Toddler Group continued to bloom, with lots of children and adults enjoying the Friday sessions. They had enjoyed a Christmas nativity and visit from Santa in December.
- ***Saturday Prayer Group*** – Alison said that while they were small in number, they prayed for individuals, our community and world-wide issues.
- ***Crafternoon*** – Linda and Liz had started an afternoon of craft making which met monthly, sharing a cup of tea too. To date they had supported things such as the Christmas Market with bulb planting, pickled onion labelling and Christmas decorations.

iv) Discipleship

Tom showed the copy of 'Revive us Again', by Leslie Newton which he and Revd Helen hoped to use for the Lent Study Groups.

Tom had visited Knighton Free Church to meet with Leah Aldridge who was their liaison with schools, as Tom was interested in seeing if our church could have more connection with the schools in the village. It was thought that people going into school to assist children with reading might be the way forward at this time.

v) Social and Fellowship Events

Revd Helen offered to find a date for a Church Family Picnic in early summer.

vi) Mission Opportunities

a) Churches will be receiving copies of the Circuit Lent Booklet 2024, reflections and prayer based on the daily readings at a small cost.

b) FEAST (Friends Exploring and Sharing Together). Feast is a District initiative which seeks to develop friendship groups with a common interest, e.g. walking, book club, but which intentionally involves faith-based conversations. We are always looking out for possible groups to develop in this way.

vii) Churches Together

Churches Together are hoping to organise a Pentecost Party.

7. Property and Finance

i) Property

a) The Quinquennial inspection took place on 23 October and the report had been discussed at the recent Property and Finance meeting. Viv Asher had submitted a short report to the meeting, thanking the three property stewards, Dave, Trevor and Wally for their continued hard work.

b) Tom Limb confirmed he is still exploring the possibility of a covered area for bikes.

c) Consideration was being given to the best way to create a memorial garden at the side of the chapel. It was suggested that a book of remembrance would be difficult to maintain in future years, and that either plaques or a website could be created, the latter linked to our church website with photographs, dates and words dedicated to those who had died.

ii) Treasurer's report

Geoff Clarke had submitted substantial accounts prior to the meeting. He reported that money had been budgeted for any building repairs or work following the Quinquennial report, but there was not money available for some of the projects that we might like to undertake, such as removal of the stage or a car parking space in the current garden area.

He was grateful for the donations and grants that had been received over the year, and that generally, our finances were in a good position.

Revd Helen once again thanked Geoff for his work on our behalf.

8. Safeguarding

i) Revd Helen had a meeting arranged with Peter Sowler and Andy Cereseto with regard to organising safeguarding within our church.

ii) She reported that the Circuit Leadership Team were considering the possibility of employing a person to take on the Circuit Safeguarding Officer's role.

iii) Revd Helen was pleased to report there were no 'live' safeguarding cases within our church fellowship.

iv) Revd Helen and Viv Asher would be meeting to look at completing a Safeguarding Audit within our church buildings.

9. GDPR

i) The Circuit would be making February 'GDPR' month, with the deadline for completion of paperwork the end of May.

ii) Justice, Dignity and Solidarity (JDS) training – new dates were becoming available for face-to-face training.

10. Eco Church

Linda and Jane agreed to meet with Revd Helen to complete the application form to see if we could apply for the Bronze award.

THE METHODIST CHURCH STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

Glenfield Methodist Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 August 2023

Leicester West	Circuit	Circuit no.	23/9
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1180910

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'd Helen Bell

Church Stewards:

Vivienne Limb	Trevor Davies
Alison Blane	Mary Bothwell
Elizabeth Casely	Alison Asher

Treasurer:

Geoff Clarke

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	48,821		48,821	45,634
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	2,125		2,125	159
a4	Lettings	11,867		11,867	10,613
a5	Other receipts	18,735	1,307	20,042	9,771
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	81,547	1,307	82,854 (a7)	66,178

SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	44,148		44,148	43,663
b3	Donations	690		690	704
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	2,921		2,921	2,376
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	7,005		7,005	5,991
b6					
b7	Other payments	20,030	813	20,843	11,273
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	74,793	813	75,606 (b9)	64,007

SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	6,754	494	7,248
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		40,137	2,515	42,652 (c6)
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	46,891	3,009	49,900
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	46,891	3,009	49,900 (c8)
					42,652 (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	6,636	7,193
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	6,636	7,193
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 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	20-20 Project	69,329	268,077	(198,748)		228,912	30,164
e2	20-20 Reserve Fund	11,598	30,072	(18,474)	(11,579)	30,052	
e3	Playgroup	77,707	65,448	12,260		50,712	62,972
e4	Youth Worker	770	1,757	(987)		16,556	15,568
e5	Toddler Group	755	488	267	(250)	12	28
e6	Drama/Ladies Fellowship		63	(63)	40	1,719	1,696
e7	Girls Brigade	1,568	1,293	275	(286)	59	47
e8	Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	161,728	367,199	(205,471)	(12,075)	328,021	110,475
e9	Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	82,854 (a7)	75,606 (b9)	7,248	(c7)	42,652 (c6)	49,900 (c8)
e10	TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	244,583	442,805	(198,223)	(12,075)	370,673 (x)	160,375 (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 2023**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	119	16
f2 Bank Current Account	6,412	5,186
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	36,097	44,674
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	23	24
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	42,652 (c6)	49,900 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	328,021 (e11)	110,475 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	370,673 (x)	160,375 (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 GLENFIELD METHODIST No.

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 G. Clarke Date 19-9-23

Name and address of treasurer Geoff Clarke

8 Faire Road, Glenfield, Leicester, LE3 8EA

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 02/10/2023.....

Signature of the Chair of the meeting Rev'd Helen Bell

Name of the Chair of the meeting .. Rev'd Helen Bell 02/10/2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Glenfield Methodist Church

Charity Number 1180910

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Glenfield 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 . Glenfield 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 John Pickard

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner .. N/A

Address 15 Oak Road, Littlethorpe, Leicester, LE19 2HP

Date 24. 10. 2023

* delete or circle as appropriate