

ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH WHITLEY BAY

England & Wales · Charity number 1184805

Details

Other names ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 2019-08-07

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address St. Johns Methodist Church
Ilfracombe Gardens
Whitley Bay
NE26 3ND

Phone 01912512355

Email stjohnsmethodistoffice@gmail.com

Website <http://www.stjohnsmethodist.co.uk/>

Activities

Objects: THE PURPOSES OF THE METHODIST CHURCH ARE AND SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN SINCE THE DATE OF UNION THE ADVANCEMENT OF - (A) THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DOCTRINAL STANDARDS AND THE DISCIPLINE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH; (B) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CONNEXIONAL, DISTRICT, CIRCUIT, LOCAL OR OTHER ORGANISATION OF THE METHODIST CHURCH; (C) ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY SOCIETY OR INSTITUTION SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH; (D) ANY PURPOSE FOR THE TIME BEING OF ANY CHARITY BEING A CHARITY SUBSIDIARY OR ANCILLARY TO THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Activities: We are individuals and families of all shapes and sizes, seeking to celebrate and share the love of God with everyone. We do this through: Creating a welcoming, outward-looking community for all. Encouraging the deepening of faith and commitment as we seek to follow the way of Jesus. Serving our local neighbourhood and beyond. Challenging injustice and supporting the vulnerable.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Religious Activities, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- North Tyneside

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£114,074	£119,257	-	-
2023-08-31	£99,612	£137,270	-	-
2022-08-31	£77,177	£107,402	-	-
2021-08-31	£135,883	£89,144	-	-
2020-08-31	£87,136	£110,436	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Lowe		2019-04-01
COLIN RAISTRICK MF		2019-04-01
Carol Baggaley		2019-04-01
Carole Firth		2019-04-01
Dr Susan Sabourn		2019-04-01
Howard Scott		2019-04-01
Jacqueline Tallon		2019-04-01
Lesley Thompson		2019-04-01
Margaret Lumsdon		2019-04-01
Margaret Rushton		2022-05-08
Margaret Stephenson		2019-04-01
Noreen Rees		2019-04-01
Owen Lumsdon		2019-04-01
Rev Eva Walker		2019-04-01
Sally Elizabeth Clark		2021-11-01
Susan Erika Wood		2021-11-01
UNA MILLER		2019-04-01

ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH WHITLEY BAY

England & Wales - Charity number 1184805

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025



Registered charity no 1184805

CHURCH COUNCIL 2024-2025

Members

Revd Eva Walker	Minister
Owen Lumsdon	Treasurer (to 30.09.24)
Debbie Mathieson	Treasurer (from 1.10.24)
Susan Wood	Secretary
Carol Baggaley	Senior Steward, Safeguarding Officer
Sally Clark	Steward
Margaret Rushton	Steward
Susan Sabourn	Steward
Noreen Rees	Steward
John Liddle	Steward
Una Miller	Pastoral Secretary
Margaret Stephenson	Worship Leader
Andrew Lowe	Chair, Finance and Property Committee
Colin Raistrick	Safeguarding Officer, Data Protection, We Give You A Warm Welcome
Carole Firth	Elected Member representative
Noreen Rees	Elected Member representative
Jackie Tallon	Elected Member representative
Margaret Lumsdon	Elected Member representative
Lesley Thompson	Elected Member representative
Jenny Fothergill	Elected Member representative
Independent Examiner	Rachel Hunter (to 31 .09.24) Sue Mason (from 1.10.24)

We are in partnership with

Action for Children

All We Can

Friday Cuppa (Warm Space)

St John's Methodist Church

Registered Charity no: 1184805

For more information about any of our Church activities please contact

Church Office - Opening hours Monday-Friday 9am-4pm

Ilfracombe Gardens
Whitley Bay
NE26 3ND
Telephone 0191 251 2355
stjohnsmethodistoffice@gmail.com

Minister

Revd Eva Walker
Telephone Home – 0191 280 8060
revevawalker@gmail.com

Staff

Colin Raistrick - Office Administrator
Patricia Kamba - Cleaner
Karen Morley - Church Family Worker

Church Family Worker

For children's activities contact
churchfamilyworker@gmail.com 0755 266 4747

Media

www.facebook.com/StJohnsMethodistChurchWhitleyBay/
stjohnsmethodistchurchwhitleybay.co.uk



Staff – Karen, Patricia and Colin

Our Minister – Revd Eva Walker





It is time again to receive this booklet that holds within it: encounters, God's presence, faithfulness, tears, goodbyes, welcomes, service, gratitude, humility, testimony of God at work in our lives, and so much more.

We receive this booklet soon after we received the special edition of Focus, celebrating 100 years of the cornerstone being put down. And that Focus edition was full of stories, testimonies of life with God and with each other throughout the years. And within those years, and since we last met like this in June last year, we remember our own Harold Robson, Sheila Hay, Joan Agnew and Angela Allen who went to be home with Jesus. People who have affected our lives and today we remember the words Harold left us, inviting us to live fully in the present, without forgetting the past. And that is what we do today.

I am writing this reflection on the afternoon of Maundy Thursday and soon I will be coming to St John's to sit down at the table with my brothers and sisters and with our Jesus, to hear once again that commandment that Jesus gave us: 'Love one another.'

Jesus gave that command sitting at the table, doing life with all, the friend and the betrayer. Jesus washed the feet of them all, including the feet of Judas. Jesus broke the bread and said: 'Take, eat. This is my body.' The body of God given over, broken, vulnerable and offered in trust.

And in our walk of faith, we are invited to do the same, to make ourselves vulnerable for the sake of God and the other, to give ourselves in service and love and to give all we give in trust.

And so, page after page, there is that giving. The welcoming, the cooking, the cleaning, the sorting, the maintaining of buildings and gardens and finances, the standing in for someone else, the making of tea and coffee, the knitting and chatting, the sitting alongside, the being present, the leading of worship, the crafts, the making of music, the singing, the sewing, the dancing, the partying, the playing, and so, so much more.

Vulnerable giving, giving in love and in trust. All for the sake of God and community.

And this year has been extra special, as we have celebrated and continue to celebrate with and in community the centenary. Allow me to share this one moment with you. In January with the Uniformed Organisations we organised a Ceilidh. We provided the food, the Uniformed Organisations paid for the band, and we offered a free evening to our community on Burns Night. I remember standing up for the first dance with a member of the community, and next to me two children dancing together. And then the call was made for all to swap partners. I saw their faces. They were confused, they were meant to hold hands with strangers? And yet it took a few minutes for them to learn that this is what community is all about, all ages trusting each other and supporting each other and all the children never stopped being part of the dance routines and by the end of the night I believe their world had become a bit bigger. We can do it friends, change each other's world, one little thing at a time.

So thank you, thank you for giving in love, thank you for giving yourself to God and to this community. I love ministering alongside each and every one of you, I love being part of an amazing leadership team, I love being called 'our Eva' and belonging to this community, for there is no better thing than to know you belong. I love seeing God at work in this place and beyond. What joy, what humbling and life giving joy.

Thank you dear friends for being you and enjoy reading the stories of faithfulness shared in the following pages.

Love and God's blessings, **Eva**





Pastoral

Pastoral Leadership Team

Revd Eva Walker
 Revd Tony Farrar
 Revd Gary Ridley
 John Morley
 Una Miller

Pastoral Visitors

Una Miller
 Pat Turnbull
 Pat Brown
 Margaret Stephenson
 Margaret Lumsdon
 Val Farrar
 Valerie Todhunter
 Pauline Hurse
 Doris Miller
 Heather Hindmarsh
 Anita Lambert
 Monica Hayden

Members Transferred

Maureen Stewart
 Peter Stewart

Pastoral Group Contacts

Afternoon Club
 Badminton - Pat Brown
 Choir- Christine Liddle
 Community Lunch - Margaret Stephenson
 FaB (Friends and Believers) - Lesley Thompson
 Faith and Friendship, morning - Pauline Hurse
 Faith and Friendship evening - Colin Raistrick
 Faith and Life - Tony Farrar
 Flower Ministry - Val Farrar
 Friday Cuppa/Warm Spaces - Barbara Grundy
 Knit and Natter - Susan Sabourn
 Messy Church - Chris Shand
 Monday Bible Study - Pat Turnbull
 Property Team of three - Andrew Lowe
 SJBelles (hand bells) - Christine Hickox
 SJY (youth)- Revd Eva
 Stewards - Carol Baggaley
 Toddlers and Wiggles - Karen Morley
 WHITCH - Revd Eva

Uniformed Organisations - Suzanne Wood
Willow Club - Ian Miller

New Members
Margaret Drew
John Thorpe

Thanks to our minister Rev Eva Walker who leads our pastoral team practically and spiritually.

The Pastoral Care Team consists of three groups, the Pastoral Visitors of whom there are 13 Visitors, 21 Group Contacts, the Pastoral Leaders with 5 members, our minister, Rev Tony Farrar, Rev Gary Ridley, John Morley, and Una Miller.

The Pastoral Visitors and Group Contacts meet together twice a year in February and October.

This gives us all chance to share our happy and sad news in a confidential setting. We also have the opportunity to get up to date with any issues which may affect us in our work.

In October we considered the Methodist Guidelines on Safeguarding and Pastoral Care. We were able to discuss the implications for us all as we carry out our visits.

Safeguarding and Pastoral Care

The document reminds us of the duties of a pastoral visitor

- Confidentiality
- Support to, the pastoral visitors, is very important:
- Social contact
- Social contact and additional support
- There is a job description of those who support pastoral visitors,
- GDPR

In February Eva produced a Conversation Document

Our Calling states, "The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need

Challenge how power is used within our church?

Highlight the need to review timings for services, meetings and fellowship opportunities in light of the needs of our congregations e.g. work patterns, time of year... (Do we need to do this more often?)

Providing safe places for people to meet-

Reflections on what takes place- feedback, etc.

How to reflect people's lives in worship (all ages)

Sharing instances of good practise

Seeking to demystify pastoral care (Pastoral care is not the province of the professional. We are all naturally involved in caring)

"Remember we are all growing older! Our need for affection, for personal dignity and for acceptance by others increases rather than diminishes with the passing of the years. Try always to be sensitive to this in your visiting.

Pastoral care is the responsibility of the whole community of our church. If someone needs our help, please let us know and we will pass it to the relevant person.

Someone needing immediate ongoing support.
Someone needing an occasional contact.
Those who need no contact.

Once again, we wish to express our gratitude for the work carried out by the many members of the Pastoral Care Team. This is a valuable link in communication within St John's.

Una Miller, Pastoral Secretary

Worship Leader Report

Unfortunately I am still the sole worship leader at St. John's, it would be good to have someone else share in this role. It was in 2000 that I first was commissioned by the circuit as worship leader, and 25 years later I still count it a great privilege to lead people in worship and help to bring them closer to God.

It took a while for me to answer that little voice in my head that told me this was something God was calling me to do and I am forever grateful to Roger and other friends who have encouraged and supported me over the years, I could not have continued without them.

I have considered recently whether the time has come for me to give up this role, but still feel that perhaps it is something with God's help I can offer to the church family at St. John's for a little while longer but can only do it with your prayerful support, care and love.

Margaret Stephenson

TREASURER'S REPORT – 2025 CHURCH AGM

Opening Balance 1 September 2024

TMCP (our savings)	£74,913.52
--------------------	------------

Closing balance as at 31 March 2025

TMCP (our savings)	£74, 918.59
--------------------	-------------

General funds opening balance 1 September 2024

Barclays Current Account	£25, 325.78
--------------------------	-------------

Central Finance Board	<u>£13, 665.33</u>
-----------------------	--------------------

Total £38, 991.11

General funds closing balance as at 31 March 2025

Barclays Current Account	£ 7,244.54 *	
Central Finance Board	<u>£16,082.11</u>	
	Total £23,326.65	Reduction in Funds <u>£</u>
<u>15,664</u>		

NB

* £10,000 Grant from Circuit is not included in the above as this is in the process of being transferred to our Warm Welcome Church Project Fund. Please see the report from Andrew Lowe, Chairman of Property & Finance Committee, regarding new boiler proposal.

Introduction

We are now a little over half way through my first year as Treasurer where the constant task in hand is to closely monitor funds and prioritise payments to ensure we meet our commitments. I must say a huge thank you to everybody here at St John's for the help, support and encouragement I have received to enable me to undertake this role.

As usual, at this time of year this is an interim report. Our Gift Aid allocation, Fundraising Gift Week and other donations and expenditure will not be known until later in the year and will then form part of my year-end report. What can be said however is that we are facing another challenging year where expenditure is running higher than income. There are however some glimmers for me to report

BREAK DOWN OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE TO 31 MARCH 2025

TOTAL INCOME AT 31 MARCH 2025

Direct Giving/Offertory	27280.49	
Lettings	10492.39	
Church Group Donations	3343.97	
Individual Donations	1819.28	
Other	7657.82	
Gift Aid (small)	1990.00	
CFB Interest	302.78	
TOTAL	52886.73	52886.73

TOTAL EXPENDITURE AT 31 MARCH 2025

Assessment (7 x £5268)	36876.00
Property Maintenance	4546.55

EXPENDITURE

We are currently on track with our assessment payments and meeting this obligation continues to be our priority. There is positive news for the next financial year in that Circuit has recently confirmed that our assessment will be reduced by 4%. This will result in a saving next year of £2529.

We are continuing to keep property maintenance costs down by the sterling efforts of our dedicated Property Team who work tirelessly to undertake a high proportion of maintenance work in-house. This can range from fixing leaking taps to pruning conifers from the lofty heights of a portable scaffold tower and everything in between.

In March we were agreement, with the first six months at half price. This will give us a saving of £270 over the next year – every little helps.

We will however be hit hard by substantial expenditure outside of our control namely increased salary costs and the end of our five year fixed price contract with Crown Gas.

Government changes to employer's National Insurance contributions which came into effect on 1 April 2025 will increase the current salary bill for our Cleaner and Admin roles by a further £83 per month. This comes on top of an uplift in December

2024 required to bring our employer National Insurance contributions up to correct levels.

With regard to gas we will be facing an estimated increase of around £3000 in 2025/26 compared with this financial year. Thankfully, the recently installed double glazing and insulation works in the Wesley Hall together with the anticipated boiler replacement and zoning works will help reduce our gas consumption but the impact on our budget will still be substantial.

required to change our telephone system to digital. This was an opportunity to enter into a new contract with Virgin Media on a fixed price 2 year

INCOME

To start with a positive, income from room lettings ie licences, one-offs, regular bookings and parties is going from strength to strength. This income stream is expected to at least double to £16,500 this financial year compared to last year. This growth can be attributed to the attractive, clean, well maintained space our Church provides coupled with the support our visitors receive when using it and well managed occupancy arrangements.

However, as previously stated, income is not keeping pace with expenditure. In view of rising costs across the board, we will be relying heavily on this year's Gift Aid contribution expected later in the financial year (hopefully in the vicinity of £12,000) together with funds raised from our annual Fundraising Gift Week in order to meet our commitments and lessen the impact of a likely deficit.

Last year, due to your kind support and generosity, £7235 was raised to boost much needed funds and was most gratefully received. This year, we are proposing to hold our Fundraising Gift Week in the second week of June following on from our centenary celebration weekend taking place on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th June. I will be providing more details about this at our forthcoming Annual General Meeting on Sunday 11 May 2025.

Debbie Mathieson

Treasurer

The year end accounts 2023-2024 can be found in the back pages of this document.

Flower Ministry

Firstly I must offer a sincere "Thank You" to Judith, Val, and Mary who, along with myself arrange the church flowers on a four weekly rota. This task is much more than just arranging flowers – the flowers have to be bought, conditioned, arranged, watered, then after Sunday worship distributed to members of the church family celebrating a special event, as a "thank you" or to those who are ill, unable to attend worship or have been bereaved. The recipients of the flowers are always very appreciative of the thoughts and love they represent.

As I have said before, I believe this to be an important aspect of St. John's caring ministry and something we find a privilege to be part of.

All the above could not happen without the many people who give generously to the flower fund, "thank you all."

Most weeks the ladies are given £15 for flowers, £10 per week in Lent and Advent when only one arrangement is necessary. Sometimes there is a need for extra flowers for a special occasion. The donations are also used to purchase floral foam, tape, containers as needed.

At the request of the Finance and Property Committee, I have appended a financial statement at the end of this report.

We would welcome anyone interested in becoming a member of the team either to arrange, distribute or become a donor. Please contact me if you would like to help with any of the above.

With Thanks,

Margaret Stephenson.

Financial Statement 1st April 2024. – 31st March 2025.

	Income:	Expenditure:	
Balance Forward	317.17	Flowers	675.50
Donations	834.00	Accessories	44.76
			720.26
		Balance in hand	
		To St. John's	300.00
		Cash in hand	130.91
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	1151.17		1151.17

Stewards

Stewards 2024/25 left to right

John Liddle, Sally Clark, Revd Eva,
Carol Baggaley(Senior Steward)
Margaret Rushton, Susan Sabourn,
Noreen Rees

The year has been busy. Creation Tide saw some beautiful banners being produced, which have also been on a short tour. Those involved in all aspects of Worship



I wish to thank:-

The flowers have been exceptionally beautiful throughout the year, thank you to the flower group and to all those who make a donation towards the flower fund. A huge Thank you.

We are very lucky at St John's to have our service shown on our large screen and on zoom, when we haven't been able to get to the Church building, allowing us to be part of Worship. Thank you to the Technical team.

The music here at St John's is very much appreciated. The format, whether it be the piano, organ, guitar, flute, drums, violin are beautiful additions to our worship. The Remembrance Service is a poignant example. Thank you to you all.

Our notices have been very concise and informing us of ALL our up and coming events here at St John's and those in the Circuit. Thanks to the Office Administrator.

The Choir have been in fine voice and have tackled those difficult hymns, we are not familiar with and have once again lead us into Christmas in a very cheerful way. The Carols and Coffee morning in Advent is always in our diaries. It gives us that boost we need ready for the preparations leading up to Christmas. Thank you Choir.

The FAB club who meet each month. They are giving guidance by a team who are very encouraging and come to each worship with many imaginative ideas. Thank you for all the effort you put into the planning,

Messy Church Team. Those who come once a month welcoming parents bringing their children to share in a story from the bible, which is delivered using various activities. Bringing

them together with song, prayers and sharing food. The Nativity Play you shared with us was brilliant. Thank you, your work is very much appreciated.

The property team and gardening team, who ensure the property and grounds are kept in good condition and attractive. Thank you for your dedication.

You will all agree, our buildings have been kept up to a high standard of cleanliness. The lost property box has been promptly filled with items left in our pews or in the halls etc. Thank you Patricia.

The StJ handbells group (which I am part of) are involved, usually around our Christmas celebrations. I would like to thank you all for your patients and caring for one another. You can often hear our laughter above (at practice) our ding dong of the bells. Thank you all for your enthusiasm and fun.

Our Door Stewards are there to meet and greet us come rain or shine every Sunday morning with a smile and warm welcome (sometimes having to hang on to the car park door as the wind catches it). Thank you all.

Our Refreshment volunteers are always happy to have that hot mug of tea or coffee ready after the service. Sometimes they can have double the numbers on a parade service and our Toy Service was exceptionally busy. Thank you for all you do.

My personal thank you to our Stewards Team who have been so enthusiastic with their duties, which are many. We have also been very much involved in starting the Centenary Celebrations of the building. Celebrating the raising of the funds to allow those in 1925 to start the foundations and laying the cornerstones in May 1925. We have held events to mark each month up to and including May, hope you have managed to join us there. Thank you Stewards and Lesley (who has continued to be part of the planning events group).

We are very grateful to our Worship Leader here at St John's and those visiting us from the circuit, for the preparations and care they take over planning Worship. The Lay Preachers within our circuit for being prepared to travel throughout the circuit and lead us in worship. The Supernumeraries who also offer their services here at St John's and throughout the Circuit are also appreciated for the variety and often thought provoking services. Thank you.

Thank you Rev Eva for putting up with many of the zany ideas the Stewards bring (although some are your ideas also). Your support to the team is very much appreciated. Our Lent courses giving us much to discuss and think about, along with our Sunday Worship. For encouraging our younger members to feel at home within our family Worship, involving them in your prayers, encouraging them to take part. For being a donkey at our Naivety Play, that is something that will remain with us for a long time. Thank you.

I think you will realise that it takes a lot of people to bring together the Worship here at St John's and it is so difficult to "say thank you" to everyone; however, I hope this has covered most of those who are directly involved with Worship on a Sunday morning.

These are only those involved on the Sunday (Thursday's for Messy Church). We have many more who help "run the Church". So can I say thank you to everyone who has some role to play within the Church and most of all to you as a member of the congregation for sharing in Worship.

Carol Baggaley, Senior Steward

Communion Stewards

Margaret Barker
Monica Hayden
Judith Lynn
Una Miller
Judith Tait
Jenny Fothergill

Safeguarding

During the year St John's Church Council approved St John's Safeguarding Policy, the text mirrors that of the national safeguarding policy. The Policy is on the Minor Hall noticeboard. Throughout the building on many other notice boards we have details of the safeguarding contacts and a poster on the Methodist Safeguarding Policy.

Throughout the year Carol and Colin have attended Safeguarding updates with the Circuit Safeguarding Officer. During this coming year many of us will need to refresh our safeguarding training. The national training is updated to reflect best practice and guidance based on real examples of occurrences across the Methodist Church.

St John's will be hosting a face to face foundation training course on Saturday 14th June.

During the year we have had conversations with several groups who wanted to try out new activities and wanted a chat to see if they had covered all bases. They generally had and often we were able to give them reassurance that they were very safety conscious.

Safer recruitment is something that the Methodist Church is emphasising needs to be done better. We introduced new paperwork for the role of Treasurer and are pleased to report that Debbie taking on the role of Treasurer was done following the new safer recruitment guidelines.

Thank you to all who help ensure St John's is a safe place for all.

Carol Baggaley, Colin Raistrick, St John's Safeguarding Officers

Data Protection

Each May on behalf of St John's I run the Methodist Church GDPR Annual Compliance checklist and sign off as 100% compliant, because we are fully compliant. The national Privacy Policy was last updated in March 2023 and this is displayed on the Wesley Hall corridor noticeboard for all to read.

Personal Data that we use at St John's is given to us for use so that we can function as a Methodist Church. This enables for example the Pastoral Handbook to have contact details in and for the weekly notices to be distributed. The Church Directory continues to be amended to reflect changes in address, telephone numbers and email numbers. Feel free to ask the office for an up to date directory - we can also shred your earlier version should it be a printed version.

Thank you to all at St John's for helping us remain compliant.

In March I took on the additional responsibility of becoming Newcastle Methodist District Data Champion - whilst working across the District with other Circuits, I am now also linked to all the District Data Champions and the legal team at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes. These meetings are informative as well as the opportunity to simplify an often bureaucratic response from TMCP.

Colin Raistrick

Family Worker

Instead of writing a report, I thought I would ask some of our Mums to share their experiences with you. I feel a huge joy and privilege to be a small part of this.

Karen Morley Family Worker

We love Messy Church & how that it caters for all ages. I love that my boys get to experience the church & learn about Jesus in such a friendly & relaxed atmosphere. The refreshments & meals provided are a very kind & welcome bonus, taking a bit of family prep & stress away from parents too

Messy Church and film nights at St John's are like nowhere else. Everyone is so kind and caring and we have been welcomed into the community with open arms. It feels like a big family and all the familiar faces each time make you feel part of the St John's community. Everyone is understanding and patient with children with neurodiversity and it's a weight off my shoulders going where we aren't judged. Life wouldn't be the same without it x

We love coming to St. John's for Messy Church and film nights! The warm welcome and incredible sense of community make every visit special. Messy Church is always a highlight, with engaging activities, a meaningful story, and delicious food to enjoy afterward. It's also wonderful that grown-ups can relax, chat, and savor a warm drink while the children have fun.

Messy church has been a reliable, staple for me for years. I know that when I take my children there, we will be welcomed and cared for. Having Messy Church and Film Night are respite I rely on. Having somewhere my children and I find comfortable, friendly and engaging to go after school, helps me manage my stress and patience levels when my mum cup is overflowing! I'd have been lost without their help over the last 8 years.



Finance and Property Committee

Over the past year the Finance and Property Committee have continued to look after the property and finances of the church. The Committee met on four occasions during the year.

Major Property Repairs and Improvements

The following property repairs and improvements to the buildings have been made over the past year:

- Windowsill and frame of Nativity stained glass window repaired and painted
- New carpet laid in 1st floor kitchenette (following replacement of the rotten flooring and skirting board)
- Corridor ceiling painted
- Potholes repaired in car park
- Pressure valve for the gents urinals replaced.
- Re-staining of main church porch doors.
- Re-pointing of brickwork on two areas of the church.
- A new dishwasher was delivered and installed in the kitchen. There were some modifications required to the worktop.
- New push-bar fitted to car park door
- New sensor light fitted in vestry corridor
- Upstairs toilet lights replaced with new fittings
- Both tubes replaced in Crush Hall light
- Kitchen electrics upgraded
- Fire doors between Crush Hall & Wesley Hall re-stained
- New kick plates to exit door and internal doors
- Overhanging tree branches from the neighbour's gardens facing the Wesley Hall trimmed back.

The left-hand stage curtain was taken down, as part of the curtain backing was frayed and had come detached in places. The Thursday Sewing Group agreed to undertake the necessary repairs. Thanks to the sewing group for this work, as the skills required were beyond those of the Property Team! The curtain was re-hung after the repairs were completed.

The local painter and decorator was due to start the external painting of the buildings on 17th July, but this was delayed until August because of the wet summer weather. The work progressed slowly due to poor weather, and was not completed. A small amount of painting remains outstanding, and will be completed this summer.

The number of bookings by various organisations of the church building has continued to increase, as St. John's is seen as an attractive venue serving the community. Booking fees were slightly increased in-line with inflation from 1st September.

We Give You a Warm Welcome Project

Over the February half-term new double glazing units were installed to replace the old single glazed windows in the four large windows of the Wesley Hall which face the Sanctuary. This work completed the double glazing of the windows in the Wesley Hall which commenced in 2023. The Wesley Hall should now be warmer, with fully double-glazed windows, and the roof insulation.

Future Planned Works

Having decided that it made sense to progress the zoning of the heating system with replacing the old gas boilers, tenders were invited from local heating engineering companies. The Church Council agreed to award a provisional contract. The Circuit Meeting in March gave their consent to the work, and also awarded a grant of £10,000 towards the cost.

The new zoning system will use automatic valves and an IT based control and monitoring system to allow for set zones of the building to be heated independently, and only when required. A set minimum temperature would be maintained in other parts of the building when not being used, to prevent damage to the fabric of the building, and to protect important contents such as the organ.

The total cost of this work will be £62,600. This will be funded by the “Warm Welcome” project, and not from church general funds. After paying for the recent double glazing in the Wesley Hall, we have approximately £7,600 in the Warm Welcome project fund, which is growing all the time. We have already been granted £10,000 by the Circuit, and we will be applying to the Newcastle District for a grant of £20,000. Work has started on identifying external grant providers, and we will be seeking a further £20,000 from these bodies. This leaves a balance of £5,000 to be fundraised by ourselves. It is hoped that the work can be undertaken during the summer, before the colder weather of autumn and winter take hold, funding permitting.

Additional Remarks

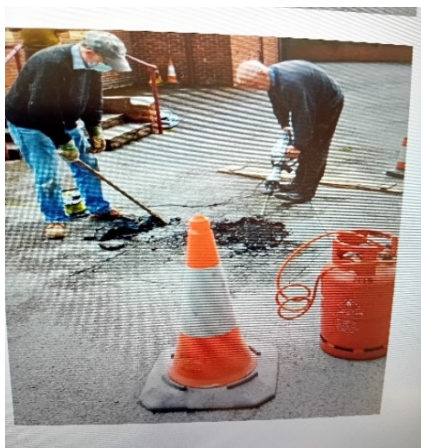
Thanks to Charles Hedley and John Cuggy for tending the church garden throughout the year, and keeping the external appearance of the church to a high standard.

Our church cleaner Patricia also deserves thanks for keeping the buildings spick and span, and for never complaining when the activities of the property team leave a mess!

I would like to thank all the members of the Finance and Property Committee for their work and dedication in keeping the church property and finances in good order. Their work is often unseen and unglamorous, but vital for the continuing work and mission of St. John's.

Andrew Lowe

Chairman – Finance and Property Committee



Building Project Finance Group - A Warm Welcome

Thank you to everyone who has raised money for the warm welcome project during the last year. Money from the sale of cards, borrowing a jigsaw or borrowing a book adds to the pot. This is further boosted by collection tubs and individual donations.

During the year we have spent money on adding the secondary glazing to the Sanctuary windows and finishing off the double glazing in the Wesley Hall.

Almost £8,000 is in hand to contribute to the heating control system upgrade and replacement boilers phase.

We were successful in receiving Government support to enable us to have a comprehensive survey of the St John's estate. This gave us an indication of what was best to invest in to reduce our carbon footprint. Removing draughts and insulation were the first priority, followed by double glazing. The report supported our suggestion of upgrading the heating system to have new controls enabling us to only heat what was needed and not every room. We were invited to apply for capital funding. Much effort was put into this submission, only for the funding to be cancelled by an incoming Labour Government.

With the heating boilers failing, we are working with the property and finance committee to find funding to help with the cost of new boilers and heating controls. Whilst £62,000 is needed for this part of the warm welcome project, £18,000 is in hand, a grant submission of £20,000 is almost complete for a June grant panel meeting and now we are working on a submission to the Energy Resilience Fund for the shortfall. I hope to report success in next year's report.

Colin Raistrick, Chair

Monday House Group

The Monday Group meets weekly usually at the home of Margaret Stephenson, 26, Ventnor Gardens at 10.a.m. we aim to finish our discussion by 11.15.a.m. then have a time of prayer before sharing a chat together over a cup of tea/coffee.

Until recently we have had 7 regular members but in the last two weeks we have welcomed 2 more people to the group.

We have studied various topics, our favourite Psalms, used the daily bible reading notes we all use, even attempted Revelation!! and are now using a book of stories called the Women of Holy Week by Paula Gooder. Through this group we are trying to understand more of the bible and deepen our faith, but another important aspect is the care and support we give each other in our daily lives in an atmosphere of total confidentiality.

Una Miller and I lead the group and I am sure I speak for us both when I say it is an important part of our faith journey.

Margaret Stephenson.

Choir

Yet another year goes by – I am sure that time goes faster than it used to!

The Choir has had a good year, continuing to contribute to the worship at St John's and building on the very good working relationship which we have established over the years with visiting ministers and local preachers. Wherever possible we try to accommodate any musical preferences which they may have. This can be interesting, at times, if we are asked to sing a particular hymn which we do not know. It is amazing how quickly we can learn a new piece when time is short, and I am so proud of the way the Choir members always rise to the challenge. Our repertoire can be increased because of this, which can only be a good thing!

In December last year we enjoyed singing at the "Coffee and Carols" event, in the Wesley Hall, as we have done for several years in the past. For many, this has become the unofficial start of their Christmas celebrations, and when we can all enjoy a lovely relaxed atmosphere. It is always well supported and I feel that grateful thanks should be made here to the "Catering Corps" who keep everyone supplied with mince pies and endless cups of tea and coffee!

£335 was raised and donated to "Crisis", the homeless charity, which is a most worth cause.

This year, the Choir has been invited to lead the Good Friday morning service on April 18th, when there will be a selection of anthems, hymns, readings and prayers, all delivered by Choir members, and all chosen to mark this significant day in the life of the Christian church. We feel very honoured to be asked to take such a prominent part in what I'm sure will be a very moving experience.

I am continually grateful for the selfless dedication of the Choir members, who give of their time and talents so freely. Without exception, they are all keen to ensure that the standard of the singing is as good as it possibly can be. It should be remembered that not everyone is an expert sight reader, but they all take their responsibility of enhancing the worship very seriously indeed. The results of their hard work are there for all to hear.

As always, we are extremely grateful for the continued support of the congregation, and feel very privileged to be able to contribute to the worship at St John's.

On the social side, we had our usual winter gathering in January when this time we got together in the lovely lounge at Bygate Court. We had a great time chatting away (absolutely nothing to do with singing!) and trying to make inroads into all the food which people had brought! We are very grateful to Una and Ian for arranging this most enjoyable occasion for us.

Last July we had the customary "Fish & Chips" party in our garden. This all started when during Covid we couldn't assemble inside, so we then opted for a garden party instead. This proved to be a great success, and we have now developed a very good relationship with Pantrini's!

Charles Hedley (Choir Leader)

Faith and Friendship

We continue to meet weekly on Zoom on Thursday mornings with one of the groups, and meet face to face with the other group during Lent and other times in the year. (on Tuesday afternoons)

I love both the groups. They are different and yet what they have in common is the safe space they provide where we learn from each other, think of the world, our place in it, God's call upon our lives, our faith and our choices in being whom God calls us to be.

This past year we have travelled through the Bible, through God's story from the very beginning and we took a break from that journey to consider the power of our choices in our Lenten journey towards Easter Sunday.

We have learnt a lot, were challenged and encouraged in equal measures. I cannot imagine my journey of faith without the weekly gatherings, where we delve into the Bible and share our lives with each other. We heard these words in one of the weeks, and maybe you need to hear these too. Words written by Marianne Williamson and quoted by Nelson Mandela:

'Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.'

You are always more than welcome to join us both on Zoom on Thursday mornings (weekly) and in person on Tuesday afternoons (less regular). Please come and have a chat with me.

Revd Eva

Faith and Life Group

The Faith and Life Group has enjoyed a thoughtful and helpful year. It is a group, open to anyone who is interested, which meets monthly in the home of one of the members of the group, providing the opportunity to be supportive of each other as we talk through what it means to us to be a Christian in the context of today's society and church. Nothing is sacrosanct, and we realise that many of us find it a struggle to hold on to traditional Christian beliefs. And we value the insights we can each offer to help us towards realistic Christian living today.

One of the outcomes of the group, as we link faith and our life in community, has been the idea of a Church Community Weekend, which will be happening on June 7/8 as part of the centenary celebrations.

Tony Farrar

Green Issues

We are still committed to being an eco-friendly church and with the help of work done by Stewards, Office and Property and Finance Committee we obtained the Bronze Eco Church award. As a small working we have continued to encourage those involved in the life of St John's to celebrate the gift of the earth on which all our lives depend and to find ways to live more sustainably, thus protecting the inheritance that future generations might receive. To this end we have:

- encouraged the Church Council to consider the environmental implications of all their decisions and to find ways to ensure that all the committees and groups at St John's also have environmental concerns on their agendas.
- maintained a 'green notice board' outside the Minor Hall as a way of sharing ideas and encouraging individuals to reflect on the environmental impact of their everyday lives.
- joined with others to celebrate the international Creationtide programme in September 2024, which included the making of new banners for the church on the theme of 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Love the Earth'; hosting a coffee morning; organising a sale of pre-loved children's clothes, toys and equipment; and linking the theme with the Harvest Festival. Our thanks to those who worked so hard to ensure the success of all the activities.
- explored some of the actions the church needs to undertake to obtain the Silver Eco Church Award.

We are grateful to Colin and those who assist in enabling the church to recycle an increasing variety of items and also to the Property Team who have completed the installation of double glazing in the Wesley Hall and helped to reduce the heat loss, conserving energy. However, if we are to work towards the Silver Eco Church award we will need more input. If anyone is interested in helping the church to progress on this important aspect of our Christian discipleship please speak to Tony Farrar.

Sally Clark, Tony Farrar & Malcolm Hickox

Ladies Badminton

Ladies Badminton meet on Friday between 1.30 - 3.30 from September to May. Over the years we have become great friends and offer support to each other during difficult times as well as celebrating good times. We always welcome new members to share the fun and fellowship. We are a group of mixed abilities on the badminton court but it is the taking part that counts! Yes!

Pat Brown
Pat Turnbull

Afternoon Club

This year we have had some interesting speakers attending our meetings. They have consisted of Charities, YMCA North Tyneside and Morpeth Lions we were impressed by all they do to help in their local areas. We had Kay who talked to our group about "Eating well to age well", it was fascinating to see the different grains and seeds that can help keep our body in good condition as we are aging.

The group were also challenged by Colin showing postcards of our coastal area through the decades (spot the changes). Paul entertained us playing tunes which we enjoyed immensely, the trying to name them and what musical they came from was a little more challenging. Rev Gary Ridley gave a very interesting talk "More Tea Vicar". This topic was intriguing, I was fascinated to know coffee was the main drink in UK long before tea arrived; however, it was a drink that was drunk by the rich, as was tea at the beginning. Debbie had prepared a lovely gift of tea and biscuits for us. Steve Bell the magician came along to entertain us. Rev Eva was disappointed she was not available to attend (she had hoped to pick up some magic tricks).

We joined with the Knit and natter group for a Christmas Snowman (a change from a beetle drive). We shared snacks and nibbles.

We had our summer meal at the Kings Arms and once again Gill kindly invited us to join her in a garden tea. The remaining weeks were ran "in house" with craft and other activities, The Afternoon Group are at present putting together a Coffee Morning with refreshments.

We hope to raise funds towards replacing the Church's boiler selling bric-a-brac, books and a raffle. All are invited.

Carol Baggaley
Secretary

FaB Club (Friends and Believers)

In 2024/2025 FaB has continued to meet on a Sunday morning once a month. Dates for each quarter are published in advance in the Church notices and on the FaB WhatsApp group. Life is busy for most families and monthly FaB together with monthly family services seems to suit everyone. We usually have between 15 and 20+ at FaB sessions (all ages including adults!).

As the ages of the children range from 5 years to 12 years, there is always a variety of activities at each session. Often they include craft, games, quizzes, outdoor activities, storytelling, prayer and of course juice and biscuits. However, we are very flexible and the

session may go in a different direction to that which was planned following questions and discussions! It's wonderful to see all ages interacting and learning from each other!

FaB members thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the Nativity at Christmas and will be taking part in the Community Weekend in June.

Lesley Thompson

WHITCH (What Happen In The Church)

This is a group of mums who attend Messy Church and Film Nights. We have been meeting together outside of those two events for a few years now and love the space to discuss life, faith and even talk about what new things we might be doing, to bring community even closer. The group has evolved to become the place where new ideas are shared and tasted, and then more events organised for a wider group, aiming to bring community together as often as we can. And so it was decided to create a Messy Church Facebook Private Group where we advertise events and togetherness as a Messy Church and Film Night community.

Since this decision we have organised:

A 'Mums' Mocktails' event in December where we spent 4 hours together sharing with honesty and love, giving and receiving support and making some interesting mocktails.

A Sleepover for the children and their grown up in March and that was beautiful. Some came for the evening/ night and then went home and others stayed. The atmosphere was life and joy giving. Words cannot express what that event was like.

And how can we forget the Christmas Nativity? Jenny and I had been talking about doing one for a few years, but this was the right year. We brought our idea to the WHITCH group, where we met with a lot of enthusiasm. (We brought the idea to a lot of other people, but this is the place to talk about WHITCH, that is why I am only mentioning them) And so, what came to be was a truly intergenerational play, something that I still remember with joy and fondness.

And in all these activities, the children have asked: 'When is the next one?' 'Can we have one more soon, please?'

I love this group of women, who think beyond themselves and want to be part of something that brings others together, a space where we can find out what God intends for us to be and do.

Revd Eva

Knit and natter

The knit and natter group continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons of each month. We are small in number but very productive. Most of our efforts this year have been to support the Facebook group called Hero Bears for Every Child. The late Anna Palmer told

us of this North Shields lady who was sending teddy bears to the Ukraine. She now sends items to various NHS and Social Services outlets as well as sending teddy bears, clothing and wounded soldier socks to the Ukraine.

Our mermaids and fish have been seen in Whitley Bay at the Poetry Trail and the Fiesta and were even on display at the Christmas Tree Festival at St Cuthbert's Church, Blyth on the blue tit's tree!

We are very happy to receive donations of double knitting and aran yarn and are grateful for the stuffing and buttons which have been given to us.

Susan Sabourn

Wednesday Lunch

Lunch on the first Wednesday in the month has, once again, continued throughout the past year, one of the few groups which never has a break during holiday seasons, it being felt that our guests particularly appreciate the opportunity to continue to meet together when many other groups are having a break.

The number of guests attending varies somewhat but has averaged between 25 and 28. Not all are from our congregation; we continue to welcome several folk from the wider community, some having joined us via Friday Cuppa. Sadly, we lost one of our founder members in December – the very much loved Harold. He hardly ever missed a lunch, and when unable to come in December, made sure his son contacted me to apologise!! At the January lunch we toasted him - with water of course! He is very much missed.

The same format remains popular choice of 2 soups, 2 puddings (always with custard, and/or ice cream in the summer!) followed by tea/coffee and, more importantly, lots of chat! An exception to the usual menu was in December when, as usual, a full traditional Christmas lunch was on the menu, together with much festive cheer and spirit (not of the liquid kind of course!).

We continue to be blessed with the same team of very willing cooks/helpers/drivers who work very well and flexibly together – and have as much fun and chat as the guests, it must be said.

Any payment for food is by donation only, ingredients for the lunch being donated by the volunteers. As stated in the 2024 AGM report, a proposal was then under discussion that, as the church no longer has a regular external Charity Project, we may wish to donate the following year's donations to the Bay Food Bank. As we know, the Bank was, and is, sorely in need of funds and it somehow seemed appropriate that those less fortunate than we are should benefit from our good fortune in eating together every month. This was agreed amongst diners and helpers and the good news is that, since last July, (i.e. not a full year yet) £900 has been donated.

Gill Hedley

Action for Children

Action for Children is a Methodist Church Charity, with numerous projects countrywide and several local projects in the North East. The latter include parent and young carer help lines,

fostering services, counselling services for children and young people suffering from domestic abuse, nurseries and residential care for disabled children. All very much needed services.

AFC also have a Crisis Fund which pays for essentials like food, clothes and heating bills in times of crisis. They have distributed £2 million in emergency grants since 2020 to 15,000 families. They also campaign for an end to child poverty and speak directly to MPs and ministers and call on them to act.

I'm very grateful to those who donate using AFC boxes and they can be handed to me at any time. I do appreciate though that people have less loose change so boxes aren't appropriate. Grateful thanks to those who make online donations which can be made through the website at actionforchildren.org.uk. Action for Children Sunday in 2025 is in July and there will be envelopes available for donations then. Over £600 has been donated to AFC by St John's folk this past year. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Lesley Thompson

Supporting Charities

As we celebrate 100 years of the church building, we recognise that it has stood as an important witness to the local community and beyond, not just as a place of worship, but as a focal point for living the gospel. We do that in many ways, not least through our support of local and national charities who express the care and compassion that belongs to the heart of Christian living. And it has been my privilege over the last few years to have played a part in enabling our support for such groups.

Charities Market

For a good number of years now we have supported the work of many local charities through the **Charities' Christmas Market**, normally held at the beginning of November. This last year over 20 charities had stalls, and almost £2,000 was raised during the two hour session. It is an event noted not only for fund-raising, but also for the warmth of care and mutual support. This year, subject to approval by the Church Council, the Market will be held on Saturday, November 1st from 10a.m. – 12noon. What better way to celebrate All Saints Day than by supporting the modern-day saints committed to the support of others!

Methodist Homes

We have a commitment to support two charities with close links to the Methodist church nationally. **Methodist Homes** is at the forefront of care for older people, and is involved in providing residential care, and also care in local areas through community groups and activities. In our area, North Tyneside Communities are involved in social and support groups, and run a variety of activities, including giving their support to pARTners, art classes for people living with dementia and their carers.

We are marking Methodist Homes Sunday on June 29th., with a café-style service in the Wesley Hall, and welcoming both the area Community Fundraiser, Shelley Barnes, and the local organiser Karen Walker. We will also include an exhibition of pARTners paintings from the exhibition the previous week at St. Mary's , Claremont Gardens. Offering envelopes will also be available.

More information is available at www.mha.org.uk

All We Can

We also support the development charity **All We Can**, which is involved with working with local communities in developing countries to improve the quality of life for those who are often in great need. It also offers a means whereby we can give when an emergency occurs, whether that is a natural disaster, or, for example, support for refugees from Ukraine. St. John's agreed some time ago to be a pARTner Church of All We Can, which commits us not only to raising a certain amount of money each year, but also to understanding more about the needs of developing communities. We have normally supported **All We Can** around harvest time, and last year sent donations totalling £1,140. Thank you for your generosity, and

for being a community that looks outward and is committed to embracing an inclusive gospel of love. Again, more information is available at www.allwecan.org.uk

Tony Farrar

Friday Cuppa

'Friday Cuppa' takes place in the Minor Hall at St John's each week between 9am and 1pm. 'Friday Cuppa' is a Coffee Morning (not a Club), a Safe Place, and every week there is an open invitation to everyone, whoever you are, whether you worship regularly at St John's on a Sunday, whether you visit on another days(s) as part of the wider church community or whether this is the first time you have been to St John's.

'Friday Cuppa' continues to flourish with frequently, numbers attending in the high twenties. Recently there were 30 of us there even though there were a number of "regulars" who were missing that week. Every week those of us who are there are amazed at the number of friends who do come, to see how everyone is made welcome whether it is someone visiting for the first time or someone who comes almost every week, to hear the sound of people happily chatting and laughing with one another, to see friendships develop and to see how caring and concerned everyone is towards one another especially if someone who regularly comes week-by-week doesn't turn up or is known to be unwell.

During the last year (i.e. 52 weeks) 'Friday Cuppa' has taken place 50 times and since November 2024 it has been possible to set up a monthly rota of volunteers willing to help host. This has been a tremendous help especially between about 10.30am and 12 noon which tends to be the busiest time.

If you haven't ever been to Friday Cuppa before, why not pop in, and enjoy a warm welcome with an opportunity to chat over a cuppa with old and new friends, and/or to get involved in a game or two of either dominoes or Chinese chequers. There is also scrabble, chess, playing cards, jigsaws and puzzle books available.

'Friday Cuppa' will also be represented at the Community Celebration weekend on Saturday 7th June between 10am and 3pm, along with many of the other groups and activities that take place regularly at St John's.

Barbara Grundy

SJBelles

June 2024 we were looking forward to a Handbell afternoon, calling it Strawberry Fayre. We had an afternoon of music, fun and laughter. Not forgetting Strawberries!!

The latter half of 2024 turned out to be a challenge for most of our group with family or personal health issues, followed by several bereavements. We kept meeting and playing and supporting each other but held back from organising or being involved in anything extra.

The Belles have continued to meet as much as we can. We have arranged to be involved in the community weekend in June both on the Saturday and also in the Sunday service. We are looking ahead to Christmas and hoping we can be more involved this year.

After playing various Easter songs and Hot Cross buns especially, last Friday we enjoyed eating the real thing, some with cheese alongside and some with jam. Each to their own I say. The little chocolate bunnies were also part of the theme!

Christine Hickox

FOCUS MAGAZINE

The small team of Noreen Rees (Editor), Howard Scott (Administrator), Peter Firth (Distribution) and Colin Raistrick (email Distribution) continues to produce news and views of St John's members and friends four times a year (Autumn/Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Summer). We were pleased to welcome back our regular proof-reader, Ann Naylor in time for the Summer 2024 edition. Most of the copies of Focus are sent out via email but we have paper copies available for those who are not online or prefer a print copy. It is also available for our visitors, should they wish to take it away. Because of this, Focus has quite a wide 'reach' and we plan to include it in an appendix when applying for grants, as it gives an insight into the wide range of events happening at St John's.

Carol Baggaley commented in the **Summer 2024** issue about the changing personnel in the stewards team. There were some photos of 'men at work' in the car park—the in-house Property Team getting their hands dirty, mending the potholes. There was information about the Whitley Bay Poetry Trail, for which the Knit and Natter group had provided knitted mermaids. The environmental group reported how St John's had been awarded the Eco Church Bronze Award. They also gave advance notice of the pre-loved baby and children's clothes event, which was held in September.

The **Harvest 2024** issue contained information on JMA, dates of Family Film nights (growing ever more popular with families) and a photograph of Colin Raistrick celebrating his 60th birthday.

The **Christmas 2024** edition of Focus contained details on the front page of the many services and events being held at St John's in the lead up to Christmas. There was a thank you from Patricia our cleaner for the help she had been given when moving house to Whitley Bay. Pat Brown had contributed an article about her memories of St John's over an amazing eighty years! Debbie Mathieson wrote an article introducing herself as the new Church Treasurer, and Karen Morley our Families Worker gave us a detailed itinerary of what she does in a week. There was news also of the help the Brownies had given sorting out baby and children's clothes for the pre-loved sale.

The Easter 2025 issue was a bumper edition of 24 pages, celebrating St John's centenary. Many people associated with the church sent in memories of being part of the church

community, and details of how they celebrated special events such as weddings and baptisms. Colin Raistrick made archive material available for us to include, and several people sent us photographs. Colin also put together an article about the Birtwistle Memorial Chair which is situated in the Sanctuary near the altar. John Wadsworth contributed a piece about a recent visit to Uganda, and Howard Scott recalled his walks on Hadrian's Wall, and his encounters with the Sycamore Gap tree before it was vandalised. Howard also wrote a piece for Focus on the history of St John's choir. We are grateful both to all of our regular contributors and our occasional guest writers.

We have reported on several significant birthdays and anniversaries on the 'Remembrances and Celebrations' page and that seems to be going well. People have been particularly pleased to have their significant birthdays celebrated

I'd like to record my thanks to the team-Howard, Peter, Colin and Ann who all work together to help Focus on its journey from blank page to publication.

Noreen Rees, Editor, Focus Magazine

SJY (St John's Youth)

We continue to meet with the young people on Sunday evenings term time. We have changed the time from 6.30 pm to 5.30 pm. The group is smaller as some of the extra boys who joined us for a season have stopped coming and one of the young people moved to Canada. We have continued to gather with the original group every week. If it ever happens that we cancel one Sunday, there is great disappointment, showing how important this time is for the young people who come. I don't know if you have watched a programme called 'Adolescence' recently. It is a programme about what happens to the young people online, when they have no spaces to discuss what they hear on social media and act upon the voices that influence them online. Today, more than ever, we need to be present and allow for trust to build, so that the young people can feel free to share, or ask questions.

Our young people for most of the past year have been around 15,16 and 17 year old and we felt we would not advertise, as they needed this space without other age groups joining them, until they moved to university or the next stage of their lives. And then, one Sunday, two young girls joined us. And they love being there and have come every week ever since.

It is an honour and privilege to know these young people and be allowed into their lives and I believe now more than ever we need to invest to be there for them, and create safe spaces where they can ask question and hear that they are loved by the God of the universe.

Revd Eva

Brownies

Brownies meet at St John's between 6.30 and 7.30pm on Friday evenings.

3rd Monkseaton Guides.

This year our number has stayed at 9 Guides. The guides have been organising the programme themselves with support from us. They continue to work on the Guide programme to gain their badges. We have a few close to getting their Guide Gold award.

Thanks to Jeni for all the support at Guides. We got through the year.

Suzanne Wood

8th Whitley Bay Scout Group (St John's Methodist)

It's been another good year for the group. Numbers are holding steady in the 3 sections but we could always do with more adult help. The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have all had a full and fun program though out the year covering everything so they can gain their Chief Scout Awards for their section.

Last April some of the older scouts took part in their Expedition Challenge where they left the church on Saturday morning caught a metro, then train to Morpeth and then walked to the Whitley Bay and District Scout campsite at Pigdon then did the return journey on the Sunday. All 3 sections took part in the District Camp in September .

This year the leaders have had their roles renamed by Headquarters so the Beaver, Cub and Scout leader is now Team Leader the rest of the leaders are team members and I am now Group Lead Volunteer.

Steven Wood 8th Whitley Bay Scouts GLV

Use of St. John's Premises by Hiring or Visiting Groups May 2024 to June 2025

Since the last General Meeting our premises have been used by the following community groups:

- 19 children's parties.
- 6 adult parties.
- Priory Singers held two rehearsal sessions.
- 6 Kids Kitchen events.
- 2 Tynemouth Melodies music school parents events.
- One Tropic Skincare evening.
- Local estate agent's residents' meeting.
- Two local Labour Party committee meetings.
- Reception Class at Marine Park School made another pre Christmas visit to the sanctuary.
- In February Marine Park school brought 3 classes as part of their religious education.
- Priory Singers held two practice sessions when their usual venue was unavailable.
- Tynemouth Choral Society held a Choral Workshop.
- An attempt to launch a children's dance group was unsuccessful.
- An attempt to launch a children's drama group will have been made by the time this report is published

Ongoing activity

- Willow Club met weekly with a break in the Summer.
- Whitley Bay Flower Club meet monthly with the exception of January, February (their AGM off site) and August.
- Coastal History meet as booked, essentially monthly save in July and August..
- The North East Wado Ryu Karate Group hold weekly practices and their usual twice a year Grading Days.
- In October Sound Bath commenced monthly sessions in the choir area.
- In June Age UK began a weekly strength and balance group.
- In August Age UK commenced weekly seated exercise groups.
- Glow Fitness run a weekly early evening Ladies fitness group.
- In August Whitley Bay Tea Dance began weekly afternoon sessions.
- A Sewing Group meets weekly.
- In August a monthly Councillor Surgery began.
-

Peter Firth. Bookings.



Whitley Bay and District Churches Together

At the WBDCT meetings regular updates continue to be shared about The Bay Food Bank, CAP (Christians Against Poverty), Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP), North Tyneside Parish Nursing and Whitley Bay Street Pastors, as well as news of interest from individual churches. News and details of church-wide events are always included in St John's weekly notice sheet and for those on Facebook, the St John's Methodist Group,

In Monkseaton a Service of Remembering was held on Saturday 9th November last year, outside the Ship Inn and The Black Horse, and the Carols around the Tree was held on Saturday 21st December.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service was held at St Andrew's in Monkseaton on Sunday 19th January at 6.30pm.

On Saturday 15th February, 'Light Waves' (part of Whitley Bay's Fiesta programme) was held in the grounds of St Paul's Parish Church, with an opportunity for those attending this free community event to explore illuminated sculptures made by local artists after dark, and to visit the community lantern tent to see a display of the 'Home Thoughts' project and house lanterns made by visitors of all ages at the Winter Fiesta in December.

On 22nd February, the documentary film The Tinderbox: A Story of Israel and Palestine, was shown at St Peter's Parish Church in Monkseaton. This film is also still available to watch on YouTube.

This year's World Day of Prayer was held at Whitley Bay Baptist Church on Friday 7th March. Women from The Cook Islands planned this moving service and the theme 'I Made You Wonderful' was a beautiful reminder of God's creative work in each of us and His love.

As I write this report, a service will be taking place in Monkseaton on Good Friday, 18th April, as well as a Walk of Witness to St Paul's followed by a short service in the grounds of St Paul's. Easter Day Sunrise Services will also have taken place at Cullercoats Bay, on the seafront at The Rendezvous Café, and on the promenade at Spanish City.

The Summer Fiesta is due to take place in Whitley Bay town centre and in the grounds of St Paul's on Sunday 6th July with the Autumn Fiesta planned for Sunday 21st September and the Winter Fiesta on Sunday 7th December.

I am so grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of the WBDCT Planning and Admin group as St John's rep and it would be lovely to be able to share it with others at St John's. Over the years it has been good to get to know people from different denominational churches in Whitley Bay, seeking to discover how we might be 'church' together, worshipping and serving God in the wider community of Whitley Bay and the local area, and then working alongside one another to enable events to take place. If you would be interested in finding out more about 'Churches Together' and how you might become involved, please speak to me or via Colin Raistrick in the St John's church office, who is WBDCT secretary.

Please pray for all the churches in Whitley Bay, Earsdson and Shiremoor and their church leaders, including The Friends Meeting House in Monkseaton and The Salvation Army Church in Shiremoor. The next meeting is due to take place in June at St Andrew's URC.

Barbara Grundy

ACCOUNTS PAGE 1

ACCOUNTS PAGE 2

ACCOUNTS PAGE 3

ACCOUNTS PAGE 4

BACK COVER.....BLANK

—

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

St John's Methodist

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st Aug 2024

North Shields and Whitley Bay	Circuit	Circuit no	20--05
-------------------------------	---------	------------	--------

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1184805

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 Eva Walker

Church Stewards:

Mrs Carol Baggaley

Mrs Susan Sabourn

Mrs Sally Clark

Mrs Margaret Rushton

Mr Howard Scott

Mrs Lesley Thompson

Treasurer:

Owen Lumsdon

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	57,834		57,834	61,446
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	4,825		4,825	3,170
a4	Lettings	8,884		8,884	6,238
a5	Other receipts	42,531		42,531	28,758
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	114,074	0	114,074 (a7)	99,612

SECTION B		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	63,216		63,216	64,500
b3	Donations	7,550		7,550	332
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	15,026		15,026	30,010
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	16,029		16,029	13,001
b6				0	
b7	Other payments	17,436		17,436	29,427
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	119,257	0	119,257 (b9)	137,270

SECTION C		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	0	(5,183)	(37,658)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	119,087		119,087 (c6)	156,745
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	0	113,904	119,087
c4	Transfers and adjustments				

c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	0	113,904 (c8)	119,087 (c6)
----	-----------------------------------	----------------	----------	---------------------	---------------------

SECTION D		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
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			0	0
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations			550	4,200
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations			550	4,200
d4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(d1+d2-d3)		0	0

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 Flower Fund			0		471	471
e2 Choir			0		117	117
e3 STJ Bells			0		380	380
e4 Warm Welcome Project			0		15,708	15,708
e5			0			0
e6			0			0
e7			0			0
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	0	0	0	0	16,676 (e11)	16,676 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	114,074 (a7)	119,257 (b9)	(5,183)	(c7)	119,087 (c6)	113,904 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	114,074	119,257	(5,183)		135,762.57 (x)	130,579.85 (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 2024

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	0	0
f2 Bank Current Account	9,887	25,326
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	9,291	13,665
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	99,908	74,913
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	119,087 (c6)	113,904 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	16,676 (e11)	16,676 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	135,762.57 (x)	130,579.85 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2023	At 31 August 2024
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)

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 1st May 2025

Name & address of treasurer Mrs Debbie Mathieson, 53 Holywell Avenue, Whitley Bay. NE26 3AQ

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 will be presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 1st May 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Eva Walker Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the St John's Methodist Church Whitley Bay, Registered Charity 1184805

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St John's Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 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.

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 give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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 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 Susan Mason.....

Address 16 Gerrard Road, Whitley Bay NE26 4NL

Date 19th March 2025.....

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 1st May 2025

Name & address of treasurer Mrs Debbie Mathieson, 53 Holywell Avenue, Whitley Bay. NE26 3AQ

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 will be presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 1st May 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Eva Walker Date

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the St John's Methodist Church Whitley Bay, Registered Charity 1184805

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St John's Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024 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.

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 give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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 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 Susan Mason.....

Address 16 Gerrard Road, Whitley Bay NE26 4NL

Date 19th March 2025.....

ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH WHITLEY BAY

England & Wales - Charity number 1184805

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024



St John's Methodist Church Council 2023 - 2024

Registered Charity 1184805

Members

Rev Eva Walker	Minister
Owen Lumsdon	Treasurer
Susan Wood	Secretary
Carol Baggaley	Senior Steward, Safeguarding Officer
Lesley Thompson	Steward
Howard Scott	Steward
Sally Clark	Steward
Margaret Rushton	Steward
Susan Sabourn	Steward
Una Miller	Pastoral Secretary
Margaret Stephenson	Worship Leader
Andrew Lowe	Chair, Finance and Property Committee
Colin Raistrick	Safeguarding Officer, Data Protection, We Give You A Warm Welcome
Carole Firth	Elected Member
Noreen Rees	Elected Member
Jackie Tallon	Elected Member
Heather Hindmarsh	Elected Member (to 13.02.2024)
Margaret Lumsdon	Elected member
Independent Examiner	Rachel Hunter

We are in partnership with

Action for Children

All We Can

Friday Cuppa (Warm Space)



Left to right - Carol Baggaley - Senior Steward, Margaret Rushton
 Susan Sabourn, Sally Clark, Howard Scott
 Front row - Revd Eva, Lesley Thompson

Pastoral Leadership Team

Revd Eva Walker
 Revd Tony Farrar
 Revd Gary Ridley
 John Morley
 Una Miller

Pastoral Visitors

Una Miller
 Pat Turnbull
 Pat Brown
 Margaret Stephenson
 Margaret Lumsdon
 Val Farrar
 Valerie Todhunter
 Pauline Hurse
 Doris Miller
 Heather Hindmarsh
 Anita Lambert
 Monica Hayden

Members Transferred

Jenny Fothergill
 Lilian Latimer

New Members

Elaine Davies
 Martin Davies
 Samuel Davies

Pastoral Group Contacts

Afternoon Club - Jackie Tallon
 Badminton - Pat Brown
 Choir- Christine Liddle
 Community Lunch - Margaret Stephenson
 FaB (Friends and Believers) - Lesley Thompson
 Faith and Friendship, morning - Pauline Hurse
 Faith and Friendship evening - Colin Raistrick
 Faith and Life - Tony Farrar
 Flower Ministry - Val Farrar
 Friday Cuppa/Warm Spaces - Barbara Grundy
 Knit and Natter - Susan Sabourn
 Messy Church - Chris Shand
 Monday Bible Study - Pat Turnbull
 Property Team of three - Andrew Lowe
 SJBelles (hand bells) - Christine Hickox
 SJY (youth)- Revd Eva
 Stewards - Carol Baggaley
 Toddlers and Wiggles - Karen Morley
 WHITCH - Revd Eva
 Uniformed Organisations - Suzanne Wood
 Willow Club - Ian Miller

Communion Stewards

Margaret Barker
 Mary Bentley (to December 2023)
 Monica Hayden
 Judith Lynn
 Una Miller
 Judith Tait

Revd Eva Walker

Dear friends,

What you are holding in your hands is faithfulness written down. God's faithfulness and this church's faithfulness. I pray that as you read the pages, as you read the reports you will be overjoyed and humbled by faithfulness.

For you will notice generosity and a desire to be an open community; you will notice bravery and the willingness to try new things and change things if and when they are not working; you will notice welcome, true and open welcome; you will notice unfailing commitment to the things that keep the church going, even if these things are not easily visible or up front, you will notice commitment to responsible living. You will also notice the ability of this church community to include all, to allow herself to be a guest in her own place, with others becoming hosts. And you will hear the voices of so many saying: 'This is my home' and 'I don't know how I would have coped without this community' and 'I can't believe my child feels empowered to do things in public' and so much more.



And I hope you will sense joy, joy in being together, in learning together, in worshipping together, in cooking together, in singing together, in working together, in clearing up together, in eating together.

And I hope you will sense the joy of many living out their calling and their faith. And what is our calling as a church? What better time to reflect upon this than now, as we have celebrated Pentecost, the birthday of the universal church. What happened on that day?

The Spirit of God came in the rush of a mighty wind and in tongues of fire above their heads. Many of those who experienced this day knew the power of both the wind and the fire. For they knew that both are unpredictable, and unsettling, and can change the course of action or direction. Think of the fishermen on water with a mighty wind causing a big storm.

Think of them all as they live in a very warm climate, and know the devastation of a spreading fire. But they also know that it is the mighty wind that powers sails and windmills, gives them the ability to catch fish, to travel, to make bread. They also know that the fire in the hands of the blacksmith can bring form and shape to the toughest of metals, they know that fire will cook their food and keep their bodies warm in cold nights. They know that both wind and fire give life. They are called to embrace the leading of the Spirit, even when the Spirit takes them outside of their comfort zones. And it is in the embracing, that the church is birthed.

And then, there was the ability the Spirit gave them to speak in other languages, languages strange to them, but that made sense to others. For, we as humans find it comforting to mix only with our own, the ones who speak our language and understand us, but in doing so, we miss out in a diversity that is rich beyond imagining. For, had God chosen not to learn our language, not to enter our lives, where would we be today?

And it is because of the love of God, as shown at Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and the faithfulness of so many people who responded that we are here today. And so, with thankful heart and hearts full of love we remember those who have gone to be with Jesus, the saints in glory. And we name those people, good and faithful servants who went to be with God in the past year. We praise God for them and for the hope of life eternal.

And, as we give thanks for them, let us always be a thankful people. Let us always give thanks to God for Jesus and the Holy Spirit, for the presence of the triune God in the world, for the moments of grace and the moments of healing, for the moments of clarity and the moments of calling, for every time that love wins.

And allow me the privilege of saying thank you to you all, for being so generous in giving yourselves to God, for being lights, and beacons of hope, for being people who go the extra mile. Thank you! I absolutely love being part of this community, of ministering alongside you. It is a true joy to be church together.

Love and God's blessings,
Eva

Members, friends and family members of our church community who have passed away

Revd John Mason
Eric Lambert
Anna Palmer
David Slater
Alex Bissett
Willie Brown
Revd Canon Leo Osborn

Margaret Carty
Jill Bissett
Eda Rogan
Keith Sargeant
Ian Birtwistle
Joan Teasdale

Pastoral Report

Thanks to our minister Rev Eva Walker who leads our pastoral team practically and spiritually. The Pastoral Care Team consists of three groups, the Pastoral Visitors of whom there are 13 Visitors, 21 Group Contacts, the Pastoral Leaders with 5 members, our minister, Rev Tony Farrar, Rev Gary Ridley, John Morley, and Una Miller.



The Pastoral Leaders were aware that the current structure did not fit the needs of all our members and the need to build on what we have and include further additions.

The following structure is now being implemented.

- Pastoral visitors will still maintain links with people in their groups who do not need ongoing support but a friendly contact.
- Church Groups now have a nominated Pastoral Contact
- A Priority Group has been created of people who need immediate support, and this will be done by Pastoral Leaders.

All these groups will be coordinated by the Pastoral Leaders with Una Miller being the first point of contact to pass information to the relevant person.

This is still work in progress and **communication** is the key.

Pastoral visitors have been asked to let me have their preferred method of communication and Group contacts will also be contacted.

- Telephone landline
- Telephone mobile
- Text
- Email
- Post

Pastoral care is the responsibility of the whole community of our church. If someone needs our help, please let us know and I will pass it to the relevant person.

- Someone needing immediate ongoing support.
- Someone needing an occasional contact.
- Those who need no contact.

Once again, we wish to express our gratitude for the work carried out by the many members of the Pastoral Care Team. This is a valuable link in communication within St John's

Una Miller
Pastoral Secretary

Safeguarding Report

During the year St John's Church Council approved St John's Safeguarding Policy, the text mirrors that of the national safeguarding Policy. The policy is on the Minor Hall noticeboard. Throughout the building on many other notice boards we have details of the safeguarding contacts and posters on the Methodist Church Safeguarding Policy. On the back of toilet doors we have posters on where to get help for those in domestic abuse situations and how to contact Childline. This keeps us fully compliant with the Safeguarding best practice.

Throughout the year Carol and Colin have attended Safeguarding updates with the Circuit Safeguarding Officer. Training on Safeguarding courses can be face to face or online. During the year 17 members of St John's refreshed their Safeguarding Training. The feedback from attendees is that the course is very informative and most helpful

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and this means we do update our processes and procedures. During the year we have altered the way we store large tables. This change stops them falling on top of the person needing a table. We have recorded that one Wesley Hall chair broke. Hopefully this will be a one off, but is recorded so we can see if this is a start of a trend due to plastic degradation due to heat/sunlight.

A reminder to all group leaders. Please record any accidents or near misses in the accident book located in the kitchen first aid box. This information is archived and information acted upon.

One thing that we have done during the year is merge the Circuit Safeguarding training database with the Circuit DBS record. This exercise has positively helped us identify gaps in DBS provision and avoided a situation where we assumed we were ok based on the individual database.

Thank you to all who help ensure St John's is a safe place for all.

Carol Baggaley, Colin Raistrick
St John's Safeguarding Officers

Data Protection

Each May on behalf of St John's I run the Methodist Church GDPR Annual Compliance Report and sign us off as 100% compliant as we are fully compliant. The national Privacy Policy was updated on the 3rd March 2023 - reflecting new addresses for Methodist Church House in London - the revised copy is displayed on the Wesley Hall corridor noticeboard and a copy is filed in the Policy file in the Office. It was not updated in 2024.

Personal Data that we use at St John's is given to us by people seeking information from us and our systems - one such system is the distribution list to receive the weekly notices electronically, another is listing in the Church directory so that we can communicate across activity groups and committees.

When notified we delete or add people. Attendance forms for Wiggles, Toddlers, Messy Church and Film Nights are archived and will be destroyed in line with the Methodist Record Retention Schedule.

Colin Raistrick

5

Treasurer's Report May 2024

This is of necessity an interim report as the year-end figures will not be known until September. I will make a further report at the AGM in June with the results to date and will of course report at the year-end as usual.

This year has seen a continuation of the difficulties in balancing the books experienced over recent years.

In an unprecedented step, the February Church Council agreed to the transfer of £25000 from the TMCP account (our savings) to the current account to facilitate the monthly circuit assessment payments (£5268/month) made via the CFB account. At that time, we were two payments behind due to lack of funds in the current account. This withdrawal was completed, and we are now up to date with payments.

Hopefully I will be able to report an improved situation by the year end when several significant income items are anticipated (eg Gift week and the Gift Aid contribution)

I will continue to monitor the situation closely to ensure that we meet our obligations.

Owen Lumsdon
Treasurer

The accounts for the year ending 31.08.23 can be found at the very end of this report book

Steward's Report

Another year of so much activity within St John's. Our numerous groups are growing and new groups have joined us, ie, Karate Club during the week, sewing club meet on Thursday evenings and a new Banner group are coming together. The Whitley Bay Tea Dance Club will be joining us shortly as will Age UK fitness classes.

The property team have fitted the pegboard, this enables us to display the larger projects that have been carried out by our young folk in Worship, Fab and Messy Church.

We have been able to take part in various forms of worship, which we have pleasure in inviting those who are unable to attend the Church to join us on zoom, unfortunately, from time to time our technology challenges us (especially in the Wesley Hall). We have welcomed back Supernumeraries and local preachers who have appreciated the fellowship we continue after the service over refreshments. The Steward Team attended training that was provided by the District Trainers, specifically for Stewards, we have also attended the Equality, Diversity and inclusion training. Both sessions were very informative.

Once again, the Steward Team were happy to invite our members and those who assist us to deliver many of our activities, to join us and share in a meal with games and music (those brave enough have jumped up to join in the dancing). We had such a glorious selection of deserts, I'm sure we could all have had seconds and thirds, if we had a big enough appetite. We are at present planning our next event, to take place in July (keep up to date with notices as more details will be coming your way).

We had a very busy Christmas, due to the large numbers of children attending our Church. The whole of Marine Park School took the opportunity to bring their classes and their families into the Church over three days. They followed the Christmas story, so we were so pleased that our banners could be displayed in the Church to assist in the story telling. Our decorated Christmas Tree was moved numerous times to facilitate the different events that we had. Once again the Christingle Service was a highlight and the addition of the "magic" candles took everyone by surprise and had the children and parents enthralled. Just the right excitement ready for the build up to Christmas Day.

The Steward Team are very happy working together to bring Worship and assist our Minister, Supernumeraries, worship leaders and visiting preachers.

Carol Baggaley
Senior Steward

Worship Leading

It is a privilege to lead the congregation in worship. I want to express my grateful thanks to all at St. John's who continue to encourage and support me in this role.

I often find preparing and leading a service challenging, but I know that if God calls any of us to do something for him, he will always be there to give his help and guidance.

I pray that we will all continue to worship and serve our God in this place and in the community in which we live.

Love to you all,
Margaret Stephenson

Finance and Property Committee

Andrew Lowe, Chairman
Colin Raistrick,
Owen Lumsdon
Paul Walker
Carole Firth
Peter Firth
Howard Scott

Over the past year the Finance and Property Committee have continued to look after the property and finances of the church. The Committee met on four occasions during the year.

Major Property Repairs and Improvements

The following property repairs and improvements to the buildings have been made over the past year:

- Gutters and drainpipes cleaned
- Plaster in Sanctuary painted
- Wesley Hall floor cleaned and polished
- Handrail installed in church porch toilet
- Stable and flower boxes painted in bright colours
- Car park floodlights replaced with LED lights
- Dishwasher repaired
- Faulty water pump replaced in boiler room
- Loop system amplifier in Sanctuary replaced
- Defibrillator installed on outside of Wesley Hall
- Rotten skirting and floorboards replaced in 1st floor kitchenette
- Emergency pull-alarm fitted to church porch toilet.
- New emergency lights fitted above church porch doors
- Pegboard erected in Sanctuary
- Trinity Church memorial light repaired
- Curtain cord on two windows in Wesley Hall repaired

Room hire charges were revised from September 2023. A sales brochure was produced and is available to potential room hirers from the office. A large banner has been placed on the outside of the Wesley Hall advertising rooms for hire.

The high cost contract for the supply of electricity ended on 31st January. Following a competitive exercise undertaken by our energy broker a new 3 year electricity contract (for 100% renewable electricity) was agreed with Scottish Power, which commenced on 1st February. The new contract price is much lower and will reduce the annual electricity cost from £8445 to £3477pa. However the new price will still be twice the rate that we were paying before the energy cost crisis.

A new reserves policy was agreed by the Church Council in February. Reserves are part of the unrestricted funds that are freely available to spend on any part of the church's purposes. They are required so that the trustees meet their obligations to protect and safeguard the assets of the church and to manage uncertainty.

We Give You a Warm Welcome Project

Double glazing was installed in the Wesley Hall, kitchen and kitchen corridor windows at the end of July. This replaced the existing single glazed windows, and further enhance the warmth of the Wesley Hall, as well as reducing maintenance costs.

Secondary glazing has been added to the main windows in the Sanctuary, to reduce draughts and improve the insulation. At the same time the John Lamb Nativity memorial window was repaired. The window was removed for several weeks whilst repairs were undertaken at the contractors workshop. A new frame was installed, and the stained glass re-installed, together with secondary plain glass on the outside to protect the stained glass. This has been a significant piece of work, and should ensure that all those who come to St. John's can enjoy the Nativity scene depicted for many years to come.

Future Planned Works

The next part of the "We Give You a Warm Welcome" project will be to install zonal heating, so that individual rooms can be heated as required, rather than the whole church building being heated. This will be a complex project, and will involve significant work to investigate and research before any contracts are awarded.

A local painter and decorator has been engaged to paint the external parts of the building, which haven't had a major repaint for 20 years. The work will commence on the 17th July, depending on the weather.

The pot-holes in the church car park will be repaired.

Additional Remarks

Thanks to Charles Hedley and John Cuggy for tending the church garden throughout the year, and keeping the external appearance of the church to a high standard.

I would like to thank all the members of the Finance and Property Committee for their work and dedication in keeping the church property and finances in good order. Their work is often unseen and unglamorous, but vital for the continuing work and mission of St. John's.

Andrew Lowe

Chairman – Finance and Property Committee

Building Project Finance Group – A Warm Welcome

Colin Raistrick, Chair
Ian Nicholson, Treasurer
Noreen Rees
Ian Miller
Jackie Tallon
Carol Baggaley

Funding for the various elements of the warm welcome project continues and to date the project has raised just over £105,000. Money continues to be collected for the project mainly by many unseen activities. These include online shopping via easyfundraising where a small percentage of the purchase price is paid by the shop not the buyer. A number of people have realised that their online grocery shopping can be a means of donating to the project. At St John's sales of cards, books and jigsaws are added to the pot. The collection of foreign notes and coins also contributes. Bank interest and Gift aid on donations also contributes. The pot of available money continues to grow and has NOT touched the £60,000 of money made available by the Church.

Income

£45,021	All Fundraising
£60,000	Money designated by Church Council
£105,021	Total

Expenditure

£5,245	Roof insulation works
£12,555	Double Glazing Wesley Hall, Kitchen
£17,800	Total

£9,000 is earmarked for the Sanctuary secondary glazing.

Information gathering on possibilities for aspects of the next stages of the warm welcome project are in progress.

We are waiting for confirmation of a bid to Government funding for energy efficiency measures. If approved this will result in a comprehensive survey of the St John's estate with cost recommendations of what best to invest in based on what will bring the greater energy efficiency saving. This could be to install double glazing where we don't have the glazing or a system that turns the existing heating into a controlled heating zone option. The Government funding will fund the cost of the greater energy efficiency action.

Colin Raistrick
Chair

Choir

Another year goes by – and we are still in business!

The Covid restrictions are becoming a distant memory as we continue to lead the congregation in worship. We have built up an excellent working relationship with the visiting ministers and local preachers, and are very happy to accommodate their musical preferences for Introit or Anthem whenever we can.

In early December we enjoyed singing again at the “Coffee and Carols” event in the Wesley Hall as we have done for so many years in the past. This time the money raised (£286) was donated to “Crisis at Christmas”. This is always a popular occasion and it was lovely to see such a goodly crowd of people attending, enjoying singing so many of their favourite carols, between a steady supply of mince pies and coffee (and tea!).

Unfortunately, this year, there was no opportunity for the Choir to sing at any of the Holy Week services. Maybe next year.....?

I am for ever grateful to the selfless dedication of the Choir members, who give of their time and talents so freely. Without exception, they are all so keen to ensure that the standard of the singing is as good as it possibly can be. They are by no means all expert sight readers and take the responsibility of enhancing the worship at St John’s very seriously indeed.

As always, we are extremely grateful for the continued support of the congregation, and feel privileged to be able to contribute to the worship at St John’s.

Charles Hedley Choir Leader

The Flower Team

We continue to have a dedicated team of 4 ladies who buy, arrange and deliver the flowers on a weekly basis to anyone celebrating a special birthday or event, to those who are unwell or have suffered a bereavement. Sometimes sent as a “Thank you” to those who fulfil various roles at St. John’s and are rarely thanked.

This is an important part of the pastoral care work at St. John’s, not only for our members but for the many from the community who come on to our premises week by week.

The recipients of the flowers appreciate knowing that we are thinking of them and we often receive “thank you” cards from them.

We could not fulfil this role if it were not for the generous people who donate to the flower fund regularly. My grateful thanks to you all.

The flower team are Judith Lynn, Val Farrar, Mary Bentley and myself.

Margaret Stephenson



Wednesday Lunches

Lunch on the first Wednesday in the month has continued throughout the past year, one of the few groups which never has a break during holiday seasons, it being felt that our guests particularly appreciate the opportunity to continue to meet together when many other groups are having a break.

Numbers of guests attending varies somewhat but has averaged around 24. Sadly we have lost regulars and others are no longer able to attend.

Not all are from our congregation; we continue to welcome several folk from the wider community, some having joined us via Friday Cuppa.

The same format remains popular choice of 2 soups, 2 puddings (always with custard, and/or ice cream in the summer!) followed by tea/coffee and, more importantly, lots of chat!

An exception to the usual menu was in December when, as usual, a full traditional Christmas lunch was on the menu, together with much festive cheer and spirit (not of the liquid kind of course!).

We continue to be blessed with the same team of very willing cooks/helpers/drivers who work very well and flexibly together – and have as much fun and chat as the guests, it must be said.

Any payment for food is by donation only, ingredients for the lunch being donated by the volunteers so a bonus is that since the last AGM, more than £1200 has been passed to the treasurer for church funds. There has been a proposal that, as the church no longer has a regular external Charity Project, we may wish to donate the coming year's donations to the Bay Food Bank. As we know, it is currently sorely in need of funds and it somehow seems appropriate that those less fortunate than we are should benefit from our good fortune in eating together every month. This will be discussed in the coming days.

Gill Hedley

WHITCH (What Happens In The Church)

As you know, this is a group of mums getting together, to share, to support, to be. The mums continue to come to Messy Church and to Film Nights. They bake for us, help tidy up, love being part of this community, and love getting together in the evenings to chat and to share. They remind me we have to organise another get together, when I forget to send out dates for our next meeting. They are beautiful people, finding a home at St John's, and they bring so much to the table. Together, we laugh, and share stories of struggles and of joys. When I mentioned the need for a new dishwasher, it was some of these mums, who created a WhatsApp group and shared ideas of how to raise the money. The believe in the community God has brought together in this place. Karen and I are both part of this group, and we praise God for it.

Eva

12

FOCUS MAGAZINE

The small team of Noreen Rees (Editor), Howard Scott (Administrator), Peter Firth (Distribution) and Colin Raistrick (email Distribution) continues to produce news and views of St John's members and friends four times a year (Autumn/Harvest, Christmas, Easter, Summer). During part of the year we were without our regular proof-reader, Ann Naylor but we're delighted that Ann is now back on board after her accident. Most of the copies of Focus are sent out via email and as well as our congregation and friends, reaches wider afield. We also have paper copies available for those not online or preferring a print copy, and this includes several of our visitors.

The Summer 2023 issue contained details of the Methodist Conference in Birmingham, which Andrew Lowe had attended. There was also a feature on Colin Raistrick's role as Office Administrator at St John's. The Summer Focus also contained photos of the church celebratory meal in July for the coronation of King Charles III.

The Autumn edition had lots to report, including details of the improvements made to the kitchen and Wesley Hall windows. Colin Raistrick produced a piece on the history of the font at St John's. There was also information about the Circuit Green Weekender and the Charities Market at St John's.

We were delighted that the Christmas edition took up twenty pages. Karen Morley our Children's Worker reflected on how important it is to listen to people and give them space. Rev Tony Farrar wrote a very relevant piece about 'Conflict at Christmas.' Rev Eva wrote an article on 'A week in the Life of St John's' which included photos of the various community groups we invite onto our premise, as well as the ones which are part of our worshipping community. It emphasised that all are welcome to 'be and do life together.' There was also an interview with Patricia, our cleaner at St John's.

The Easter 2024 issue contained details of the many services at St John's and the wider circuit over Holy Week and Easter. There were also features on the Wednesday lunch for the community, the new defibrillator, Friday Morning Cuppa, and an update from Karen Morley on her new role as Family Worker across the circuit

We now have a 'Remembrances and Celebrations' page in place of an obituary page, and have reported on several significant birthdays and anniversaries. We can't celebrate someone's special day however if we don't know about it so are reliant on information about this being passed onto our team. We're also grateful for any photos we can use to brighten up the magazine, particularly those of landscapes, or of people mentioned in the articles (with their permission of course).

I'd like to record my thanks to the team-Howard, Peter and Colin who all work together to help Focus on its journey from blank page to publication.

Noreen Rees
Editor, Focus Magazine



We have a really strong core group of around 25 people who come to every Messy Church. This is made up of around 12 families. There are also other families who drop in and out. Because this core group is so solid, we have really been able to build up good relationships with them. This has included getting them involved elsewhere in church life, baking, sharing fundraising ideas, supporting each other, as well as lots of faith based conversations.

Family Film Nights



Family Film Nights were request of parents, we this is the first year we've September through to July. We also moved it to a Friday, straight from school. It's continued to grow and grow, and it's been great to see old faces as well as people who have had no previous connection with St John's.

originally set up as a winter activity. At the continued this into the summer months, and offered a full monthly programme from

Wiggles

We have consistently found, over the last few months, that the second session is very quiet. We decided that after May Half Term, we are changing Wiggles to one session - 10.30-11.30, amalgamating the two.

Toddlers

Both Wednesday and Friday sessions continue to be very popular, with waiting lists for both - especially Friday. We are seeing a number of families join us for other events, such as Family Film Night, Messy Church and special church services, for example, Christingle.

Volunteers

We have a fantastic core group of volunteers without whom we couldn't do any of this. They are an absolute joy to work with, and make my job so much easier! As ever, I'm always keen to grow that team and strongly encourage anyone who hasn't been to any of these things come along and see what we get up to, and if possible, to get involved!

Me!

From January, my role changed and I now work Full Time for the North Shields & Whitley Bay Circuit, across the 4 sites of St John's, Monkseaton, Cullercoats Methodist Church (CMC) & North Shields. Part of that means that St John's has to share me a little bit more, and we are still in the process of working out exactly what that looks like! So far, we know that occasionally I will need to miss Wiggles in order to be at Giggles in North Shields, and that setting up Film Nights has become slightly more complicated by my need to be at CMC beforehand. I am sure we will continue to see changes as we all learn to work together.

Karen Morley
Family Worker

Friday Cuppa (Warm Space)



Once again this year St John's was successful in receiving funding from North Tyneside Council enabling the church to continue to be one of the Council's 'Warm Spaces' in Whitley Bay between November 2023 and March 2024 when, as we have done previously, we were able to incorporate being a 'Warm Space' with our own coffee morning (Friday Cuppa).

Hopefully North Tyneside Council's 'Warm Space Initiative' will recommence this November through to the end of March 2025, St John's able to apply for further funding and that we shall continue to be recognised as a 'Warm Space' in Whitley Bay.

Meanwhile Friday Cuppa continues to meet every Friday 9am to 1pm (except for Good Friday) as we endeavour to greet everyone who comes with a smile and a warm welcome. Not everyone is able to come each week but there is now a core group of between 35 – 40 people and one week in February this year 35 people, including helpers, attended Friday Cuppa. During the past year we've also had the opportunity to welcome several new and old friends, and to greet visitors to the area who have been passing St John's, seen the notice outside and decided to pop in for a quick cuppa. Whether known as 'Friday Cuppa' or a 'Warm Space' everyone is welcome whether as regular attendee at St John's or a part of the wider community in Whitley Bay and beyond.

It is always wonderful to hear the constant chatter and laughter in the Minor Hall on a Friday morning and to see how everyone is keen to help and support one another. Some people only pop in for a short-while, whilst others come for longer. Some are content to just chat over a cuppa whilst enjoying the homemade scones, rock buns, etc, and others also enjoy playing dominoes, Chinese Chequers belonging to Irene Walker, participate in doing a small jigsaw puzzle from time-to-time, or look at and try to do some of the puzzles in the recently acquired large-print Crosswords, Word Search and Sudoku books.

Friends who come regularly often tell us how much they miss coming on a Friday if they are unable to come and how much they enjoy and value being able to come to other social events at St John's. Thank you, to everyone who comes to Friday Cuppa and who, since September 2023, has contributed to the weekly donations totalling nearly £500 which have been added to church funds. Thanks also go to the small band of volunteers who help at Friday Cuppa and to those who generously make and/or bring biscuits, cakes, etc.

Barbara Grundy

Afternoon Club

This is a friendly and supportive group that currently has 24 members, all women, but we do from time to time invite members of the congregation to join us if the subject of our meeting is of interest to them. Recently some gentlemen joined us to enjoy being entertained by the Silver Stars Ukelele Band.

Our programme this year has included a talk on Iona, Patricia Kamba, our church cleaner, telling us of her experiences coming to the U.K. as a political refugee, learning about the "Walking With" programme that helps asylum seekers, a talk on the work of Street Pastors, and learned more about Green Issues. Alongside the above we have had a Beetle Drive, quiz, Christmas Afternoon, shared our personal treasures.

In March we hosted a Coffee Morning which raised £250. (£100 being donated to Street Pastors and £150 to Church Funds).

Hopefully we will be having a summer lunch out at a local restaurant in July and a garden meeting in August.

We offer a warm invitation to any lady in the congregation who would like to join us, just come along to the Minor Hall on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month (Sept – June) at 2.15.p.m.

Margaret Stephenson

Knit and Natter



We continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month and enjoy sharing a chat, knitting ideas and a cuppa and biscuits. We are pleased to see that our cushion covers are still well used in the Sanctuary and that our Christmas tree (made by Roger Stephenson) decorates the font at Christmas with the poppies and scarecrows also appearing at relevant times of the year. This year we were again happy to supply knitted chicks to our Toddler and Messy Church groups.

We celebrated Ruby's 99th birthday with cake but were so sad to lose our lovely Anna.

Anna told us about a lady in North Shields who was sending knitted teddy bears to the Ukraine and we continue to knit for the group which is now called "Hero Bears for Every Child" and who have contacts in Social Services and the NHS as well as Ukraine. See the photograph of a sample of our knitting.

We are still happy to do "commissions" for a donation to the Church. Please talk to Susan Sabourn if you are interested.

We welcome new people either as an occasional visitor or a regular attender. Just pop into the minor hall at the advertised time.

Susan Sabourn

Monday Morning House Group:

The present membership of this group is seven ladies. We meet to deepen our understanding of our faith and to support one another on our faith journey.

During Lent we studied "People of the Passion" a book by Stephen Barton looking at the various people involved in the Passion of Jesus.

Currently we are looking at the book of Revelation, this is the book chosen for bible month by the Methodist Church. As you can imagine it is quite a challenge and we have had some interesting discussions so far and we're only up to Chapter 3. We may have finished this study by Advent, or perhaps given up along the way!!!

This is a group where we can all share the questions and doubts we have from time to time about our faith, knowing that anything we say is absolutely confidential. It is a very supportive and caring group which we all appreciate.

Anyone wanting to know more, please have a word with Una Miller or Margaret Stephenson.

Margaret Stephenson

Faith and Friendship

We continue to meet weekly on Zoom on Thursday mornings with one of the groups, and met face to face with the other group during Lent.

We have absolutely continued to grow together. We can share with each other our deepest worries, our joys and our frustrations with honesty and with love. We are a diverse group and it is beautiful how we learn from each other, and how God shows us something new every time.

As we met last Thursday morning, we were talking about the name of the group which started in Covid and it was called: 'St John's Lent Gathering'. In my Zoom, it is called: 'St John's Lent Gathering and beyond.' And I love the word: 'beyond'....For a lot has happened in that one word- tears shared, prayers prayed, laughs shared, advice sought, weather discussed....(we have to discuss the weather as one of us lives in France and the other in the South :))

At the moment we are working through the question: 'When I pray, what does God do?'. Let me share with you this story I read recently....'A girl was reciting the alphabet out loud, and her parent asked what she was doing. 'I am praying' she said, but I don't have the words and if I give God all the letters, God can put the words together, for God knows what I want to pray about.'

Isn't that beautiful?

It also made me think of the power of the faith and friendship community. For when you do life together, every week, and you let others truly see you as you are allowed to see them, you know that they will find the words for you when you are struggling, they will hold your hand, and pray your prayers. They will be there.

You are always more than welcome to join us and you will be made to feel at home.

Eva

SJY (St John's Youth)

It is an honour and a privilege to know the young people who are part of this group. Our group has grown since last year, with the majority of the members being teenage boys. You can imagine the beautiful noise and chaos that this brings. We continue to meet weekly (term times only) on Sunday evenings, we continue to build relationships with the young people, we talk and share and play games (they love some familiar ones). If you find yourselves in the Minor Hall, you will notice an unfinished jigsaw. This is the girls' jigsaw, and as we spend time with it, there is opportunity to listen to music and to chat about life, faith, school.

Our conversations continue to be organic, and there is a sense of trust and a sense of belonging amongst us all.

Recently, one of the young people asked a few questions about faith and we had a very long conversation. Others were listening in, and when I wondered what they thought, they said they wanted to listen in. The young person asked if he could have a Bible, and as I gave him one, a few other boys asked the same. The following week, one of the young people came and asked for a Bible for his friend who doesn't come to SJY, because he is doing sports at the same time. I did give him the Bible and the following day, I received a lot of thank yous from the other boy. There was so much enthusiasm at receiving the Bible. Remember the time you received the first Bible? What a privilege to have been part of this and to continue to be part of their lives. Please hold this group in your hearts and prayers, for navigating teenage years is not easy, and they need to know they belong somewhere and are loved for who they are.

Revd Eva

FaB Club (Friends and Believers)

In 2023/2024 FaB has continued to meet on a Sunday morning once a month. Dates for each quarter are published in advance in the Church notices and on the FaB WhatsApp group. Monthly meetings continue to suit all involved and attendance has been very good. Most sessions include around 9 children and 8-9 adults!

Our sessions involve fun of all sorts including craft, games, quizzes, outdoor activities, storytelling and of course juice and biscuits. Each session has a theme, which may connect with a special time in the church year or whatever is happening in church. In the last few sessions, in addition to Christmas and Easter activities, we have been wondering at how we can see God in nature.

Every session is such a joy, children and adults learning from each other and worshipping together!

Lesley Thompson

Faith and Life Group

The Faith and Life Group seeks to do what it says on the tin! It is a group, open to anyone who is interested, which meets monthly in the home of one of the members of the group, providing the opportunity to be supportive of each other as we talk through the things we find difficult about being a Christian in the context of today's society and church. Nothing is sacrosanct, and we realise that many of us find it a struggle to hold on to traditional Christian beliefs. And we value the insights we can each offer to help us towards realistic Christian living today.

Tony Farrar

Green Group

The green group at St John's, consisting of Sally Clark, Tony Farrar and Malcolm Hickox, has continued to meet both as part of the 'Circuit Working Party on climate change and the environment' and separately. Several new initiatives have been developed, including a green noticeboard as well as increased opportunities for recycling and, after a lot of information gathering with particularly the office and the Property & Finance Committee, we were delighted to have been awarded the A Rocha Bronze Eco Award in September for St John's. The Silver is now in our sights!

We continue to encourage an agenda item for all Circuit, Church Council and Committee meetings which asks members present to consider what impact the decisions they make might have on the environment.

With the Circuit we were involved in organising the Green Festival which took place in September 2023. This comprised a very successful Saturday morning at Cullercoats Methodist where local 'green' community groups - including Station Master's Garden, Whitley Bay Clean Team and Meadowell Connected - were invited to have a stall whilst refreshments were served and musicians played in the foyer. This resulted in lots of very meaningful conversations and networking opportunities and we hope to work with many of them again at future events. On the Sunday, services across the Circuit focussed on the Green Weekender theme with a positive response. It was agreed that this should be developed each year in relation to 'Creationtide' and this is already in the planning at St John's. Latterly the Circuit group has been considering its remit which has been clarified as: to organise occasional community events; to raise the profile of green issues and to support each other in this (not always popular) domain. We are always looking for like-minded folk to join our small band and welcome anyone interested in awareness-raising of this important area to please contact one of us.

Sally Clark

SJB (St John's Belles)

The handbell group continues to grow and develop, we now have a repertoire of 88 pieces.

The Belles played during the service that Margaret Stephenson led at Pentecost, in August we led a Sunday service based on the theme of Colour.

In October we hosted a coffee morning. A morning of bell ringing and audience

participation, the team also brought their dramatic side with a sketch about Snow White and the 7 dwarfs. Donations were given to North Tyneside Communities MHA. At the Choir and Coffee event In December we again played 2 pieces, Veni Immanuel and a medley called Merry Christmas. We played during the Toy service and Carol service.

Ruth stepped in to help us and has never left! So, including myself there are 9 of us.

On 8th June we are organising a Handbell afternoon, calling it Strawberry Fayre. We are looking forward to an afternoon of music, fun and laughter. Not forgetting Strawberries!!

Christine Hickox



Brownies

We can't believe it is time to look back on another year for 3rd Monkseaton Brownies. Again we have packed loads in during our weekly term time meetings at St John's and really appreciate the welcome and fantastic space we have on offer for our group every week.

During the summer term we completed our Go Global badge. We had an evening enjoying fruits from around the world and making mostly delicious smoothies, learnt all about Kenya and the Big 5 and tried our hand at playing the game Shisima. We also learnt about India, made some shadow theatres and enjoyed nimbu soda. The girls got crafty making jewellery and learning about Maori symbols, made some fairy bread, decorated kites, travelled with 'Brownie Airlines' and completed a world scavenger hunt along Park View to complete their world travels. We also managed to fit in a fab night at Beverley Park Lawn Tennis club who hosted a free fun tennis evening for the girls. (We were all ready for a rest over the summer)

In September we welcomed some new members and focused initially on the Brownie promise. We managed to fit in some Disney themed nights at the girls request and wore Mickey Mouse ears to our practice promise ceremony. We also had one of our favourite nights ever so far, a whole potato themed evening. This was a theme the girls chose! We did blind crisp tasting, guessed the potato product, made Mr & Mrs Potato heads and had mashed potato in ice cream cones. (We would recommend everyone tries the latter but maybe only once) We also managed to fit in some baking and some our eldest Brownies organised their own leaving night.

Last term we focused on Brownie traditions and the girls got to provide some ideas as part of Girl Guiding's new uniform consultation during an art themed night. We also had a parliament night where the girls chose and voted on options for a trip. This resulted in us all visiting Jump 360 later on in the term. We had more leavers so more Brownies led what was their last session. This has become a tradition now and their ideas are brilliant and see us doing all sorts of unusual things.

This term has got off to a great start. This year is the 200 year anniversary of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Girl Guiding have developed a MayDay badge to recognise the anniversary and support the RNLI and this is our focus for the term. Living so close to the sea it is proving very relevant, fun and worthwhile.

Our unit remains full with a small waiting list. We have had amazing help from 3 young leaders this past year but are always on the look out for new adult volunteers too if anyone would like to join us to help out.

Julie Westgarth
Brownie Leader

Guides

Our programme continues well with the Guides now organising their own programme of activities ranging from potato night, sewing night, tasting and other badge work. We had one Guide achieve their Guide Gold award, Jeni (Assistant Guide Leader) received her 20 year award and I received my 30 year service award. We had 1 Guide attend County camp last August. We are slowly building our numbers up and are currently at 11.

Suzanne Wood
Leader

8th Whitley Bay (St John's Methodist) Scout Group

It's been another good year for the Scout Group numbers in all 3 sections are good and all 3 sections are running an exciting and varied programme. The young people are gaining badges and enjoying themselves. Highlights of the year was Camp Together at Causey Park and our own camp at Pigdon.

Unfortunately, a couple of leaders have retired from scouting, and this has left the Cub section struggling with only two leaders, but a parent rota is running smoothly so if you know anyone who would like to volunteer to work with 8 to 10 year olds please get in touch.

Scouting is going through a transition at the moment, so some names and roles are changing so the Group executive is now the Trustees board and Group Scout Leader is becoming Lead Volunteer.

Steven Wood GSL/Lead Volunteer

Ladies Badminton

It has been another enjoyable season, with numbers attending regularly despite injuries and illness. We meet Friday 1.30 - 3.30pm from September to May and would always welcome new members.

Pat Brown

Action for Children

Action for Children has various local projects in the North East and is very grateful for any support we give as a church. These projects include early years, parent and young carer help lines, counselling services for children and young people suffering from domestic abuse, nurseries and residential care for disabled children.

At St John's we still support Action for Children financially, though the nature of that support is changing due to more online donations and less loose change for boxes. Diaries and Christmas Cards are no longer profitable for the charity so a stall at the Christmas Market is no longer viable.

It's with much gratitude therefore that St John's Belles are holding a Strawberry Fayre in June, with proceeds being shared between Action for Children and Church funds.

Action for Children Sunday in 2024 is on 14th July and there will be envelopes available for donations.

Any Action For Children boxes can be given to me at any time. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Lesley Thompson

Whitley Bay and District Churches Together (WBDCT)

At the Whitley Bay and District Churches Together (WBDCT) meeting in February the Rev Janet Appleby a retired but still very active Anglican Minister was elected to chair WBDCT meetings following Alan Dickinsons resignation last year.

A number of events and special occasions have taken place during the past year including the Ordination and Induction of Rev Louise Sanders at St Andrew's United Reformed Church (URC), on 29th July 2023. Services have continued to be held in Monkseaton outside the Ship Inn and The Black Horse including A service of Remembering on Saturday 11th November with church leaders, councillors and leaders of the Islamic Culture Centre joining members of church congregations and the wider community in remembering and praying for peace; Carols around the Tree on December 23rd and a Good Friday Service. A Community Christmas Tree Festival held at St Paul's from Thursday 7th to Sunday 10th December 2023 ended with a Carol Service to which everyone was welcome and local churches invited to participate by choosing a carol, bible reading, prayer. To mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th – 25th January 2024. A service was held at St John's Friday 19th January. This year's World Day of Prayer was held at Hillheads Community Church on Friday 1st March. The service was written by the Christian Women in Palestine and had the theme of 'I beg you bear with one another in love'. A number Easter Day Sunrise Services were held in Whitley Bay at individual churches, and on the Promenade at Spanish City.

On Saturday 10th February Whitley Bay Fiesta held a special community event, 'Lightwaves Art Installation Festival' at St Paul's during the evening. The next Whitley Bay Fiesta event will take place on Sunday 7th July at St Paul's Church and Park View Shopping Centre between 11am and 3pm, and then on Sunday 6th October and Sunday 1st December.

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) – following the closure of the 'CAP' centre based at Acorn Community Church, there is now a new CAP centre based at Whitley Bay Baptist Church with a newly appointed Manager.

North Tyneside Parish Nursing is applying for charity status. It continues to grow as the team offers and provides support to individuals and to hold regular clinics at North Shields Fisherman's Mission.

At the WBDCT meetings reports and news is also regularly shared about The Bay Food Bank, Whitley Bay Street Pastors, the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) and the Warm Space Initiative as well as news from individual churches.

As WBDCT moves forward with a new 'chairperson' at the helm do pray for all the church leaders and church representatives and keep an eye on St John's weekly notice sheet and for those on Facebook, the St John's Methodist Group, for news and details of future church-wide events as we consider possible ecumenical events and initiatives with everyone, not just the few involved. If you would like to know more about any of these or ways in which you might become more involved, please do have a word with me.

Barbara Grundy
St John's WBDCT rep

Archbishop William Temple famously said that ‘The Church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who aren’t its members’. So how we respond to our society and world, and exercise Christian compassion and care, are things that are basic to our life together.

Charities Christmas Market

As a Church, for several years now, we have supported the work of many local charities through the **Charities’ Christmas Market**, normally held at the beginning of November. This last year over 20 charities had stalls, and in excess of £2,000 was raised during the two hour session. It is an event noted not only for fund-raising, but also for the warmth of care and mutual support. This year the Market will be held on Saturday, November 9th from 10a.m. – 12noon. And help is always welcome!

Methodist Homes

We have a commitment to support two charities with close links to the Methodist church nationally. **Methodist Homes** is at the forefront of care for older people, and is involved in providing residential care, and also care in local areas through community groups and activities. In our area, North Tyneside Communities are involved in social and support groups, runs a variety of activities, and pARTners, art classes for people living with dementia, is part of what they support. (Incidentally, there is a pARTners Exhibition/Celebration at St. Mary’s Claremont Gardens, from June 21-23, ending in a Dementia Friendly café-style service at 4p.m. on Sunday).

Methodist Homes Sunday is on June 16 and will be the theme of our morning worship, when offering envelopes will also be available. Last year the church raised £653. More information is available at www.mha.org.uk

All We Can

We also support the development charity **All We Can**, which is involved with working with local communities in developing countries to improve the quality of life for those who are often in great need. It also offers a means whereby we can give when an emergency occurs, whether that is a natural disaster, or, for example, support for refugees from Ukraine. St. John’s agreed some time ago to be a pARTner Church of All We Can, which commits us not only to raising a certain amount of money each year, but also to understanding more about the needs of developing communities. We have normally supported **All We Can** around harvest time, and and last year sent donations totally £787.

Thank you for being a community that looks outward and is committed to embracing an inclusive gospel of love.

Tony Farrar

Use of St. John's Premises by Hiring Groups June 2023 to May 2024

Since the last General Meeting our premises have been used by the following community groups and individuals:

- 17 Children's Parties.
- 1 adult pre Asian Wedding party.
- Willow Club meet weekly with a summer break.
- Whitley Bay Flower Club monthly except January, February (their AGM off site) and August.
- Coastal History monthly save for the summer break.
- North East Ryu Karate Group held two grading days in the year
- The above Karate Group began a weekly training meeting in September
- Piano School "Tynemouth Melodies" held a pupil's concert for parents and will again in June..
- Priory Singers held a singalong day.
- Precious Metal valuation held two day drop ins on two occasions.
- Kid's Kitchen held a 10 day series of holiday activities in the summer and 4 days at New Year.
- Whitley Bay Tea Dance held two one day events. They hope to meet here weekly starting soon.
- Afternoon craft fair. (x2)
- Hero Bears held a summer fun afternoon..
- Street Pastors held a prayer afternoon.
- Two Skincare events.
- A small sewing group is meeting weekly.
- Reception Class at Marine Park School made their pre Christmas visit to the sanctuary.
- Marine Park School held their Christmas Services for older pupils and parents. (2 days and 1 rehearsal).
- Whitley Bay Theatre Club held weekly (sometimes twice) rehearsals between January and March, when they cancelled their production (to held on the Wesley Hall stage) owing to casting difficulties.
- MHA Communities (formerly Live at Home) met fortnightly (including through the summer) until the end of January when they ceased to use St. John's citing declining attendance and financial pressures, despite an offer to experimentally reduce their rental. Apparently funding, formerly handled centrally by MHA, had reverted to local management.
- An exercise group is interested in holding a weekly session.

Peter Firth, Bookings
Colin Raistrick, Administrator

Accounts 1

Accounts 2

Accounts 3

Accounts 4

PHOTOS

St John's Methodist Church

Registered Charity no: 1184805

For more information about any of our Church activities please contact

Church Office - Opening hours Monday-Friday 9am-4pm

Ifracombe Gardens
Whitley Bay
NE26 3ND
Telephone 0191 251 2355
stjohnsmethodistoffice@gmail.com

Minister

Revd Eva Walker
Telephone Home – 0191 280 8060
revevawalker@gmail.com

Staff

Colin Raistrick - Office Administrator
Patricia Kamba - Cleaner
Karen Morley - Church Family Worker

Church Family Worker

For children's activities contact
churchfamilyworker@gmail.com 0755 266 4747

Media

www.facebook.com/StJohnsMethodistChurchWhitleyBay/

stjohnsmethodistchurchwhitleybay.co.uk

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS
(SHORT FORM)

St John's Methodist

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

Thursday, August 31, 2023

North Shields and Whitley Bay

Circuit

Circuit no

20--05

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1184805

If not a registered charity **His Majesty's Revenue and Customs
Gift Aid number**

Minister:

Rev Eva Walker

Church Stewards:

Carol Baggaley

Susan Sabourn

Howard Scott

Sally Clark

Lesley Thompson

Margaret Rushton

Treasurer:

Owen Lumsdon

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2023

SECTION A

a1	RECEIPTS	Note
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	
a3	Bank and CFB interest & investment income	
a4	Lettings	
a5	Other receipts	
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	

This year's amount to the nearest £

£
61,446
3,170
6,238
28,758
99,612

Last year's amount to the nearest £

£
58,507
350
5,431
12,889
77,177

SECTION B

b1	PAYMENTS	Note
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	
b3	Donations	
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	
b6	Other payments	
b7	TOTAL PAYMENTS	0

64,500
332
30,010
13,001
29,427
137,270

62,016
3,790
8,750
9,295
23,551
107,402

SECTION C

c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6 - b7)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	
c3	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c1 + c2)
c4	State here the total of any other assets of the Church - Church Project Funds	
c5	State here the total of any liabilities of the Church	
c6	State here the insured value of the Church premises and contents	

(37,658)
156,745 (c7)
119,087
22,096
6,407,745

(30,225)
186,970
156,745 (c7)
31,874

SECTION D ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

d1	Balances held at TMCP at 31 August
d2	Balances held at CFB at 31 August
d3	Bank and cash balances at 31 August
d4	TOTAL (= Box c3)

99,910
33,155
23,680
156,745

99,908
9,292
9,887
119,087

SECTION E

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS
(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)

e1	Balance brought forward from last year	
e2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	
e3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	
e4	BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID	(e1+e2-e3)

0
4,200
4,200
0

0
1,945
1,945
0

Name of Church

St John's Methodist Church

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 **Owen Lumsdon** Date 7th January 2024

Name and address of Treasurer O Lumsdon, c/o St John's Methodist Church, Ilfracombe Gardens,

Post Code NE26 3ND

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 will be presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 13th February 2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting **E Walker**

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Eva Walker Date 7th January 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

St John's Methodist Church

Charity Number 1184805

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John's Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2023. 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

Name of Church St John's 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 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 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 **R Hunter**

Name of independent examiner Rachel Hunter

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner AAT Equivalent

Address c/o St John's Methodist church, Ilfracombe Gardens, Whitley Bay

Post Code NE26 3ND

Date 5th January 2024

COMPLETE THIS PAGE ONLY WHERE THERE ARE OTHER INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 20... & Internal Organisations reporting to the 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 total receipts and payments of the Church. If income exceeds £100,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts. Contact Resourcing Mission Office, Manchester tel: 0161 236 5194. Please remember that the Charity Commission allows transfers between the Church and its internal organisations to be deducted from gross receipts/payments.

OTHER CHURCH ORGANISATIONS:	Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Adjustments	Closing balance
					0
					0
					0
					0
SUB TOTAL - OTHER CHURCH ORGANISATIONS	0	0	0	0	0
Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2)					
TOTAL FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	ly	0	0	0	x
		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS		

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (completion of this section is optional)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTALS THIS YEAR	TOTALS LAST YEAR
Bank current account					
Bank Deposit Account					
Central Finance Board					
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes					
Other: (specify)					
SUB TOTAL					
Endowment Funds					
TOTAL FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH				x	y
				This total to agree with the Closing balance total above	This total to agree with the Opening balance total above

Note here the Insurance value of Church and ancillary buildings/land and any other assets/liabilities

Note here the value of any other assets of the Church

Name of Church

St John's Methodist Church

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 **Owen Lumsdon** Date 7th January 2024

Name and address of Treasurer O Lumsdon, c/o St John's Methodist Church, Ilfracombe Gardens,

Post Code NE26 3ND

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2023 will be presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 13th February 2024

Signature of the Chair of the meeting **E Walker**

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev Eva Walker Date 7th January 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

St John's Methodist Church

Charity Number 1184805

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of St John's Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2023. 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

Name of Church St John's 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 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 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 **R Hunter**

Name of independent examiner Rachel Hunter

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner AAT Equivalent

Address c/o St John's Methodist church, Ilfracombe Gardens, Whitley Bay

Post Code NE26 3ND

Date 5th January 2024

COMPLETE THIS PAGE ONLY WHERE THERE ARE OTHER INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 20... & Internal Organisations reporting to the 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 total receipts and payments of the Church. If income exceeds £100,000, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts. Contact Resourcing Mission Office, Manchester tel: 0161 236 5194. Please remember that the Charity Commission allows transfers between the Church and its internal organisations to be deducted from gross receipts/payments.

OTHER CHURCH ORGANISATIONS:	Opening balance	Receipts	Payments	Adjustments	Closing balance
					0
					0
					0
					0
SUB TOTAL - OTHER CHURCH ORGANISATIONS	0	0	0	0	0
Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2)					
TOTAL FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	ly	0	0	0	x
		TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL PAYMENTS		

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (completion of this section is optional)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTALS THIS YEAR	TOTALS LAST YEAR
Bank current account					
Bank Deposit Account					
Central Finance Board					
Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes					
Other: (specify)					
SUB TOTAL					
Endowment Funds					
TOTAL FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH				x	y
				This total to agree with the Closing balance total above	This total to agree with the Opening balance total above

Note here the Insurance value of Church and ancillary buildings/land and any other assets/liabilities

Note here the value of any other assets of the Church

ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH WHITLEY BAY

England & Wales - Charity number 1184805

Accounts



ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023



St John's Methodist Church Council 2022-2023

Members

Rev David Wynd	May to August 2022
Rev Eva Walker	Minister
Owen Lumsdon	Treasurer
Susan Wood	Secretary
Susan Sabourn	Senior Steward
Lesley Thompson	Steward
Howard Scott	Steward
Sally Clark	Steward
Margaret Rushton	Steward
Carol Baggaley	Steward, Safeguarding Officer
Una Miller	Pastoral Secretary
Margaret Stephenson	Worship Leader
Andrew Lowe	Finance and Property Committee
Colin Raistrick	Safeguarding Officer, Data Protection & Building Project Finance Group
Carole Firth	Elected Member
Noreen Rees	Elected Member
Jackie Tallon	Elected Member
Heather Hindmarsh	Elected Member
Margaret Lumsdon	Elected member

Independent Examiner Rachel Hunter

We are in partnership with

Action for Children

All We Can



STEWARDS

Left back row - Carol Baggaley
 Margaret Rushton
 Centre - Susan Sabourn, Senior Steward
 Sally Clark
 Howard Scott
 Left front row - Rev Eva Walker
 Lesley Thompson

Pastoral Leadership Team

Rev Eva Walker
 Rev Tony Farrar
 Una Miller
 John Morley

Pastoral Visitors

Una Miller, Secretary
 Pat Turnbull
 Pat Brown
 Margaret Stephenson
 Margaret Lumsdon
 Val Farrar
 Valerie Todhunter
 Pauline Hurse
 Doris Miller
 Heather Hindmarsh
 Anita Lambert
 Miriam Nicholson
 Monica Hayden

Members Transferred since last AGM

Doreen Mathieson
 Debbie Mathieson
 Olive Drapkin
 Jim Holmes
 Pat Holmes
 John Liddle
 Christine Liddle
 Debbie Ridley
 Gary Ridley

Communion Stewards

Margaret Barker
 Mary Bentley
 Monica Hayden
 Judith Lynn
 Una Miller
 Judith Tait

**Building Project Finance Group
 (A Warm Welcome)**

Colin Raistrick, Chair
 Ian Nicholson, Treasurer
 Noreen Rees
 Ian Fitz-Gerald
 Ian Miller
 Jackie Tallon
 Carol Baggaley

Finance and Property Committee

Andrew Lowe, Chairman
 Margaret Lumsdon, Secretary
 Colin Raistrick,
 Owen Lumsdon
 Paul Walker
 Carole Firth
 Peter Firth
 Howard Scott (Steward's representative)

Dear friends

It is a privilege to write the opening words for this booklet, a booklet that is full of faithfulness, commitment and surprise. Therefore I write with a grateful heart. A grateful heart for all the giving and all the love found here; for all the kingdom work that takes place in this place and from this community. When you read through it, you will feel grateful too.

As I was reflecting on the work and mission of our church in the past 12 months, I came across some words which were written by Alan Hirsch and which resonated with me.

In his words: 'Most machines—whether computers, smart phones, or cars—will need recalibrating (a tune-up) from time to time. The same applies to humans and institutions, both of which experience various forms of mission drift involving loss of direction and purpose. This is as true for the church as with any institution. Although most people and organisations set out with a clear idea of who they are and why they exist, as the “what” and “how” are repeated, entities begin to focus on processes and lose sight of their purpose. Naturally, the longer we do something a certain way without thinking, the harder it becomes to stand back, get our bearings, and make sure we are still going in the right direction.'

Don't you think they are poignant words? They talk about purpose, about vision, about reflection. They invite us to notice the amazing things God is doing through us, but also they give us the space to remember our purpose and to evaluate how the things we do fit in with our purpose.

Our purpose is to be a church for all community, to be representatives of God's love and character to the world, to share with others in words and deeds the good news of Jesus. And all of that stems from the fact that God's heart beats within us, it beats for all people; it stems from knowing who God in Jesus is to us, it stems from knowing that the good news of Jesus can transform the world.

And so, let us never lose sight of who we are, and let us thank God for all the transformations that we have seen take place in the past year. Let us thank God for each other, for we are a community, not individuals. There is power, there is belonging, there is life to the full in a community of love

As we gather to reflect, give thanks and look to the future, we gather knowing that our community is made up of us here on earth and of those who have gone to be with Jesus, the saints in glory.



That is why we name those people and praise God for them and for the hope of life eternal.

Thank you, thank you dear friends, for being you; thank you for the welcome, and the commitment and the love. I feel truly blessed to belong to this community. I hope you feel the same.

Love and God's blessings, **Eva**

Members, friends and family members of our church community who have passed away since the previous annual report was printed

Roger Stephenson
Yvonne Borthwick
Jean Shaw
Norman Cummings
Jim Holmes
Judith Hunt
Muriel Neil
Norman Gould
Eric Brown
Vera Webster
Rita Robson
Noel Huntley
Jean Gregory
Matthew Upson
Lyn Hurse
Mel Carty

Stewards Report

Straight after our AGM of 2022, our Minister, Rev Eva Walker went on a 3-month sabbatical. I'm sure this is now a distant memory for her, but I hope that the memory is happy and I'm sure she appreciated the break from responsibility which was the gift from the Church to her.

During that time, life continued at St John's, and I am very grateful to everyone who continued with fellowship, care to one another and took on extra responsibilities during that time. Special thanks to all who led Worship during Eva's absence.

On Eva's return, she led the Pilgrimage visit to Lindisfarne for the Faith and Friendship groups in September then encouraged us to dress as scarecrows for Harvest. Services throughout the year and especially during Advent and Lent were of a variety of styles and we are fortunate to have such diversity in leadership within the Circuit from current Presbyters, those who are supposed to be retired but who we would struggle without and the lay people who have a calling to lead. Thoughts and prayers especially go to the family of Rev John Mason, and the people of North Shields.

Our young people are encouraged by Karen and her team during the week with Fab meeting monthly and the youth group on Sunday evenings. It has been great to see the uniformed organisations returning to Parade Services. The Pastoral team and visitors do an amazing amount of support to our older friends.

Andrew Lowe and Christine FitzGerald are now able to run the IT side of Services monthly to allow Paul Sabourn a break. Paul continues to formulate the Service. Margaret Barker co-ordinates a team of Communion stewards and Margaret Stephenson and her team arrange a beautiful variety of floral decorations. Thanks to those who provide and serve refreshments after the Service on a Sunday which is an important time for fellowship.

We currently have 4 organists/pianists on a rota for Services with the addition of guitar, drums and violin at family services. The Choir's leading of Good Friday Worship was especially appreciated. The St John's Bell(e)s group have also contributed to Worship.

Having Colin in the office most of the weekdays as he works for both St John's and the Circuit makes a huge difference to the welcome in the building. This is appreciated as well as his efficiency as the administrator. The cleanliness of the building is very noticeable to all who use it since Patricia took the job of cleaner. Thanks to all who work so hard to maintain and improve the premises both inside and out and make users of the building feel welcome. This welcome is even warmer thanks to the insulation which has been installed!

The Vestry Team have held 2 "thank you" meals for the Church Community, one in January and the other for the Coronation in May. Both have been very well attended and fun events. The stewards have provided food and were delighted to accept additional contributions from many kind people. These have been free events as lots of people give in many ways rather than fundraising as undertaken in the past by the Social Committee.

Most groups have returned since Covid, new ventures have started (I'm sure individual groups will be sending reports) and the building is occupied most of the week. New people continue to join us, and we look forward to our future with the merge with our friends from Monkseaton Methodist Church in September.

I would especially like to thank the wonderful Vestry Team of Lesley Thompson, Howard Scott, Sally Clark, Carol Baggaley and Margaret Rushton. These lovely people take responsibility for so much and do so with great talent, care and humour. All of us are happy to continue for the next 12 months although Carol has kindly offered to take the role of Senior Steward from me. We would struggle without the help of Colin, Church Council Members and officers and the leadership and vision of Eva.

Susan Sabourn, Senior Steward

Treasurer's report

Overview

It is difficult to present a meaningful report at this stage, approximately halfway through the financial year, as a number of expected income items eg Gift Aid, Gift week and other donations are not finalised and expenditure for the balance of year is unknown. I have attempted therefore to present the picture of income/expenditure on a monthly basis with information available to date in order to demonstrate the current situation. Clearly my year end report in September will be conclusive.

Church funds

We started the year with funds in our current account and CFB account of £56,835 (excluding TMCP funds, these funds generally remain static year on year, see below). Church Council agreed that we should proceed with essential building maintenance work up to a value of £32,500 on those items not covered by the warm welcome funds. To date we have spent £25,564 on roof repairs I have excluded this amount from my analysis in Fig 1 for clarity. Please note that my report does not include reference to expenditure of the Warm Welcome funds (insulation work etc).

Our current available funds are £20,333 (end Feb 2023)

Ongoing income/expenditure

I have set out in Fig1 the details of income/expenditure month by month for the first two quarters of this financial year. The income is split between giving (envelopes, cash and direct giving) and other income (eg church activities, donations room lettings etc). The expenditure is split between the circuit assessment and other items (eg utilities, building repairs, cleaning, admin etc) As I pointed out above I have not included the major expense on roof repairs which was agreed in advance. Income is not keeping pace with expenditure (a shortfall of £18,138 to end Feb). We can however anticipate specific items of income (approximately £12,000 Gift aid and £5,000 Gift week) in addition to other sundry items during the balance of the year, expenditure should continue at or around the current rate. The inevitable shortfall suggests that a continued erosion of funds.

Conclusion

The outlook is not good as income is not covering expenditure. I will continue to carefully monitor available funds in order to ensure sufficient to meet our assessment and other obligations. We do have additional funds of £99,800 in our TMCP account which includes £60,000 allocated to the Warm Welcome fund leaving £39,800. Clearly we will need to carefully monitor all ongoing commitments and I will of course report on the situation at year end.

Owen Lumsdon, Treasurer 5.6.2023

Note: at the time of writing the Gift Week total stands at £6,565. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Treasurers report continued.....

Fig 1									
2022/23 Q1 and Q2 Income/Expenditure									
	Inc				Exp				
	Giving	Other	Total		General	Assess.	Total		
Q1	3036	1487	4523		1218	5375	6593		
	3986	4944	8930		2233	5375	7608		
	4014	2342	6356		1184	5375	6559		
Q2	3091	1700	4791		6563	5375	11938		
	4138	1911	6049		14240	5375	19615		
	3992	6520	10512		1611	5375	6986		
Total	22257	18904	41161		27049	32250	59299		
							Shortfall	18138	

Safeguarding Report.

In June the Church Council approved St John’s Safeguarding Policy, the text mirrors that of the national safeguarding Policy. Throughout the year Carol and Colin have attended Safeguarding updates with the Circuit Safeguarding Officer. Training on Safeguarding courses can be face to face or online. Later in 2023 we will see new training for those needing to update their foundation safeguarding training. This new training reflects new learning to share across the Methodist Church. Thank you to everyone who has refreshed their training during the year.

A number of happenings have meant reviews of what we have in place for safeguarding. November saw us engaging with people as we embraced the “We give you a warm welcome initiative” via the Friday Cuppa group. Whilst this has attracted new people, it is run in such a way not to have any safeguarding concerns. Ironically the Methodist Church provided specific warm space training but this was not until 15 weeks after we started.

December saw the arrival of street homeless to St John’s porch. This has produced some concerns by people and some user groups. As safeguarding officers we have worked with people to overcome their concerns so that we can achieve a balance that works for us and the street homeless. Regular conversations continue between the Safeguarding Officers and the Minister based on concerns raised. We have a better understanding of who is ok to engage with the homeless and those who do not, ensuring that good communication continues and activities at St John’s run safely.

Thank you to all who help ensure St John’s is a safe place for all.

Carol Baggaley, Colin Raistrick - St John’s Safeguarding Officers

Pastoral Report

Thanks to our minister Rev Eva Walker who leads our pastoral team practically and spiritually.

The Pastoral Care Team consists of two groups, the Pastoral Visitors of whom there are 15 Visitors and the Pastoral Support Group with 4 members, our minister, Rev Tony Farrar, John Morley and Una Miller.

We met with the Pastoral Visitors in February and Eva thanked everyone for coming and taking the time to look at the new proposed structure for Pastoral Care in St John's.

The Pastoral Leaders are aware that the current structure does not fit the needs of all our members and have decided to build on what we have and include further additions.

- Each Church Group will have a nominated Pastoral Contact
- They will link with the existing Pastoral visitors and the Pastoral Leaders.
- Pastoral visitors will still maintain links with people on their groups who do not need ongoing support but a friendly contact.
- There will be Pastoral Visitors for the new people.
- A Priority Group will be created of people who need immediate support, and this will be done by Pastoral Leaders or designated Pastoral Visitors.

One of the main issues identified is communication and people will be encouraged to indicate their preferred method of communication.

- Telephone landline
- Telephone mobile
- Text
- Email
- Post

Pastoral Visitors were also invited to look at the members of their group and prioritise them.

- Priority names of those needing immediate ongoing support
- Those needing an occasional contact.
- Those who need no contact.

All church group contacts have now been identified and the next stage is to meet with them and confirm their roles.

Once again, we wish to express our gratitude for the work carried out by the many members of the Pastoral Care Team. This is a valuable link in communication within St John's

Una Miller, Pastoral Secretary

Worship Leading

At this moment in time I am the only Worship Leader in St. John's. Leading worship is a real privilege but comes also with a great deal of responsibility. I could not fulfil this role without the relying on the guidance and wisdom of the God in whom I believe and his Holy Spirit giving me the strength and courage to stand in front of you all on a Sunday morning. I will ever be grateful for the support, encouragement and love I receive from the congregation without this I would not be able to continue.

Thank you all, God Bless.

Margaret Stephenson

Finance and Property Committee

Over the past year the Finance and Property Committee have continued to look after the property and finances of the church. The Committee met on four occasions during the year.

Major Property Repairs and Improvements

The following property repairs and improvements to the buildings have been made over the past year:

- Major roof repairs. Felt replaced on areas of flat roof including new skylights. Broken/missing tiles replaced on pitched roof. Downpipes extended. New roof area constructed over the valley gully.
- Handrail next to Wesley Hall entrance replaced.
- Handrails repaired where rusted through and rear gate metalwork repaired.
- Handrails repainted.
- Cycle-rack installed.
- Insulation installed in the roof voids above the Sanctuary and the Wesley Hall.
- Lighting fitted to the Cross above the Communion table.
- Car park door painted.
- Electricity smart meter installed.
- Plaster damaged by water ingress repaired in the Sanctuary and rear corridor ceiling.
- Hopper and drainpipe replaced on the outside of the main toilet block.
- New office photocopier purchased and installed.

The quinquennial inspection of the building was undertaken by an independent building surveyor, and a report on the condition of the buildings received. This has identified a number of areas that need attention over the next 5 years.

A new electricity contract commenced on 1st February 2023 for 12 months with fixed prices. Projected annual costs will increase from £1,882 to £8,558.

Future Property Works

As part of the "We Give You a Warm Welcome" project, double glazing will be installed in the Wesley Hall, kitchen and kitchen corridor windows at the end of July. This will replace the existing single glazed windows, and will further enhance the warmth of the Wesley Hall, as well as reducing maintenance costs.

Secondary glazing will be added to the main windows in the Sanctuary, to reduce draughts and improve the insulation. At the same time the John Lamb Nativity memorial window will be repaired.

Additional Remarks

Thanks to Charles Hedley and John Cuggy for tending the church garden throughout the year, and keeping the external appearance of the church to a high standard.

I would like to thank all the members of the Finance and Property Committee for their work and dedication in keeping the church property and finances in good order. Their work is often unseen and unglamorous, but vital for the continuing work and mission of St. John's.

Andrew Lowe, Chairman

Building Project Finance Group - A Warm Welcome

During the year, Malcolm Hickox stepped down as Chair of the Building Project Finance Group. Thank you to Malcolm for his Chairmanship.

Funding for the various elements of the warm welcome project continues and to date the project has raised £98,500. Many fundraising activities were arranged by the Social Committee and we have lost a bit of momentum with this committee ceasing to be.

Money continues to be collected for the project mainly by many unseen activities. These include online shopping via easyfundraising where a small percentage of the purchase price is paid by the shop not the buyer. A number of people have realised that their online grocery shopping can be a means of donating to the project.

At St John's sales of cards, books and jigsaws are added to the pot.

The collection of foreign notes and coins also contributes and recently £114.50 was added.

Bank interest and Gift aid on donations also contributes.

We are not sitting on money raised. To date we have spent money on insulating the Wesley Hall and church roof void. Double glazing will be installed in the Wesley Hall, Kitchen and Kitchen corridor week commencing 24th July. The Church is scheduled to have secondary glazing installed to the windows over the Summer.

Any remaining money will be spent on the Atrium project. This will create a warm buffer between the Church and Wesley Hall. A number of large grant funders have refreshed their grant criteria following Covid-19 recently. A small team is looking at how we apply for funding support.

Colin Raistrick, Chairman

Choir Report

The Covid restrictions which we all followed have now been relaxed, and life within the church has gradually returned to what it used to be – but not quite. At least the Choir is now meeting face to face and is now back in the business of leading the worship in church. Because a limit of 45 minutes has been established as the recommended norm there is not enough time to sing both an Introit and an Anthem as we used to. Usually we sing an Introit, but occasionally a longer Anthem depending on the service plan. We have built up an excellent working relationship with the visiting ministers and the local preachers, and are very happy to accommodate their musical preferences whenever we can.

Early last December, and after an enforced gap of two years, we enjoyed singing again at the "Coffee and Carols" event in the Wesley Hall, raising £320 which we donated to the Bay Food Bank – a most worthy cause. Later in that month we led the congregation at the Carol Service. More recently we sang on Good Friday in what was a most moving service

As always, we are extremely grateful for the continued support of the congregation, and feel privileged to be able to contribute to the worship at St John's.

Charles Hedley, Choir Leader

The Flower Team

We have a dedicated team of 4 ladies who arrange the church flowers on a weekly basis then deliver them after the service to those celebrating a special event, who are now unable to attend church, are ill, or have suffered a bereavement and sometimes just to say “thank you” to some of the many people who fulfil various roles in the life of St, John’s and are rarely thanked.

I believe this is an important part of St. John’s pastoral work and can assure you the recipients of the flowers are delighted to know we are thinking about them.

Thanks are due to the many people who support this ministry by donating to the flower fund, we could not continue this work without your help and generosity.

The flower team are Judith Lynn, Val Farrar, Mary Bentley and myself.



Margaret Stephenson

Wednesday Lunch Report

Following Covid it was with some trepidation that we resumed our monthly lunches (15/16 attendees on average), given that some regular attendees were no longer with us and some were possibly no longer able. How many folk would want to come?

We need not have been concerned! Beginning in August, initial numbers were in the upper teens, then gradually grew until there have been 28 to 32 since January!

Not all are from our congregation; we have been pleased to welcome several folk from the wider community, some via Friday Cuppa.

The same format remains.... choice of 2 soups, 2 puddings (always with custard!) and tea/coffee but, much more importantly, lots of chat!

An exception to the usual menu was in December when a full traditional Christmas lunch was on the menu, together with much festive cheer and spirit (not of the liquid kind of course!).

We are blessed with a team of very willing cooks/helpers/drivers who work very well and flexibly together – and have as much fun and chat as the guests it must be said.

Any payment for food is by donation only so an unexpected bonus is that, since August, almost £1,000 has been passed to the treasurer for church funds, ingredients for the lunch being largely donated by the volunteers.

Gill Hedley

Friday Cuppa and Warm Welcome Space

Friday Cuppa' at St John's was initially set up by John Morley, the Circuit's Lay worker – Ministry alongside Older People, shortly after the St John's building had reopened in 2021 following the last Covid lockdown.

John writes -

'St John's initial Friday Cuppa which developed to run as one of the council's warm welcome spaces has been gathering visitors both regular and occasional. Both local community and church members have been meeting for refreshments together enjoying conversation or a game of dominoes, Chinese Checkers, or a jigsaw. Birthdays have been celebrated and homeless people welcomed over the time it's been open. A small number of volunteers have provided the help each week to make the church minor hall a welcoming space every week 9am -1pm. There is a lovely feel with buzzing chat amongst the friendly informal gathering. This is a supportive and encouraging space for those who come, many without any church connection'.

Barbara Grundy also comments -

A year ago, 'Friday Cuppa' was continuing to meet every week 10.30am to 12 noon and then in November 2022 the Warm Space (Warm Welcome) Initiative was launched and St John's, along with several other churches in Whitley Bay who signed up to it. St John's applied to North Tyneside Council for and were successful in receiving, a grant from the Council. 'Friday Morning Cuppa' was incorporated into it and known as 'A Warm (Welcome) Space' and we started to meet weekly on Fridays from 9am to 1pm.

Even when the programme ended in March this year and we reverted to 'Friday Cuppa' we continued to meet between 9am and 1pm. It can be very quiet until about 11ish but that 9 o'clock start is still very important. When the Council recently announced that further funding was available for another twelve months, St John's applied again and has been awarded a further grant towards 'Warm Space' and so we are back to being a 'Warm Space' on Friday mornings.

Although the Warm Space initiative was started, in response to the energy and economic crisis, it is also about companionship and being with other people and It has been lovely to be able to invite 'new' friends from the wider community to join and share with us at the Community soup lunches on the first Wednesday of every month, to the Church meal held at St John's at the end of January, and to the recent Coronation meal. This has also led to one person coming to 'Knit and Natter' and another to the 'Wednesday Afternoon Club'. As John Morley has also mentioned, it has also been good to be able to welcome and provide help and support to homeless people.

Every week we are blessed by one lady who having heard via facebook that St John's was becoming a Warm Space on Friday mornings, offered to bake and bring along a variety of scones and/or buns each week. She loves coming on a Friday morning. We are also grateful to another couple who heard about Warm Spaces and offered to come along to help even though not connected to the church. One or other of them comes most weeks for at least a couple of hours. It is always lovely too, when friends at St John's also pop in for however short or long a time is possible. There is always the promise of a warm welcome when you come. Please do tell friends and neighbours about Friday mornings at St John's. It is for everyone.

Barbara Grundy

Focus – quarterly magazine

Focus continues to be published four times a year—Easter, Summer, Autumn and Christmas, reporting on the many activities at St John's and beyond. We continue to inform readers about the work being carried out by the vestry team, about children and young people's activities, work being done by the Finance and Property team, regular meetings such as Afternoon Club, SJ Belles, and the various house groups. We also report on Methodist news from the UK and beyond. We had a guest lead article writer for the Summer issue when Rev Eva went on her sabbatical. Rev David Wynd wrote a piece on Glastonbury Festival. Rev Nigel Taylor, the new vicar of St Mary's church was featured in a piece in the Easter issue, giving his impressions of moving to Whitley Bay. We also carried news in the Easter issue of future plans for a Circuit-wide Green festival to be held in September. Over the year we have had features on country walks, reading, how St John's has expanded its recycling efforts, looking back ten and twenty years ago. We have also carried news and photos on special celebrations at St John's such as the Platinum Jubilee picnic for the late Queen Elizabeth, the Faith and Friendship group Lindisfarne pilgrimage and the church meal in January. Sadly several of our members died over the year so we have carried obituaries on David Butcher, Roger Stephenson, Jean Shaw, Norman Cummings and Jim Holmes. We also carried news of Harold Robson celebrating his one hundredth birthday and Terry Pike celebrating his ninetieth.

We're grateful to Colin Raistrick for his research into the history of St John's, particularly with regard to the various memorials within the church, where he has given us insight into the people whom the memorials represent. I'm very much appreciative of the support given to me by the other members of the Focus team—Howard Scott and Peter Firth, who ensure that planning is done for the next issue, and that distribution runs smoothly (not always the case over the year, when St John's didn't have a working printer and the printing of the magazine had to be outsourced to North Shields Methodist). Howard not only looks after the admin of Focus but also contributes articles. Peter, too contributes articles, mainly on looking back at the archives, as well as printing and distributing the magazine, and delivering to church members who are not internet linked. We were very grateful for the help given by Jean Cockroft from North Shields Methodist office in printing two editions whilst St. John's was 'between copiers.'

So, I hope Focus continues to be relevant to the life of St John's. Anyone can send contributions. You don't need to be a member of St John's, and the article doesn't necessarily need to have a St John's connection. I might have to do some slight editing but within reason, if you write it, I'll find a way of getting it into Focus. We're also grateful for any photos sent to us, which make the magazine more colourful and break up the text.

Noreen Rees, Editor

WHITCH (What Happens In The Church)

This is a group of mums getting together to enjoy each other's company. It came out of the relationships that were built during Messy Church and Film Nights at St John's. It is a group full of beauty and real life. This is a space where we share our lives, our hopes, joys and frustrations. It is a place of trust. A place of sharing. It is a place where conversations about faith and God have been real, and questions abound. We have explored whether God exists, the place of the church in the world, how to make sense of things through faith, etc. Those conversations and questions have come out naturally in the conversations. This is what the Methodist church is calling: 'a new place for new people', and to us is a place where friendships are forged, deep conversations flourish, and we look forward to where we go from here. We generally meet monthly, and the venues differ. In between, we have a WhatsApp group that keeps us connected as well as meeting at Messy church and Film Nights.

Rev Eva

11

Wiggles

It's been a quieter year for Wiggles this year, which is no bad thing as it has enabled us to get to know new mums better. In conversation with providers of other baby groups it seems that the feeling is that there has been a drop locally in the arrival of new babies, but that numbers are picking up again. We recently had a new mum join us from Washington, on the recommendation of a friend. Whilst she is more than welcome to join us, I offered to help her find somewhere closer to home. I found plenty of toddler groups in her area - but no baby groups. I know from the conversations I have with new mums that baby groups are much needed, especially as Mum adapts to a new lifestyle. One of the other things mentioned about Wiggles was the fact that you can just turn up. Post Covid, there has been an increase in groups which have to be booked and paid for in advance, which adds a lot of unnecessary pressure to a new family.

Toddlers

Toddlers continues to thrive and there are always people waiting to join us. We do make exceptions to the waiting list if there are exceptional circumstances - someone has moved to the area and doesn't know anyone, or there's a serious illness in the family for example. We recently had a new mum move from another part of the country and was added to waiting lists for a number of Toddler groups across Whitley Bay- we were the only one to let her join straight away - we believe that the groups are just as much for the adults as they are for the child. Wednesday we see primarily grandmothers, and Friday we see primarily mothers - though it has been lovely to begin to see more men - both dads and grandads across both groups.

Messy Church has recently changed from 1st Thursday as we found 2nd Thursday as we found holidays and we were missing the numbers, which are each month. Our volunteers



changed from 1st Thursday of the month to that 1st Thursday was hitting a lot of school a lot of opportunities. This has not affected steady at around 30 adults and children tell me that they love seeing both the

children and adults engaging with the theme. At our most recent Messy Church a parent said to me that they were "looking forward to finding out about Pentecost as I have no idea what it is" (She also said that she hoped her daughters could make something for their Dad who's birthday was the next day - one of the planned activities was to make a birthday card for someone as Pentecost is about the birthday of the church!).

Film Night

In previous years we have done around 3 film nights over the winter period. With the cost of living crisis/warm spaces in mind, we decided to increase this to one a month over the same period and it has proved hugely successful - so much so that parents have asked for us to continue it on into the summer months. At this late stage many Saturdays were already booked up in the church diary, so we decided to trial a Friday evening. It has proved to be just as popular - the only thing we hadn't factored in was just how hungry children are straight from school and needed more food than what we had previously supplied- we have learned for next time! Many of the parents have begun to volunteer with set up/clear up too. One parent wrote: I personally love the hugely welcoming atmosphere when we arrive. The social aspects for mums and for children, seeing friends from toddlers. The relaxed atmosphere of the actual film (doesn't matter if your child is wriggly or noisy so disability friendly) the fact you can get a hot cup of tea and the children have a healthy packed tea.

Karen Morley, Church Family Worker

FaB Club – Faith and Believers

After much deliberation, FaB has been meeting on a Sunday morning once a month since September 2022. Dates for each quarter are published in advance in the Church notices and on the FaB WhatsApp group. Monthly meetings seem to suit all involved and attendance has been good. Most sessions include around 6 children and 7-8 adults!

Our sessions involve craft, games, quizzes, outdoor activities, role play, storytelling and of course juice and biscuits, all around a theme which often ties in with a special time in the church year or the theme of the service which is happening in church. We have such a joyful time and it is wonderful that all ages can enjoy learning and sharing together. It's definitely a highlight of my week!

Lesley Thompson

SJY - St John's Youth

What a group! We have loved building the relationships with the young people who attend every Sunday evening. We don't normally meet during school holidays, and they do miss it when we are not meeting. (so do we!)

Our young people are a year older, and therefore have to deal with a lot of things in their teenage years and we hope and pray this is a place of safety, a place in which they can share how they are feeling, a place of questioning faith and of asking questions. We do not have a 'Bible slot' as such, but we do have conversations throughout the meeting about life, about school, and about all that affects their life, including faith. The conversations are organic, and it feels a privilege to be allowed into their lives, and to be trusted enough to share important things. They also love to play, to run around, and to just have fun.

We have invited a new member to the group, and two of our group are in the process of moving out of the area with their families. We will truly miss them, but pray they will find blessings wherever they go and we hope to see them back sometimes. These young people will not come to Sunday morning worship for a variety of reasons, but SJY is their church, their space, and I am thankful to the volunteers who commit to being there for our young people. It is a crucial group in the life of the church. In fact, one of our mums with younger children (who have come through St John's through wiggles, toddlers and film nights) asked if there will be a space for the children when they become teenagers and for the parents as they learn to live with and parent teenagers.

Rev Eva



Scouts 8th Whitley Bay Scout Group – Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

Things are getting back to normal now after the last few years of disruption with the pandemic. We had a Group camp in May with 30 young people attending. The Cubs and scouts had their Outdoor challenge camp at Pigdon in September. The Scouts did their Expedition Challenge where they started from the church walked to the metro went to central station caught a train to Morpeth then walked to the Scout camp site at Pigdon, then did the reverse route the next day to get home.

Each section has good numbers and are about at maximum capacity. On a Monday night all sections run a full and varied programme.

In March the group joined with the Brownies and Guides and joined the live stream of the Embers Scout Campfire festival in the main hall. Some members of the group took part in The Big Help Out for the Coronation

Steven Wood, Group Scout Leader

13

Brownies

We can't believe 12 months has passed since we last provided some information to St John's about all the activity our Brownies have been up to. Time certainly flies when you are enjoying yourself and have 20 7-10 years old keeping you busy.

In the last 12 months we have packed in a lot. During the summer term we built mini golf courses from recycled materials, built and sailed boats, had fun with parachutes and bubbles, had a biscuit themed night organised by some of our oldest Brownies, celebrated the Platinum Jubilee in style and had an eventful visit from the local fire brigade where all the girls got chance to practice with the hoses and learn all about the fire engine and safety equipment. The girls also had an amazing opportunity to take part in a Robotics workshop at Discovery Museum over the summer holidays.

We started back in September welcoming some new Brownies but also reflecting on life of the Queen who was Girlguiding's patron. We enjoyed some more trips out. These included a trip to Cinema with hundreds of other Brownies for a special screening of Matilda, our annual chip tasting night where the Whitley Whaler was a first time surprise winner and a trip to the Discovery Museum for their Uniform Badge Day. We also went to Morrisons before Christmas to buy food for the Food Bank using money the girls had raised doing good turns at home. We had a annual 'meeting in the dark' night, agreed new sixes changing from the traditional Gnomes and Pixies, made Owl pizza's and all the girls brought a grown up to a meeting to master some Christmas themed DIY skills. This last term we have completed a Wildlife Badge and the girls have learnt loads about animal homes, birds (they made bird food to entice birds to their gardens for the RSPB birdwatch) and learnt about lifecycles. A representative from the local Seal Hospital also came along to talk to the girls about the amazing work they do. The girls love crafts and had opportunity to show off their creative skills making a 'room in a box' and teddy zip wires. We also joined up with Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts for a livestream international campfire evening in the Hall.

We are now completing a 'Go Global' badge and linking in lots of activities with countries from around the world and have a fun term planned. We have been fortunate to get help from 2 Guides who are completing a Commonwealth Award and have been invaluable helping us out since the start of the year. Our unit remains full with a small waiting list. We are always on the lookout for new adult volunteers if anyone would like to join us to help out.

Julie Westgarth, Brownie Leader

3rd Monkseaton Guides

This year we have been getting our head around our new programme that came in a few years ago but with the pandemic make it difficult. We have had 3 Guides who have gained their bronze award, 1 Guide who has gained her silver award and 1 Guide who has nearly gained her Gold award. We have 6 theme award which are split into skill builder, interest badges and until hours in order to gained these awards.

We currently have 9 Guides and hoping to build on this number. The girls have been surfing, doing crafts, first aid and lots of other things. Last year we had our first post pandemic camp at Pigdon Scout campsite. In March we joined with the Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts from church for a virtual campfire that was broadcasted around the world at the same time.

This year we changed our meeting night to a Thursday evening this has been most beneficial to us leaders as we are able to continue our love for Guiding. I have done Guiding on a Friday night for 40 years since I joined Brownies and Jeni had done 22 years. As I write this we are just weeks away from joining 3000 other Guides and Scouts at Northumberland County Scout camp at Causey Park for Camp Together.

Yours in Guiding, Suzanne and Jeni, Guide Leaders

14

Monday Morning House Group

This group has been in existence for a number of years and at this present time has a membership of six. We meet to deepen our understanding of our faith and to support one another on our faith journey. To aid us in our studies over the past months we have used a York Course "Who are we Praying to?" written by Revd David Wilkinson, a Methodist minister who is Principal of St. John's College, Durham the course included input from his daughter Hannah who is also a theologian. During Lent we used the film "I, Daniel Blake" to help us better understand the problems of the benefit system and how Christians in the community can become involved in improving the process. Currently we are looking at the Psalms, choosing a favourite Psalm and sharing the reason why it is important to us.

Much of the above has been very challenging and we have had some very interesting discussions. I won't pretend it has been easy or that we have found all the answers!!

Una Miller and myself jointly lead the group and if anyone would like to know more about it, please have a word with either of us.

Margaret Stephenson

Faith and Friendship Groups (*Thursday morning and Thursday evenings*)

Two very different groups of discipleship and support. Spaces we could not live without. Spaces of questioning, of exploring, of finding God in a new way both in Scripture and in daily life. We have explored films, or specific books in the Bible, or contemporary issues, or other religions. We have learnt (I have learnt so much) from the sharing together. There is beauty in the questioning, in the wondering, in the journey we have taken together. Last year we explored the film: 'The Way' together and decided we would also do a pilgrimage to the Holy Island. As you all know, our groups meet on Zoom, and some of our friends do not live in the North East. In September, after amazing organisation from Susan Sabourn, most of us met together in person, to go on pilgrimage to Lindisfarne, on the wettest day of the year. That was an experience in itself! Some walked the pilgrimage and some met us there. The walk was difficult at times, but we did it together. And when we got to the other side, we had our feet washed with warm water and beautifully smelling soap. A community of service, of support, of love. We worshipped together at the church, and that service was so powerful and poignant, we shared food (and clothes) and a lot of laughter. A community that has grown and grown, as we have shared and learnt together and continue to do so. You are always more than welcome to join us. Our gatherings will continue to be Zoom gatherings, because of the make up of our two communities.

Rev Eva

Faith and Life Group

This is a newly formed group, which meets monthly face to face in the home of one of the members - next meeting is Thursday, 15th June at 10.30a.m. at 18, Claremont Gardens.

The group offers the opportunity to share thinking and concerns together - about matters of faith, what we might or might not believe, how such faith works out in the practice of our lives and through the church. The members suggest the agenda and can share honestly and in confidence.

Rev Tony Farrar

SJBelles, St John's Handbell group



The handbell group has grown and developed, both in membership and repertoire.

Through the early part of 2022 we were at last able to meet regularly in person although we still keep our tables separate. We were aiming to take a service in September, postponed from July 2020! The service was in the Wesley hall, we included hymns set using or mentioning bells. The reading was about being the Orchestra of Christ and all being part of the melody and harmony. We had space in the service to include member of the congregation who wanted to have a go at ringing age range from 3 to 90.

Susan Wood had suggested we might play 'Happy Birthday' at Harold Robson's 100th birthday tea in November. That turned into us learning and playing two of Harold's favourite 'Geordie' songs. But it's mine and The Waters of Tyne. Thanks especially to Susan Sabourn who arranged those pieces for us, we felt it a privilege to be able to take part.

Come Christmas we threw ourselves into playing 'Carol of the Bells' and 'Silver Bells' at the Choir and Coffee Saturday morning event. We also added some ringing to the Toy service, Carol service, and the Christingle Service. Which judging by the comments was appreciated by many in each congregation.

We may not be note perfect, although we try. The fellowship and support is something else. Thank you to Carol who joined us last year not only makes us laugh but usually has the tables and chairs set up and a cup of coffee or tea ready and waiting.

Christine Hickox

Ladies Badminton

Ladies Badminton continues to thrive with another new member, Lynda recently moved to the area looking for a badminton group and found us!

We take a break at the end of May until September - when we would welcome any ladies wishing to join us. No leagues purely recreational! We meet on Fridays 1.30-3.30 pm

Pat Brown

Afternoon Club

This group has been going for more than 40 years firstly as “Ladies Evening Club” and more recently as the “Afternoon Club.” The group which has about 20 members is predominantly for women but it was good to welcome some gentlemen to a recent meeting when Andrew Lowe told us about his involvement and some of the history of the heritage railway in Lynton, Devon. A very interesting afternoon.

Most of our programme is arranged “in house” and this session we have shared

- “a good read” talking about a recent book we have read.
- Carole Firth told us about the work of the Bay Food Bank and brought a sample for us to see what went into each parcel,
- During Holy Week we looked at various traditions celebrated around both the U.K. and across the world.
- Margaret Rushton told us about the life of a Methodist Minister during the last century, very different from today’s role.
- Last time we looked at past coronations and brought any souvenirs from the 1953 coronation. Would you believe some of us were around at the time!!
- Eva came to talk to us in January and in April we enjoyed, once again, Paul Walker’s piano playing as we tried to “name that tune”

This is just a sample of our programme, we have a strawberry tea, a lunch out and a garden meeting for the summer months and we start again on the 6th September.

All ladies in the congregation are welcome to join us, just come along on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoon of each month at 2pm in the Wesley Hall.

Margaret Stephenson

Knit and Natter

The knit and natter group continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoon of each month. We are a small group of ladies, some who come to St John’s on a Sunday and others who don’t. The main focus of our knitting this year has been for “Hero Bears for Refugee Children” which is a group set up by a lady in North Shields who sends knitted and crocheted items mainly to the Ukraine but also to refugee camps and both Newcastle and North Tyneside Social Services. The main focus is on teddy bears, but we also knit “granny squares” (which get turned into beautiful blankets), hats, gloves and socks for wounded soldiers. There is a FaceBook page with lots of photographs and updates.

We were also happy to contribute to North Shields Methodist Church’s appeal for items which they were sending to refugees and contributed to the red, white and blue decorations for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

Equally importantly, we enjoy a natter and a cuppa!

Susan Sabourn



Supporting Charities

Archbishop William Temple famously said that 'the Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members'.

A General Church Meeting is a good time to reflect on our priorities as a community. And it has been my privilege to be involved with a variety of activities which show the concern of the church for the community beyond itself.

Annual Charities Market

For a good number of years we have hosted a Charities Market in November, providing a market-place for local charities to raise money and awareness of their activities. Last November, after being affected in previous years by the covid lockdown, we were able to return to normal service, and approximately twenty charities shared in the morning, raising over £2,000 for a variety of important causes. This year's Market is planned for Saturday, November 4th. (And if anyone is willing to become involved in the organisation of the event, please let me know!).

All We Can (AWC)

A number of years ago, St. John's agreed to become a partner church of All We Can (formerly the Methodist Relief and Development Fund), committed to raising at least £500 each year, and also to learning about the development work in which All We Can is involved. AWC supports local communities in a variety of places across the world, working with and through local groups. It also seeks to respond urgently when a major famine or other disaster occurs.

Normally, we will seek to support the work especially linked to our celebration of harvest, and also respond to particular emergencies. And St. John's has always been generous in its giving.

Methodist Homes

Methodist Homes is this year celebrating its 80th anniversary. What began as an organisation offering residential care for older people has developed in a variety of ways, including offering care for people who otherwise might be isolated in their own homes through a variety of activities and support. Our closest link at St. John's is through the fortnightly gathering in the Minor Hall on Tuesday afternoons, organised by the North Tyneside Communities part of Methodist Homes (better known to many of us by its former name Live at Home). In addition, the church has been very supportive of the work of pARTners, art classes for people living with dementia, and which meets fortnightly at North Shields Methodist Church under the auspices of Methodist Homes North Tyneside Communities. We will mark Methodist Homes Sunday on June 18th., when we will be welcoming Karen Walker, the manager of North Tyneside Communities, to share with us.

Rev Tony Farrar

Action for Children (AFC)

At St John's we have continued to generously support Action for Children during the past year through collecting boxes for small change, envelope and online donations on Action for Children Sunday in July, a donation from Harold Robson on his 100th birthday and Toy Service donations at Christmas. Toys donated at the Toy Service were taken to some of the local services run by AFC.

A representative of one of the local services, June McHale, came to church both in July and December and shared about the work of AFC in the local area.

Action for Children Sunday in 2023 is on 9th July.

Any full boxes can be given to me at any time. Thank you so much for your support.

Lesley Thompson

18

Whitley Bay and District Churches Together (WBDCT)

The Whitley Bay and District Churches Together Planning and Administrative meetings has met 3 times during the past year, the most recent hosted by St John's on May 24th. Those who currently attend include the church leaders and church representatives of churches in Whitley Bay, Shiremoor and Earsdon as well as Cullercoats Methodist Church.

At the meeting the current chair of WBDCT, Rev Alan Dickinson announced that he was resigning with immediate effect. Alan Dickinson, who preached at St John's during The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity this year, has recently left the Bay Church where he was the Senior Leader for many years. Alan is UK Regional Dean (North) of the Order of St Leonards (OSL) and has been asked by the Bishop Abbot of OSL to be more involved in its ministry both in this country and abroad. The next chair of the WBDCT meeting is still to be appointed.

At the meeting on 24th May, Jenny Hooper was also confirmed as the new treasurer for WBDCT, taking over from Sue Austin.

Some of the reports given and projects discussed included the ongoing support for **Ukrainian refugees** one year on from when they arrived in the north-east, the **Good Friday Event** in Monkseaton (Messy church activities and the open-air service in front of 'The Ship'), the various **Easter Day Sunrise services** and **Christian Aid Week 2023** when, unlike previous years, we delivered envelopes but didn't collect them. We heard about the various **Warm Spaces**, including our own here at St John's, and Chris Lincoln, **Whitley Bay Street Pastors** (WBSP) Coordinator, updated the meeting about the two current patrols on Saturday nights - Metro Patrol and the Tynemouth and Whitley Bay Patrol and the two potential new Street Pastors joining the now very small team of SPs. Chris Lincoln also briefly mentioned the **Severe Weather Emergency Protocol** (SWEP) which runs from November to March each year and is activated when temperatures are '0 degrees centigrade or lower. **Parish Nursing North Tyneside** which includes the North Shields and Whitley Bay Methodist Circuit launched during 2022 to cover the whole of North Tyneside is still waiting for a charity number and is very busy. One place where they provide support is at the Fisherman's Mission in North Shields. **The Bay Food Bank** has been busier than ever this year and under pressure due to receiving fewer food donations and having to spend more of the regular monetary donations to buy food for the required food parcels. Following the closure of the **Christians Against Poverty** (CAP) based at Acorn Community Church it is hoped that with support from churches and other people it will be possible to start a new CAP Centre. Discussions and planning continue.

During the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** in January a service was held at St Paul's and the service for the **World Day of Prayer** (previously Women's World Day of Prayer), was held at Monkseaton Methodist Church on Friday 3rd March

Fiesta Whitley Bay is another community event that continues to take place and flourish in Whitley Bay having started in 2021. It is supported by many of the churches, businesses and the North of Tyne Combined Authority. A free event, 'Fiesta' usually takes place in the Shopping Centre and at St Paul's Church every three months on the first Sunday of the month 11am-3pm. There is lots going on with something for all the family. It includes music (a number of choirs singing a variety of genres), fun (games), creative activities, stalls, food (includes picnics), plenty of laughter and conversations and much more. To find out more and to see ways in which one can be involved see fiestawb.com or email info@fiestawb.com

Barbara Grundy, St John's WBDCT rep

Data Protection

Each May on behalf of St John's I run the Methodist Church GDPR Annual Compliance Report and sign us off as 100% compliant as we are fully compliant.

The national Privacy Policy was updated on the 3rd March 2023 - reflecting new addresses for Methodist Church House in London - the revised copy is displayed on the Wesley Hall corridor noticeboard and a copy is filed in the Policy file in the Office.

Personal Data that we use at St John's is given to us by people seeking information from us and our systems - one such system is the distribution list to receive the weekly notices electronically, another is listing in the Church directory so that we can communicate across activity groups and committees. When notified we delete or add people.

A big piece of work carried out during the year is that of young people registration forms for activities. These are now arranged so we can delete them when the young person reaches the age of 25 as per the Methodist Retention Schedule. Next year we shall start shredding some forms generated at the 2012 holiday club.

Attendance forms for Wiggles, Toddlers, Messy Church and Film Nights are archived and will be destroyed in line with the Methodist Record Retention Schedule.

Colin Raistrick

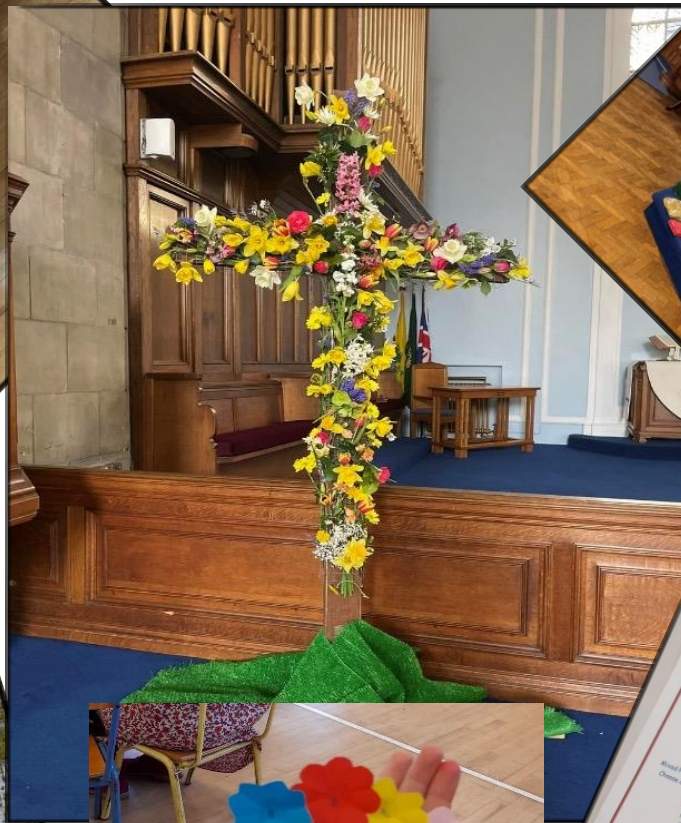
Use of St. John's Premises by Hiring Groups.

Since the last General Meeting our premises have been used by the following community groups:

- There have been 20 children's parties with 10 more booked in the next two months.
- Priory Singers held a "Come and Sing" event and enquired about a repeat (unable to go ahead here because of non-availability).
- MHA Communities (formerly Live at Home) met fortnightly throughout the year.
- Willow Club met weekly with a break in the Summer.
- Whitley Bay Flower Club met monthly with the exception of January, February (their AGM off site) and August.
- Coastal History met as booked, essentially monthly save in July and August..
- The North East Wado Ryu Karate Group held their usual twice a year (since 2016) Grading Days.
- A tea party was held by the organiser of Teddies for Ukraine in thanks for contributions made.
- A concert (Tyneside Acappella and Compass Acappella) to raise Foodbank funds was organised by a Foodbank supporter.
- Four drop in valuation days (two pairs) have been held by North East Jewellery Exchange.
- Reception Class at Marine Park School made another pre Christmas visit to the sanctuary.

The National Childbirth Trust have not booked this year.

Peter Firth, Bookings



ST JONAS METHODIST CHURCH, WITLEY BAY
 THURSDAY 4th MAY 2024

A CORONATION CELEBRATION

MENU

Main course include	Desert's almost include
Coronation Chicken (GF)	Apple & Raspberry (GF)
Roasted Lamb (GF)	Lemon & Raspberry Pie
Fish & Chips (GF)	Four or more other Frez Bakes
Coronation Quiche	Shredded Lamb & Onion Curry
Chicken and Cheese Quiche	Tiramisu (GF)
Quiche and Cheese Quiche	Orange and Almond Cake
Mixed Pudding with Blueberries Quiche	Christmas Cake (GF)
Cheddar and Tomato Courgetti Quiche	Cheesecake
Sides include	And
Roast Potatoes	Cheese and Biscuits
Roast Beef	
Sautéed Peas	
Grilled Chicken	
Roast Beef & Onion	
Green Salad	
Crusty Bread and Softened Butter	
Homemade Focaccia	

ST JONAS METHODIST CHURCH, WITLEY BAY

St John's Methodist Church

Registered Charity no: 1184805

For more information about any of our Church activities please contact

Church Office - Opening hours Monday-Friday 9am-4pm

Ilfracombe Gardens

Whitley Bay

NE26 3ND

Telephone 0191 251 2355

stjohnsmethodistoffice@gmail.com

Minister

Rev Eva Walker

Telephone Home – 0191 280 8060

revevawalker@gmail.com

Staff

Colin Raistrick - Office Administrator

Patricia Kamba - Cleaner

Karen Morley - Church Family Worker

Church Family Worker

For children's activities contact

churchfamilyworker@gmail.com

07552664747

Media

www.facebook.com/StJohnsMethodistChurchWhitleyBay/

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

St Johns Whitley Bay

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st Aug 2022

North Shields and Whitley Bay	Circuit	Circuit no	
-------------------------------	---------	------------	--

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1184805

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 E Walker

Church Stewards:

S Sabourne

Howard Scott

S Clark

L Thompson

M Rushton

C Baggaley

Treasurer:

Owen Lumsdon

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	Note	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	58,507		58,507	57,121
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	350		350	169
a4	Lettings	5,431		5,431	103
a5	Other receipts	12,889		12,889	78,490
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	77,177		77,177 (a7)	135,883

SECTION B		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	Note	£	£	£	£
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	62,016		62,016	61,401
b3	Donations	3,790		3,790	3,810
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	8,750		8,750	6,804
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	9,295		9,295	7,636
b6					
b7	Other payments	23,551		23,551	9,492
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	107,402		107,402 (b9)	89,143

SECTION C		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	Note	£	£	£	£
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(30,225)	(30,225)	46,740
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		186,970	186,970 (c6)	140,230
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	156,745	156,745	186,970
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	156,745	156,745 (c8)	186,970 (c6)

38

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	1,945	
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	1,945	
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 2020 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						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e1)	(e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	(a7)	107,402 (b9)	(107,402)	(c7)	186,970 (c6)	79,568 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH		107,402	(107,402)		186,970 (x)	79,568 (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 2020

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	70,485	23,679
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	18,581	33,155
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	99,902	99,909
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	188,968 (c6)	156,743 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	188,968 (x)	156,743 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2019	At 31 August 2020
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

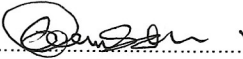
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of Church St John's Methodist Church No.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 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... 6.12.22

Name and address of treasurer 7, ST MARKS AVE
WHITLEY BAY (A. LUMSDEN) Post Code... NE26 1TB

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August ²⁰²² ~~2020~~ were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting REV.D. EVA WALKER Date 6.12.22

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the St John's Methodist Church Whitley bay

Charity Number . 1184805

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the ...St John's Methodist..... Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages 1 to ...5. 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').

Name of Church .. St Johns Whitley Bay

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 Rachel Hunter

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner AAT equivalent

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A

Address

..... Post Code

Date 2.12.2022

* delete or circle as appropriate

THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS

St Johns Whitley Bay

Church

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st Aug 2022

North Shields and Whitley Bay	Circuit	Circuit no	
-------------------------------	---------	------------	--

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1184805

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 E Walker

Church Stewards:

S Sabourne

Howard Scott

S Clark

L Thompson

M Rushton

C Baggaley

Treasurer:

Owen Lumsdon

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
	Note	£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	58,507		58,507	57,121
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	350		350	169
a4	Lettings	5,431		5,431	103
a5	Other receipts	12,889		12,889	78,490
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	77,177		77,177 (a7)	135,883

SECTION B		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	62,016		62,016	61,401
b3	Donations	3,790		3,790	3,810
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	8,750		8,750	6,804
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	9,295		9,295	7,636
b6					
b7	Other payments	23,551		23,551	9,492
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	107,402		107,402 (b9)	89,143

SECTION C		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	(30,225)	(30,225)	46,740
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		186,970	186,970 (c6)	140,230
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	156,745	156,745	186,970
c4	Transfers and adjustments				(c7)
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	156,745	156,745 (c8)	186,970 (c6)

38

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	1,945	
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	1,945	
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 2020 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						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e1)	(e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	(a7)	107,402 (b9)	(107,402)	(c7)	186,970 (c6)	79,568 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH		107,402	(107,402)		186,970 (x)	79,568 (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 2020

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account	70,485	23,679
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board	18,581	33,155
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	99,902	99,909
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	188,968 (c6)	156,743 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	188,968 (x)	156,743 (y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2019	At 31 August 2020
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

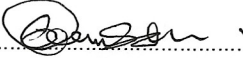
f5 Include only Funds held at Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes

g1 Include any other investments (not the cash element of TMCP trusts accounts this is included in line f5)

Name of Church St John's Methodist Church No.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 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 6.12.22

Name and address of treasurer 7, ST MARKS AVE
WHITLEY BAY (A. LUMSDEN) Post Code NE26 1TB

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August ²⁰²² ~~2020~~ were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on

Signature of the Chair of the meeting 

Name of the Chair of the meeting REV.D. EVA WALKER Date 6.12.22

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

St John's Methodist Church Whitley bay

Charity Number . 1184805

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the ...St John's Methodist..... Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 set out on pages 1 to ...5. 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').

Name of Church .. St Johns Whitley Bay


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 Rachel Hunter

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner AAT equivalent

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A

Address

..... Post Code

Date 2.12.2022

* delete or circle as appropriate

ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH WHITLEY BAY

England & Wales - Charity number 1184805

Accounts

**THE METHODIST CHURCH
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

St Johns Whitley Bay	Church
-----------------------------	---------------

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st Aug 2021

North Shields and Whitley Bay	Circuit	Circuit no	
--------------------------------------	----------------	-------------------	--

Registered Charity - Charity Registration number

1132438

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 E Walker

Church Stewards:

I Fitzgerald
Howard Scott
Susan Sabourne
Lesley Thompson

Treasurer:

Owen Lumsdon

SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	RECEIPTS	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	57,121		57,121	63,798
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	169		169	871
a4	Lettings	103		103	5,186
a5	Other receipts	78,490		78,490	17,281
a6	TOTAL RECEIPTS	135,883		135,883 (a7)	87,136
SECTION B					
b1	PAYMENTS				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	61,401		61,401	59,891
b3	Donations	3,810		3,810	3,680
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	6,804		6,804	16,440
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	7,636		7,636	10,868
b6					
b7	Other payments	9,492		9,492	19,557
b8	TOTAL PAYMENTS	89,144		89,144 (b9)	110,436
SECTION C					
c1	NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR	(a6-b8)	46,739	46,739	(23,300)
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		140,230	140,230 (c6)	163,530
c3	Sub total	(c1+c2)	186,969	186,969	140,230
c4	Transfers and adjustments				
c5	TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	(c3+c4)	186,969	186,969 (c8)	140,230 (c6)
			186,971		140,231
SECTION D			(1.34)		(1.34)
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 2020 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						
e2						
e3						
e4						
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds					(e11)	(e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	135,883 (a7)	89,144 (b9)	46,739	(c7)	140,230 (c6)	186,969 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	135,883	89,144	46,739		140,230 (x)	186,969 (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 2020

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand		
f2 Bank Current Account		
f3 Bank Deposit Account		
f4 Central Finance Board		
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes		
f6 Other funds		
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	(c6)	(c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	(e11)	(e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	(x)	(y)

SECTION G

OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES

	At 1 September 2019	At 31 August 2020
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 St John's Whitby Bay No.....

Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2020 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 [Signature] Date 11.10.21

Name and address of treasurer 7, St Mary's Ave
Whitby Bay Post Code NE26 1TB

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020 were/will be* presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 5th Oct 2021

Signature of the Chair of the meeting [Signature]

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev E Walker Date 15/10/2021

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

.....Church

Charity Number 1184805

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Church for the year ended 31 August 2020 set out on pages ... to 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').

Name of Church .. St Johns Whitley Bay

Independent Examiner's Statement

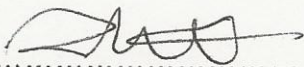
I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below*) which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

[the [the

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 Rachel Hunter

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner AAT equivalent

Name of firm (where appropriate) N/A

Address 24 Howard Close, Holystone

..... Post Code NE27 0U4

Date 10.10.21

* delete or circle as appropriate

Sep-19