



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
From	01	09	2022	To	31	08	2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Ludlow Methodist Church	
Other names charity is known by		
Registered charity number (if any)	1182508	
Charity's principal address	52 Broad Street	
	Ludlow	
Postcode	SY8 1NH	

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Maureen Farmery			
2	Joyce Evans			
3	Roger Clayton			
4	Ann Powell			
5	Geoff Edwardson			
6	Heather Price			
7	David Evans			
8	Janet Williams			
9	Eileen Precious			
10	Mike Owens			
11	Janet James			
12	Rev Kim Stilwell	Chair	Resigned September 2023	
13	Cathy Pritchard			
14	Laurence Taylor			
15	David Harlington	Treasurer		
16	Adrian Williams			
17	Brent Waite			
18	Stephen Dalton			
19	Rhiannon Richardson			
20	Rev Neil Richardson			
21	Elizabeth Wright			
22	Edith Blair		Resigned April 2023	
23	Annie Jones			

24	John Eadie			
25	Cathy Pritchard			
26	Ron Gittings			
27	Ruth Downes			
28	Lindsay Beavon			
29	Rev Denise Hargreaves	Chair	Appointed September 2023	
30	Susan McGarvey		Appointed April 2023	
31				
32				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

--

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Deed of Union (1932) Methodist Church Act 1976
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	The Church's Constitution is contained in Parts 1 and 2 of the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church, CPD. The composition of the Church Council is outlined in Standing Order 610 of the CPD and is elected annually. Ludlow Methodist Church registered as a charity 18 March 2019.
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Standing Order 607(3) limits the tenure of church stewards, treasurers or Church Council and Pastoral Committee secretaries and those elected to the Church Council under Standing Order 623 to six successive years (subject to the exception outlined in Standing Order 607(4)). Standing Order 607(1) provides that all other appointments, either those members adopted by the Church Council (up to 15) or elected at the General Church Meeting (between 6 and 15), shall be for one year.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The advancement of the Christian faith in accordance with the doctrinal standards and the discipline of the Methodist Church.
The advancement of any charitable purpose of any society, organisation, charity subsidiary or ancillary to the Methodist Church.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Ludlow Methodist Church seeks to fulfil its mission by:

- Offering a welcome to all to join in conversation, worship and other activities.
- Helping people to learn about and develop faith and grow in Christian discipleship.
- Supporting members of the Church family and being a caring community with opportunities to study and pray together.
- Ensuring that all aspects of Church life reflect its open policy and make provision for all ages.
- Practising the inclusive gospel of Jesus Christ
- Working with our Christian neighbours in other local Churches, as well as people of other faith and no faith, and with the wider Church family in the Shropshire and Marches Circuit and throughout the world.

The charity Trustees have given due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

This last year has been one of growing confidence and consolidation as the church settles to a post- pandemic norm. Attendance at Sunday Worship has been steady, and it has been encouraging to see regular new faces. We are delighted to welcome a large family for Junior Church on a regular basis. Tea and Worship is much appreciated, and we have re-started monthly Church in the Café discussion evenings. Tuesday afternoon bible study has been very well attended throughout the year, including ecumenically, in Lent – we are very grateful to Rev Neil Richardson for leading these.

A highlight of the year has been the success in finding a new Minister. Rev Denise Hargreaves and her husband Maurice had identified Ludlow as her first choice and, after a very encouraging visit, the “match” was enthusiastically approved by both sides and the church welcomed them both in September.

Last September saw a conversation and vote on the question of whether to register for same-sex marriages. The voting was very strongly in favour of proceeding, whilst recognising that some members continue to have legitimate reservations. We move forward in love and sometimes with contrary convictions. Registration documents have now been signed.

Zooming of Sunday services has continued, and technical issues have now largely been resolved. There is a core of regular users of the Zoom facility, together with others who use Zoom occasionally when unwell or away.

The Café is being well used on most days and is much appreciated. However, following a fall by Edith Blair, we were sorry to see her retirement as Café Manager and are deeply indebted to her for the work she has cheerfully and faithfully done for many years. At present the work is being covered by volunteers

but this is under review. We are delighted that Edith has agreed to continue as a Wesley’s volunteer.

Zoom Coffee and Chat has been maintained and the group have hosted occasional meetings in-person which draws in many new members.

Pastoral support has been provided by the Pastoral Team and Home Communion services are being held on a regular basis. Weekly Newsletters are delivered by hand, or by post or email, as well as being collected at church. Very many thanks to all who have been involved in preparing and delivering these. We have a new editor of the monthly magazine, to whom we are very grateful.

Worship opportunities at Care Homes have been increasing, led by our Community Chaplain and in conjunction with sister churches in CTAL. Open the Book Assemblies are delivered by teams involving our members in 5 local primary schools.

As an outreach event in December, we held “Taste of Christmas” - a well-received and successful Fayre-with-a-message. Opportunities were available for people to make Christmas purchases as well as to share conversation and reflect on the meaning of the Christmas story.

Hands Together has continued to grow and has new premises in Galdeford so office space in the church is no longer needed, although the Church continues to be used for some Hands Together activities. It has been sad to see diminishing links between Hands Together Ludlow and

the church, but encouraging to see the Charity flourishing so well independently.

Finances are reported elsewhere, but despite horrendous increases in utility costs we are close to target in relation to our budget. We continue to be grateful to all who give regularly, and to our interim Treasurer, who has worked with our Administrator to deal with the closing of our bank branch and the lengthy and tortuous process of transferring of our account.

The Church building has been maintained in excellent condition for which we are very grateful to our Property Steward, the property team and the cleaners for all their work. Lettings have returned to a healthy level and are carefully overseen by our Administrator – but more volunteers are needed to help with opening and closing, AV and refreshments. Among regular bookings are the Table Tennis evening. AA and the Mental Health Coffee Morning – all important services to the community.

The Caring for Creation Group continues to meet regularly on Zoom. We hosted a significant environmental exhibition – the Loving Earth Project - recently displayed in the Palace of Westminster. There is a plan to develop the cottage garden to make it more wildlife-friendly, whilst ensuring it remains low maintenance.

Fun in Fundraising has been very successful in running events to raise money for the church as well as to provide joyful social and outreach occasions.

Church Membership stands at 98, holding steady despite sadly losing some of our much-loved members who have gone to glory. We are glad that some of our new members have been able to take up active roles in the life of the church. A very successful event welcoming new joiners was held in the Summer. A skittles evening was held as a social gathering for all members and friends.

Churches Together around Ludlow continues its regular activities, and now has a Chair for the year. Some church leaders are also meeting regularly for fellowship and prayer.

Blackford has held 4 services since the beginning of the church year, the Christmas Carol service being well attended and much appreciated. Caynham Chapel has been sold.

As this is the last Annual Report with Rev Kim Stilwell as minister, he expresses a huge gratitude for all the kindness and care shown to him and his family and gives thanks for the privilege of being able to serve the Ludlow church. They leave in difficult times for the Church as a whole, but with every confidence in the resilience of the faithfulness and love shown by Ludlow Methodist Church members as they seek to continue to Worship God and serve this community.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The aim of Ludlow Methodist Church is to maintain at least a £50k reserve to cover a half of the Assessment, Utilities and Running Costs, and Staff commitments.
Of the £98,891 total cash funds held by the church at the year-end, £13,507 is held in the designated funds of our internal organisations, leaving the remaining £85,384 classed as unrestricted.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F

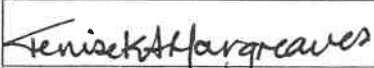
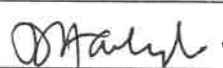
Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Rev Denise Hargreaves	David Harlington
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	2nd November 2023	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Ludlow Methodist Church

1182508

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/09/2022

To

31/08/2023

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Offerings and Tax recoverable	60,434		-	60,434	69,061
Interest and Investment income	1,536		-	1,536	197
Lettings	20,013		-	20,013	21,553
Legacies			-	-	1,485
Other income	9,233		-	9,233	7,252
Internal Organisations	28,086		-	28,086	25,448
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	119,302	-	-	119,302	124,996
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	119,302	-	-	119,302	124,996
A3 Payments					
Circuit Assessment or Share	59,250		-	59,250	59,438
Grants and Donations	6,000		-	6,000	6,000
Repairs and Maintenance	6,272		-	6,272	4,590
Insurance, Utilities etc	15,165		-	15,165	8,782
Provisions			-	-	-
Other expenditure	5,534		-	5,534	4,638
Salaries / Professional Fees	14,166		-	14,166	14,143
Internal Organisations	16,687		-	16,687	17,151
Sub total	123,074	-	-	123,074	114,742
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	0
Total payments	123,074	-	-	123,074	114,742
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 3,772	-	-	- 3,772	10,254
A5 Transfers between funds					
	102,663	-	-	102,663	92,409
A6 Cash funds last year end					
Cash funds this year end	98,891	-	-	98,891	102,663

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at Bank	56,080		-
	Central Finance Board & Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes deposits	42,811		-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	98,891	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

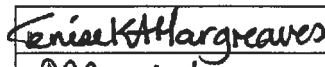
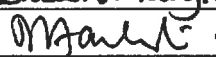
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Improvements to Church buildings and other property	General	306,757	
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	HARGREAVES DKA	02-11-23
	HARLINGTON D	02-11-23



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Ludlow Methodist Church

On accounts for the year
ended

31/08/2023

Charity no
(if any)

1182508

Set out on pages

7 - 8

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/08/2023**

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity'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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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.

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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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.

Signed:

Date:

27/11/2023

Name:

T Lunt

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

BA FCCA MIRPM

Address:

WR Partners

Belmont House, Shrewsbury Business Park,

Shrewsbury. SY2 6LG

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.