

# BETHESDA METHODIST CHURCH

England & Wales · Charity number 1188011

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 2020-02-17

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

## Contact

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**Address** Bethesda Methodist Church  
Great Norwood Street  
Cheltenham  
GL50 2AP

**Phone** 01242269803

**Email** [bookings@bethesda-church.org.uk](mailto:bookings@bethesda-church.org.uk)

**Website** <https://wp.bethesda-church.org.uk/>

## Activities

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**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:** Bethesda Methodist Church serves the Leckhampton community of Cheltenham offering a welcoming and caring approach to church activities both within the building and surrounding areas.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Gloucestershire

## Finances

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Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£158,359	£223,492	-	-
2024-08-31	£321,336	£140,851	-	-
2023-08-31	£143,428	£136,706	-	-
2022-08-31	£127,322	£150,068	-	-
2021-08-31	£180,658	£136,267	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Brian Arthur Allan Gibb		2017-09-01
Bridget Nye		2025-04-01
Catherine Elizabeth Gibb		2020-02-17
Celia Kidd		2020-02-17
Christine Heather Wisdom		2025-04-01
DAVID BROOKE TERRY		2015-09-01
Elaine Bailey		2025-04-01
HELEN CLAIRE TAYLOR		2019-09-01
Heather Sparkes		2025-04-01
Helen Claire Davies		2020-02-17
JENNIFER MARY RICHARDS		2019-09-01
Joanne Reed		2025-04-01
John Lee Cox		2020-02-17
Keith Andrew Norman		2020-02-17
Lindsay Williams		2020-02-17
Rachel Elizabeth Simpson		2020-02-17
Rev Rachel Leather		2025-04-01
TERESA ELIZABETH LLEWELLYN GRIFFITHS		2020-02-17

**BETHESDA METHODIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1188011

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# Accounts

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**THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

Bethesda Methodist	Church
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 August 2025**

Gloucestershire	Circuit	Circuit no.	07/07
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Registered Charity - Charity Registration number	1188011
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If not a registered charity His Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number	
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(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 2021 No.55)

**Minister:**

Rev'd Rachel Leather
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**Church Stewards:**

Bridget Nye	Keith Norman
Teresa Griffiths	Joanne Reed

**Treasurer:**

Brian Gibb
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SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	Note			
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	70,459		70,459	122,931
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	9,300		9,300	5,939
a4	Lettings	14,631		14,631	10,948
a5	Other receipts	10,197	53,772	63,969	181,518
a6	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>104,587</b>	<b>53,772</b>	<b>158,359 (a7)</b>	<b>321,336</b>

SECTION B					
b1	<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	73,244		73,244	77,314
b3	Donations	1,088		1,088	170
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	62,982	9,197	72,179	4,335
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	15,549		15,549	13,383
b6					
b7	Other payments	7,796	53,636	61,432	45,649
b8	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>160,659</b>	<b>62,833</b>	<b>223,492 (b9)</b>	<b>140,851</b>

SECTION C						
c1	<b>NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	(a6-b8)	(56,072)	(9,061)	(65,133)	180,485
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year		242,205	26,437	268,642 (c6)	88,157
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	(c1+c2)	<b>186,133</b>	<b>17,376</b>	<b>203,509</b>	<b>268,642</b>
c4	Transfers and adjustments		(4,644)	4,644	(c7)	
c5	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	(c3+c4)	<b>181,489</b>	<b>22,020</b>	<b>203,509 (c8)</b>	<b>268,642 (c6)</b>

SECTION D			
<b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b>			
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures)		
d1	Balance brought forward from last year		
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	1,747	182
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	1,747	182
d4	<b>BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID</b>	(d1+d2-d3)	

**Bethesda Methodist Church**

**SUMMARY OF CHURCH ACCOUNTS AND INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS REPORTING TO THE CHURCH COUNCIL**

**SECTION E** Please follow the Guidance Notes to complete this page

Summary of the Church accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 and Internal Organisations reporting to the Church Council/Church Meeting. Note that the funds of an Internal Organisation would normally be Restricted funds unless it could be clearly shown that they could be used for any Methodist purpose. This section must be completed to arrive at the gross income and expenditure totals of the Church. If gross income exceeds the Accruals threshold, then the Accruals method of accounting AND A DIFFERENT FORM must be used to report the accounts (see Methodist website). Please refer to the guidance notes regarding transfers between the District and connected District Organisations.

INTERNAL ORGANISATIONS	Receipts	Payments	Net Receipts/ Payments	Adjustments	Opening balances	Closing balances
e1 Lunch Club	4,476	4,515	(39)		1,732	1,693
e2 Bethesda Singers					682	682
e3 Bethesplans					380	380
e4 Flower Fund	60	50	10		581	591
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	4,536	4,565	(29)		3,375 (e11)	3,346 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	158,359 (a7)	223,492 (b9)	(65,133)	(c7)	268,642 (c6)	203,509 (c8)
e10 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	162,895	228,057	(65,162)		272,017 (x)	206,855 (y)
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward		<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>			

**SECTION F**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

**CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2025**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	753	1,165
f2 Bank Current Account	29,627	13,153
f3 Bank Deposit Account	36,226	25,380
f4 Central Finance Board	85,579	41,999
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	119,832	125,158
f6 Other funds	(3,375)	(3,346)
f7 SUB TOTAL - Church accounts	268,642 (c6)	203,509 (c8)
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	3,375 (e11)	3,346 (e12)
f9 TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH	272,017 (x)	206,855 (y)

**SECTION G**

**OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2024	At 31 August 2025
g1 Investments (include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	4,611,000	7,886,548
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: Bethesda Methodist Church

No: 1188011

## Declarations and Scrutiny

I confirm that these Receipt and Payment based accounts for the year to 31 August 2025 have been prepared from the records of the Church and that they include all funds under the control of the Church trustees.

Signature of treasurer .....  ..... Date 26/1/26 .....

Name and address of treasurer ..... Brian Gibb

21 Whitethorn Drive, Cheltenham GL52 5LL

Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2025 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 13 October 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....  .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting Rev'd Rachel Leather Date 26/1/26 .....

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Bethesda Methodist Church

Charity Number 1188011

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Bethesda Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2025. 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.

Name of Church: Bethesda Methodist Church

No: 1188011

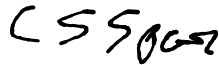
**Independent Examiner's Statement**

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 .....

Name of independent examiner Caroline Sparrow

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner - N/A

Name of firm (where appropriate) - N/A

Address 128 Cheltenham Road

Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham Post Code GL52 8LZ

Date .....

Summary of cash and investments at 31 August 2025

CIRCUIT NUMBER :- 07/07

CIRCUIT NAME: Methodist Circuit of Gloucestershire

CHURCH NAME:

Bethesda

Treasurer Name  
Contact number

Brian Gibb  
07970 924126

e-mail : [brianaagibb@gmail.com](mailto:brianaagibb@gmail.com)

Reserves Policy - Unrestricted funds needed  
(Full reserves policy should be sent in with Accounts forms.)

30,525

Available - from total below

21,660

Surplus / (Shortfall)

(8,865.00)

Fund Name \ Where Held?	BALANCES AT CFB (£)	BALANCES AT TMCP (£)	OTHER INVESTMENTS (£)	CASH AT BANK (£)	TOTAL @ 31/08/2025	TOTAL @ 31/08/25				CHECK SUM - should be zero	Purpose of Fund / Restrictions on use? (please give as much information as possible)
						Unrestricted	Designated	RESTRICTED	ENDOWMENTS		
Current accounts				13,153	13,153	8,488		4,665		-	Unrestricted - general. Creative Age
Deposit accounts				25,380	25,380	10,689	4,891	10,000		-	Unrestricted - general. Designated music co-ordinator. Restricted - Lay Workers.
Cash			1,165		1,165	1,165				-	General
CFB	41,899				41,899	1,318	33,408	7,275		-	Unrestricted - general. Designated Lay Workers, music co-ordinator
TMCP		125,158			125,158		125,158			-	Designated Lay Workers, sound system
					-					-	
					-					-	
					-					-	
SUB - TOTAL -(Pink Rows only!!)	41,999	125,158	1,165	38,533	206,855	21,660	163,255	21,940	-	-	

Notes:

- 1 If the church has made or received loans, these should be shown in Other investments
- 2 Investment Properties (not used for charitable purposes) should be shown in Other investments
- 3 All Circuit Treasurers are required to collate church information and complete the table above each year and submit it to the District Treasurer in compliance with The Methodist Conference directive.

- From P3 R & P Page-line f5 - box 'c8'  
- 206,855 Difference

**BETHESDA METHODIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1188011

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# Accounts

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**THE METHODIST CHURCH  
STANDARD FORM OF ACCOUNTS**

<b>Bethesda Methodist</b>	<b>Church</b>
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**FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 August 2024**

<b>Gloucestershire</b>	<b>Circuit</b>	<b>Circuit no.</b>	<b>07/07</b>
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<b>Registered Charity - Charity Registration number</b>	<b>1188011</b>
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<b>If not a registered charity Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs Gift Aid number</b>	
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(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:**

<b>Rev'd Rachel Leather</b>
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**Church Stewards:**

<b>Teresa Griffiths</b>	<b>Keith Norman</b>
<b>Bridget Nye</b>	<b>Joanne Reed</b>

**Treasurer:**

<b>Peter Allsopp</b>
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SECTION A		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
a1	<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
	<b>Note</b>				
a2	Offerings and Tax recovered	122,200	731	122,931	87,849
a3	Bank and CFB interest and Investment income	5,939		5,939	1,945
a4	Lettings	10,948		10,948	13,391
a5	Other receipts	148,142	33,376	181,518	33,216
a6	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>287,229</b>	<b>34,107</b>	<b>321,336 (a7)</b>	<b>136,401</b>

SECTION B		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year
		£	£	£	£
b1	<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
b2	Circuit Assessment or Share	77,314		77,314	74,604
b3	Donations	170		170	2,978
b4	Repairs and Maintenance	3,964	371	4,335	11,130
b5	Utilities (Insurances, water charges, heating & lighting)	13,383		13,383	11,265
b6					
b7	Other payments	13,754	31,895	45,649	31,997
b8	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>108,585</b>	<b>32,266</b>	<b>140,851 (b9)</b>	<b>131,974</b>

SECTION C		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Totals this year	Totals last year	
		£	£	£	£	
c1	<b>NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(a6-b8)</b>	<b>178,644</b>	<b>1,841</b>	<b>180,485</b>	<b>4,427</b>
c2	Total funds brought forward from last year	59,446	28,711	88,157 (c6)	81,434	
c3	<b>Sub total</b>	<b>(c1+c2)</b>	<b>238,090</b>	<b>30,552</b>	<b>268,642</b>	<b>85,861</b>
c4	Transfers and adjustments	1,000	(1,000)		(c7)	2,296
c5	<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>(c3+c4)</b>	<b>239,090</b>	<b>29,552</b>	<b>268,642 (c8)</b>	<b>88,157 (c6)</b>

SECTION D		£	£
<b>FOR INFORMATION ONLY: MONEY RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS</b>			
d	(these amounts are not to be included in total receipts/payments figures above)		
d1	Balance brought forward from last year		344
d2	Offerings/Gifts - received for external organisations	182	1,388
d3	Offerings/Gifts - passed to external organisations	182	1,732
d4	<b>BALANCE STILL TO BE PAID</b>	<b>(d1+d2-d3)</b>	

**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 Lunch club	260		260		1,472	1,732
e2 Bethesda singers					682	682
e3 Bethesdplans					380	380
e4 Flower fund					581	581
e5						
e6						
e7						
e8 Sub total of Internal Organisations funds	260		260		3,115 (e11)	3,375 (e12)
e9 Church accounts (totals brought forward from page 2 - totals column)	321,336 (a7)	140,851 (b9)	180,485	(c7)	88,157 (c6)	268,642 (c8)
e10 <b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH</b>	<b>321,596</b>	<b>140,851</b>	<b>180,745</b>		<b>91,272 (x)</b>	<b>272,017 (y)</b>
Continue on a separate sheet if necessary and bring the totals forward	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>				

**SECTION F****STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****CHURCH - CASH FUNDS HELD at 31 August 2024**

	OPENING BALANCES	CLOSING BALANCES
f1 Cash in hand	1,157	753
f2 Bank Current Account	27,611	29,627
f3 Bank Deposit Account	1,128	36,228
f4 Central Finance Board	27,188	85,579
f5 Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes	34,188	119,832
f6 Other funds	(3,115)	(3,375)
f7 <b>SUB TOTAL - Church accounts</b>	<b>88,157 (c6)</b>	<b>268,642 (c8)</b>
f8 Total funds held by Internal Organisations (the closing balance total from above) (e12)	3,115 (e11)	3,375 (e12)
f9 <b>TOTAL CASH FUNDS HELD BY CHURCH</b>	<b>91,272 (x)</b>	<b>272,017 (y)</b>

**SECTION G****OTHER ASSETS and LIABILITIES**

	At 1 September 2022	At 31 August 2023
g1 Investments (Include Endowments)		
g2 Land & Buildings (see notes re Insurance value)	4,611,000	4,611,000
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 ..... BETHESDA METHODIST CHURCH ..... No. 07/07 .....

## 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..... 27/01/2025

Name and address of treasurer ..... Peter Allsopp

32 Linden Close, Cheltenham GL52 3DU

### Presentation to the Church trustees

I confirm that the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2024 were presented to the meeting of the Church trustees held on 27 January 2025

Signature of the Chair of the meeting .....  .....

Name of the Chair of the meeting .... Rev Rachel Leather ..... 27/01/2025

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the

### Bethesda Methodist Church

Charity Number 1188011

### Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Bethesda Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2024. 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.

Name of Church

**Bethesda Methodist Church**

No:

**1188011**

### 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 .....



Name of independent examiner - Emma Conway

Relevant professional qualification of independent examiner - ACCA

Address 3 Fairview Court, Fairview Road, Cheltenham

..... GL52 2EX

Date .... 27 January 2024

**Summary of cash and investments at 31 August 2024**

**CIRCUIT NUMBER :- 07/07**

**CIRCUIT NAME: Methodist Circuit of Gloucestershire**

**CHURCH NAME:**

Bethesda

Treasurer Name  
Contact number

Brian Gibb  
07970 924126

e-mail : brianagibb@gmail.com

**Reserves Policy - Unrestricted funds needed**  
(Full reserves policy should be sent in with Accounts forms.)

77,415

Available - from total below

79,585

Surplus / (Shortfall)

2,170

Fund Name \ Where Held?	BALANCES AT CFB (£)	BALANCES AT TMCP (£)	OTHER INVESTMENTS (£)	CASH AT BANK (£)	TOTAL @ 31/08/2024	TOTAL @ 31/08/24		CHECK SUM - should be zero	Purpose of Fund / Restrictions on use? (please give as much information as possible)
						UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED Designated		
Current accounts				29,627	29,627	19,627	10,000	-	Unrestricted - general. Restricted Lay Worker, Creative Age + Sundry
Deposit accounts				36,226	36,226	19,789	16,437	-	Unrestricted - general. Restricted Lay Worker, Creative Age + Sundry
Cash			753		753	753		-	General
CFB	85,579				85,579	39,416	46,163	-	Unrestricted - general. Designated Legacy church council working on
TMCP		119,832			119,832		119,832	-	Designated - Legacy church council working on options
								-	
								-	
<b>SUB - TOTAL (Pink Rows only!)</b>	85,579	119,832	-	66,606	272,017	79,585	26,437	-	

- From P3 R & P Page-line 15 - box '08'  
- 272,017 Difference

- Notes:**
- 1 If the church has made or received loans, these should be shown in **Other Investments**
  - 2 Investment Properties (not used for charitable purposes) should be shown in **Other Investments**
  - 3 All Circuit Treasurers are required to collate church information and complete the table above each year and submit it to the District Treasurer in compliance with The Methodist Conference directive.

**BETHESDA METHODIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1188011

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# Accounts

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Registered Charity Number  
1188011

Bethesda Methodist Church

Reports and Accounts

31<sup>st</sup> August 2023

**BETHESDA METHODIST CHURCH**  
**CHARITY NUMBER: 1188011**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2023**

**Trustees**

The trustees who served during the period were:

Rev Rachel Leather	Caroline Deacon	Celia Kidd
Teresa Griffiths	HeatherSparkes	Christine Pringle
Keith Norman	David Terry	Elaine Bailey
Tina Savage	Christine Wisdom	Jenny Richards
Bridget Nye	Helen Davies	Helen Taylor
Katie Hare	Doddy Marlow	Catherine Gibb
Peter Allsopp	Lindsay Williams	

**Who we are**

Bethesda Methodist Church is situated at 18 Great Norwood Street, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 2AP.

Bethesda is part of the Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit. Bethesda is a community of all ages who love God, find life and hope in the way of Jesus, and seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit in all that we do. As a community of hope, we hold together the rich and broad tradition of Christianity with insights and understandings from the present, and this is reflected in our theology and variety of worship. We are committed to be stewards of creation and the natural world - Bethesda is an ECO CHURCH.

We support a wide programme of worship events and community activities throughout each week; some we organise, some we host. Bethesda is a place where everyone is encouraged to be themselves, wherever they might find themselves in life and however they might describe their faith or the lack of it. We continue to explore how we can more effectively embrace diversity and have been actively engaged in the Methodist Church programme for EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion).

The worship life of the church continues to develop and grow, drawing in new friends and members. Services draw on our ECO commitments alongside novel and vibrant ways of celebrating traditional seasons such as Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Christmas. We are a congregation seeking to follow the way of Jesus and we ask questions and wonder at answers, deepening our understanding of the call to discipleship through worship, learning together and nurturing faith.

More details can be found at <https://wp.bethesda-church.org.uk/>

## **Hawling Methodist Church**

From 1 September 2019, Hawling Methodist Church became a "class" of Bethesda Methodist Church. Bethesda and Hawling have been closely linked for many years, not only as part of the same Circuit, but also receiving pastoral oversight from the same Minister. Being a class means that Hawling effectively becomes part of Bethesda whilst still operating with a degree of autonomy. Members of Hawling are on the Bethesda Church Council. Hawling Chapel continues as an active centre of worship serving the area around the village including the popular local community services at Harvest and Christmas. The fellowship at North Cerney also comes under the Bethesda umbrella.

## **Church Groups**

Church groups meet either on a regular or ad hoc basis and all have returned since the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions from the Autumn of 2021 but benefiting from the new technology we have all had to master:

- Bethesda Singers who have resumed and meet to prepare for specific Bethesda events while enriching weekly worship as individuals
- Weekly Lunch Club supports the elderly in the community and has new members and a long waiting list
- Toddler group meeting twice per week
- Bible study meeting on the Church premises mid-week
- House Groups meeting both face-to-face and on-line to maximise attendance and reduce travel time and miles
- Saturday morning coffee shop open to all to chat, drink tea or coffee and eat cake. There is no charge but any donations are, in turn, donated to local charities and these, following a modest start, are growing again. More activities are now gathering at this time on Saturdays
- Bethesda Backpackers organising weekly walks in the Cotswolds
- Country Dance Group
- Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies and Beavers
- Welcome Club supporting the re-kindled Creative Age programme. Welcome Club drew its specific activities to a close in August 2023

Bethesda has a strong tradition of supporting the community both locally and town-wide, with various activities take place in the hall and in the church itself. Locally, this ranges from parent and child groups, to acting as a polling station for elections, to a meeting place for the Bethesda Scouts and Guides and Brownies groups and their organising committees.

We host a variety of town-wide groups ranging from choir practice for various choirs, to Art classes and AI Anon. We strongly support several local charities and organisations including those working with refugees, 'Open Door' for the homeless, the Food Bank, Gardners Lane Centre and several others. We believe in playing an active role in the community whenever the opportunity arises.

## **Pastoral Support**

In common with many Methodist Churches, we operate a system of pastoral support whereby every member of the church family is linked to a pastoral visitor who will ensure that members are kept in touch with what is happening in Church. They are able to offer further support if needed. The Church holds some money in a Benevolent Fund which can provide small cash payments for anyone in particular need (at the discretion of the Minister).

Bethesda also have the advantage of a part-time Lay Worker who supports the work of the Minister and pastoral visitors. This has proved to be very important as we have returned to worship together in our Sanctuary at Bethesda, making sure all are comfortable and have been able to return to the building at their own pace. Our Lay Worker takes the communion elements from our communion table to those who are unable to attend those services in person.

## **Creative Age**

With the assistance of financial grants from Gloucestershire County Council and the Methodist Church and pastoral overview from our Minister and lay worker, Bethesda works with individuals to enrich the lives of elderly dementia sufferers and their carers (called Creative Age and delivered by the 'Open Arms Artist's Collective' - <https://www.openarmsartists.org.uk/>). The project continues to grow, attract external funding and has been warmly received and supported, delivering successful sessions for participants. The programme is supported by church volunteers and is proving to be a very important outreach activity.

## **Safeguarding**

Bethesda Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of the Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice within our Church premises (<https://www.methodist.org.uk/safeguarding/>). There is a safeguarding officer appointed by Church Council. Policy is updated and reviewed annually and DBS checks are just part of our safeguarding approach. We are actively engaged with the Gloucestershire Methodist Church safeguarding officer.

## **Financial Review**

The Bethesda Methodist Church Council (trustees) meets four times a year (including the Annual General Church Meeting) at which a Finance Report is presented, reviewed, discussed and accepted by the meeting. The financial statements show a surplus for the year on the general account (unrestricted funds) of £742, giving a general fund balance at 31 August 2023 of £62,560.

Given the financial pressures of returning to the building after COVID lockdowns, with heating, lighting and cleaning costs and the need to re-build the community of users (eg for room hire), this is a significant achievement that has been made possible by the generosity of givers and donors with both increased regular contributions and one-offs. Our Lay Worker has been instrumental in re-building our room hire / user community with activities every day. Bethesda will continue to benefit from a three-year fixed price energy deal (electricity and gas) up to 31 December 2023.

Additional budgeting and forecasting at both Bethesda and with the Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit is in place. This will carefully both plan and track our income and expenditure, underpinning the continuing financial viability of Bethesda. The financial statements are prepared on a receipts and payments basis. The Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit Treasurer and team meet with Church Treasurers in February each year. They have reviewed the previous year's accounts and prepared the future Circuit budget, including the Circuit Assessment to be paid by each church.

The church continues to apply funds from the generous legacy left to Bethesda in 2021 to increase the Lay Worker posts that have proved so valuable to our church and community (note that there are no restrictions on the use of these legacy funds and the trustees will continue to seek the best use the money for the mission of the church). The current balance of these legacy funds is £34,188 at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. These monies are held on behalf of the church by the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

Our Lay Worker posts are supported with matched funding from both the Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit and the Bristol Methodist District. Two posts are currently supported and Bethesda continues to seek the right appointee for a new Youth and Families Lay Worker. This role will operate alongside our very busy Pastoral Lay Worker!

## **Reserves Policy**

The Church needs to hold reserves primarily to manage the funds passing through its accounts. As trustees, the members of Church Council believe that the Church should seek to hold, in the General Fund, reserves of around one third of annual routine expenditure which would amount to £34,000 on the Bethesda account and £1,850 on the Hawling account. The respective balances at 31 August 2023 were £54,699 (Bethesda) and £7,861 (Hawling).

## **Risk management**

The trustees have examined the principal strategic and operational risks, which the charity faces and confirm that the systems have been established to minimise these risks.

## **Structure, governance and management**

The governing document for the Church is the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day-to-day management of the church is undertaken by the Church Leadership Team along with the Minister.

## **Responsibilities of the management committee**

Charity law requires the management committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements the management committee are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and;
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.

The management committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval:

This report was approved by the trustees on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Rev'd Rachel Leather

**Bethesda Methodist Church  
Independent Examiners' Report**

**Independent Examiners' report to the trustees of Bethesda Methodist Church**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bethesda Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Charities Act 2011, s.144(2) (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*G. Sparrow*

Ms Caroline Susan Sparrow.  
128 Cheltenham Road,  
Bishop's Cleeve,  
Gloucestershire.  
GL52 8LZ

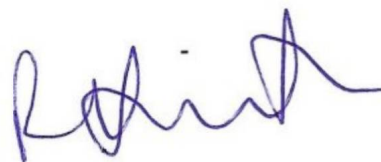
20<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**Bethesda Methodist Church**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023	2022
		£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Donations, gifts and legacies		80,483	5,682	86,165	95,305
Grants		-	29,134	29,134	16,279
Transfers		2,640	3,000	5,640	6,297
Bank account interest		1,945	-	1,945	329
Other income	<b>3</b>	17,473	1,388	18,861	7,937
Internal organisations	<b>6</b>	-	1,683	1,683	1,185
		<u>102,541</u>	<u>40,887</u>	<u>143,428</u>	<u>127,332</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
<b>Direct charitable expenditure</b>					
Circuit assessment		74,604	-	74,604	74,124
Donations		478	2,500	2,978	5,462
Internal grants (from TMCP)		3,000	-	3,000	6,000
Project expenses		-	18,451	18,451	36,013
<b>Other expenditure</b>					
Operating expenses	<b>4</b>	23,465	9,346	32,811	27,531
Bank account charges		252	-	252	222
Internal organisations	<b>6</b>	-	4,610	4,610	716
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>101,799</u>	<u>34,907</u>	<u>136,706</u>	<u>150,068</u>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR</b>		742	5,980	6,722	(22,736)
FUND BALANCES AT 31 AUGUST 2022		61,818	22,731	84,549	107,285
<b>FUND BALANCES AT 31 AUGUST 2023</b>		<u>62,560</u>	<u>28,711</u>	<u>91,271</u>	<u>84,549</u>

**Bethesda Methodist Church  
Balance Sheet  
as at 31 August 2023**

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>91,272</u>	<u>84,549</u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>			
General fund		62,560	61,818
Restricted funds	5	24,484	15,576
Internal organisation funds	6	4,228	7,155
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u>91,272</u>	<u>84,549</u>



Rev'd Rachel Leather  
Trustee  
Approved by the trustees on 20 June 2024

**Bethesda Methodist Church**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2023**

**1 Accounting policies**

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015 as amended February 2016) [Charities SORP (FRS 102)] and the Charities Act 2011 and applicable regulations. This is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

**Income and Expenditure**

Income and Expenditure are accounted for in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when received and paid respectively.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds - these are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of general objects of the charity.

Designated funds - these are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds - These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the original purpose for which the funds were given.

**Going concern**

At the time of approving the accounts the trustees have a reasonable expectation that they have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

**Church buildings**

It is not considered relevant to include a valuation of the church buildings on the Balance Sheet. The church building and halls are insured for £4,611,000.

**2 Trustees**

None of the trustees received any remuneration or benefits from the charity, directly, during the year. Any payments made to trustees were reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the charity. The minister and lay worker are employed by the Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit. Bethesda contributes to circuit costs via the assessment payments.

**3 Other income**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	£	£	£	£
Room hire	13,391	-	13,391	4,121
Solar panels	3,941	-	3,941	3,241
Sundry	75	-	75	12
Printing	66	-	66	4
Special collections for third parties	-	1,388	1,388	559
	<b>17,473</b>	<b>1,388</b>	<b>18,861</b>	<b>w</b>

**Bethesda Methodist Church  
Notes to the Accounts  
for the year ended 31 August 2023**

<b>4 Operating expenses</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cleaning	7,545	-	7,545	6,349
Insurance	4,150	-	4,150	3,812
Light and heat	4,758	-	4,758	4,579
Printing and stationery	906	-	906	1,693
Repairs and renewals	3,172	7,958	11,130	5,654
Telephone and internet	1,451	-	1,451	1,334
Sundry	1,139	-	1,139	3,895
Special collections for third parties	344	1,388	1,732	215
	<u>23,465</u>	<u>9,346</u>	<u>32,811</u>	<u>27,531</u>

<b>5 Restricted funds analysis</b>	<b>Balance</b>			<b>Balance</b>
	<b>01/09/2022</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>31/08/2023</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Benevolent Fund	496	-	-	496
Coffee Shop	2,464	1,656	(2,500)	1,620
Covid Fund	250	-	-	250
Creative Age	-	18,995	(4,587)	14,408
Lay Worker	6,695	13,666	(13,864)	6,497
Music Fund	342	500	-	842
Property Fund	5,329	3,000	(7,958)	371
	<u>15,576</u>	<u>37,817</u>	<u>(28,903)</u>	<u>24,484</u>

<b>6 Internal Organisation Funds</b>	<b>Balance</b>			<b>Balance</b>
	<b>01/09/2022</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>31/08/2023</b>
Bethesda Singers	707	-	(25)	682
Bethespians	380	-	-	380
Flower Fund	556	25	-	581
Lunch Club	1,966	646	(1,140)	1,472
Toddlers	1,772	1,012	(1,671)	1,113
Traidgreen	54	-	(54)	-
Welcome Club	1,720	-	(1,720)	-
	<u>7,155</u>	<u>1,683</u>	<u>(4,610)</u>	<u>4,228</u>

**BETHESDA METHODIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1188011

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# Accounts

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Registered Charity Number  
1188011

Bethesda Methodist Church

Reports and Accounts

31<sup>st</sup> August 2022

**BETHESDA METHODIST CHURCH**  
**CHARITY NUMBER: 1188011**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2022**

**Trustees**

The trustees who served during the period were:

Rev Naomi Cooke	Heather Sparkes	Celia Kidd
Teresa Griffiths	David Terry	Christine Pringle
Keith Norman	Moira Anderson	Elaine Bailey
Tina Savage	Helen Davies	Jenny Richards
Ros Terry	John Cox	Helen Taylor
Brian Gibb	Helen Nye	Rachel Simpson
Peter Allsopp	Brian Robertson	Catherine Gibb
Caroline Deacon	Lindsay Williams	

**Who we are**

Bethesda Methodist Church is situated at 18 Great Norwood Street, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 2AP.

Bethesda is part of the Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit. Bethesda is a community of all ages who love God, find life and hope in the way of Jesus, and seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit in all that we do. We hold together the rich and broad tradition of Christianity with insights and understandings from the present, and this is reflected in our theology and variety of worship.

We support a wide programme of worship events and community activities throughout each week; some we organise, some we host. Bethesda is a place where everyone is encouraged to be themselves, wherever they might find themselves in life; however they might describe their faith or the lack of it. In November 2021 and following on from new liturgies being approved at the 2021 Methodist Conference, Bethesda Methodist Church Council unanimously approved the solemnisation of marriages of same sex couples and the blessing of same sex marriages previously solemnised. Bethesda was excited to subsequently host the marriage of a same sex couple in July 2022.

We are a congregation seeking to follow the way of Jesus and we ask questions and wonder at answers, deepening our understanding of the call to discipleship through worship, learning together and nurturing faith.

More details can be found at <https://wp.bethesda-church.org.uk/>

Many of our church-based activities in this period were disrupted by Covid but as a church we continued to support the wide church family and maintain activities where possible. Sunday worship has continued with a mixture of pre-recorded services aired on YouTube and live worship via Zoom. Junior Church also continued via Zoom. The Church opened for Sunday services again in May 2021 and has so continued with the exception of a few short periods of required online worship (eg Christmas 2021). The Bethesda congregation has returned to worship and proudly shared the rich tapestry of other activities at Bethesda with other organisations and users who are also resuming at our premises.

### **Hawling Methodist Church**

From 1 September 2019, Hawling Methodist Church became a “class” of Bethesda Methodist Church. Bethesda and Hawling have been closely linked for many years, not only as part of the same Circuit, but also receiving pastoral oversight from the same Minister. Being a class means that Hawling effectively becomes part of Bethesda whilst still operating with a degree of autonomy. Members of Hawling are on the Bethesda Church Council. The fellowship at North Cerney also comes under the Bethesda umbrella.

### **Church Groups**

Church groups meet either on a regular or ad hoc basis and all have returned since the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions from the Autumn of 2021:

- Bethesda Singers who have resumed and meet to prepare for specific Bethesda events while enriching weekly worship as individuals
- Weekly Lunch Club supports the elderly in the community and has new members
- Welcome Club supporting the re-kindled Creative Age programme
- Toddler group meeting twice per week
- Bible study meeting on the Church premises mid-week
- House Groups meeting both face-to-face and on-line to avoid difficult winter travel
- Saturday morning coffee shop open to all to chat, drink tea or coffee and eat cake. There is no charge but any donations are, in turn, donated to local charities and these, following a modest start, are growing again
- Bethesda Backpackers organising weekly walks in the Cotswolds
- Country Dance Group
- Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies and Beavers

Bethesda has a strong tradition of supporting the community both locally and town-wide and various activities take place in the hall and in the church itself. Locally, this ranges from parent and child groups, to acting as a polling station for elections, to a meeting place for the Bethesda Scouts and Guides and Brownies groups and their organising committees.

We host a variety of town-wide groups ranging from choir practice for various choirs, to Art classes and AI Anon. We strongly support several local charities and organisations including G.A.R.A.S. working with refugees, Open Door for the homeless, the Food Bank, Gardners Lane Centre and several others. We believe in playing an active role in the community whenever the opportunity arises.

## **Pastoral Support**

In common with many Methodist Churches, we operate a system of pastoral support whereby every member of the church family is linked to a pastoral visitor who will ensure that members are kept in touch with what is happening in Church. They are able to offer further support if needed. The Church holds some money in a Benevolent Fund which can provide small cash payments for anyone in particular need (at the discretion of the Minister).

Bethesda also have the advantage of a part-time Lay Worker who supports the work of the Minister and pastoral visitors. This has proved to be very important as we have returned to worship together in our Sanctuary at Bethesda, making sure all are comfortable and have been able to return to the building at their own pace. Our Lay Worker has resumed the taking of the communion elements from our communion table to those who are unable to attend those services in person.

## **Creative Age**

With the assistance of financial grants from Gloucestershire County Council and the Methodist Church and pastoral overview from our Minister and lay worker, Bethesda works with individuals to enrich the lives of elderly dementia sufferers and their carers. Post-COVID, the programme re-started at Bethesda in 2022 and has been warmly received and supported, delivering successful sessions for participants. The programme is supported by church volunteers and is proving to be a very important outreach activity.

## **Safeguarding**

Bethesda Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of the Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice within our Church premises. There is a safeguarding officer appointed by Church Council.

## **Financial Review**

The financial statements show a deficit for the year on the general account of £3,155 giving a general fund balance at 31 August 2022 of £21,595. Given the financial pressures of returning to the building with heating, lighting and cleaning costs and the need to re-build the community of users (eg for room hire), this is a significant achievement that has been made possible by the generosity of givers and donors with both increased regular contributions and one-offs. Additional budgeting and forecasting at both Bethesda and with the Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit is in place. This will carefully both plan and track our income and expenditure, underpinning the continuing financial viability of Bethesda. The financial statements are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Part of the generous legacy of £46,000 received by Bethesda in the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 will be used by the trustees to increase the Lay Worker posts that have proved so valuable to our church and community (note that there are no restrictions on the use of these funds and the trustees will continue to seek the best use the money for the mission of the church). In this year, £6,000 was released from the legacy as the Bethesda contribution to the Pastoral Lay Worker post to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 with matched funding from both the Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit and the Bristol Methodist District. The funds will continue to be ringfenced until applied to Bethesda Church Council approved projects. Taking this initial draw down in mind and including interest, the balance is £40,223 which is held on behalf of the church by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes.

## **Reserves Policy**

The Church needs to hold reserves primarily to manage the funds passing through its accounts. As trustees, the members of Church Council believe that the Church should seek to hold, in the General Fund, reserves of around one third of annual routine expenditure which would amount to £34,000 on the Bethesda account and £1,850 on the Hawling account. The respective balances at 31 August 2022 were £15,148 and £6,447.

## **Risk management**

The trustees have examined the principal strategic and operational risks, which the charity faces and confirm that the systems have been established to minimise these risks.

## **Structure, governance and management**

The governing document for the Church is the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day-to-day management of the church is undertaken by the Church Leadership Team along with the Minister.

## **Responsibilities of the management committee**

Charity law requires the management committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements the management committee are required to:

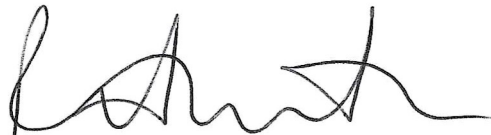
- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and;
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.

The management committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval:

This report was approved by the trustees on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Rev'd Rachel Leather

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Leather', written over a horizontal line.

**Bethesda Methodist Church  
Independent Examiners' Report**

**Independent Examiners' report to the trustees of Bethesda Methodist Church**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bethesda Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Charities Act 2011, s.144(2) (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*CS Sparrow*

Ms Caroline Susan Sparrow.  
128 Cheltenham Road,  
Bishop's Cleeve,  
Gloucestershire.  
GL52 8LZ

7<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Bethesda Methodist Church  
Statement of Financial Activities  
for the year ended 31 August 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Donations, gifts and legacies		91,140	4,165	95,305	142,514
Grants		-	16,279	16,279	32,004
Transfers		-	6,297	6,297	-
Bank account interest		329	-	329	107
Other income	3	7,937	-	7,937	4,827
Internal organisations		-	1,185	1,185	1,206
		<u>99,406</u>	<u>27,926</u>	<u>127,332</u>	<u>180,658</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
<b>Direct charitable expenditure</b>					
Circuit assessment		74,124	-	74,124	81,792
Donations		5,462	-	5,462	3,340
Internal grants (from TMCP)		6,000	-	6,000	-
Project expenses		-	36,013	36,013	31,067
<b>Other expenditure</b>					
Operating	4	22,566	4,965	27,531	16,446
Bank account charges		222	-	222	-
Internal organisations		-	716	716	3,622
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>108,374</u>	<u>41,694</u>	<u>150,068</u>	<u>136,267</u>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR</b>		(8,968)	(13,768)	(22,736)	44,391
FUND BALANCES AT 31 AUGUST 2021		70,786	36,499	107,285	62,894
<b>FUND BALANCES AT 31 AUGUST 2022</b>		<u>61,818</u>	<u>22,731</u>	<u>84,549</u>	<u>107,285</u>

**Bethesda Methodist Church  
Balance Sheet  
as at 31 August 2022**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2022 £</b>	<b>2021 £</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>84,549</u>	<u>107,285</u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>			
General fund		61,818	70,786
Restricted funds	<b>5</b>	15,576	29,813
Internal organisation funds	<b>5</b>	7,155	6,686
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u>84,549</u>	<u>107,285</u>

Rev'd Rachel Leather  
Trustee  
Approved by the trustees on 7 June 2023



**Bethesda Methodist Church**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

**1 Accounting policies**

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015 as amended February 2016) [Charities SORP (FRS 102)] and the Charities Act 2011 and applicable regulations. This is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

**Income and Expenditure**

Income and Expenditure are accounted for in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when received and paid respectively.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds - these are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of general objects of the charity.

Designated funds - these are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds - These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the original purpose for which the funds were given.

**Going concern**

At the time of approving the accounts the trustees have a reasonable expectation that they have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

**Church buildings**

It is not considered relevant to include a valuation of the church buildings on the Balance Sheet. The church building and halls are insured for £4,611,000.

**2 Trustees**

None of the trustees received any remuneration or benefits from the charity, directly, during the year. Any payments made to trustees were reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the charity. The minister and lay worker are employed by the Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit. Bethesda contributes to circuit costs via the assessment payments.

**3 Other income**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Room hire	4,121	-	4,121	1,552
Solar panels	3,241	-	3,241	3,225
Sundry	12	-	12	50
Printing	4	-	4	-
Special collections for third parties	559	-	559	-
	<b>7,937</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,937</b>	<b>4,827</b>

**Bethesda Methodist Church**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2022**

<b>4 Operating expenses</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cleaning	6,349	-	6,349	512
Insurance	3,812	-	3,812	3,603
Light and heat	4,579	-	4,579	2,821
Printing and stationery	1,693	-	1,693	194
Repairs and renewals	2,417	3,237	5,654	6,288
Telephone and internet	1,334	-	1,334	1,297
Sundry	2,167	1,728	3,895	1,731
Special collections for third parties	215	-	215	-
	<u>22,566</u>	<u>4,965</u>	<u>27,531</u>	<u>16,446</u>

<b>5 Restricted funds analysis</b>	<b>Balance</b>			<b>Balance</b>
	<b>01/09/2021</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>31/08/2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>				
Benevolent Fund	496	-	-	496
Coffee Shop	1,042	1,422	-	2,464
Covid Fund	1,750	-	(1,500)	250
Creative Age	12,581	7,582	(20,163)	-
Lay Worker	4,809	17,736	(15,850)	6,695
Music Fund	570	-	(228)	342
Property Fund	8,565	-	(3,236)	5,329
	<u>29,813</u>	<u>26,740</u>	<u>(40,977)</u>	<u>15,576</u>
<b>Internal Organisation Funds</b>				
Bethesda Singers	707	-	-	707
Bethespians	380	-	-	380
Flower Fund	701	-	(145)	556
Lunch Club	1,670	296	-	1,966
Toddlers	965	889	(82)	1,772
Traidgreen	246	-	(192)	54
Welcome Club	2,017	-	(297)	1,720
	<u>6,686</u>	<u>1,185</u>	<u>(716)</u>	<u>7,155</u>

**BETHESDA METHODIST CHURCH**

England & Wales - Charity number 1188011

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# Accounts

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Registered Charity Number  
1188011

Bethesda Methodist Church

Report and Accounts

31 August 2021

**BETHESDA METHODIST CHURCH**  
**CHARITY NUMBER: 1188011**  
**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

**Trustees**

The trustees who served during the period were:

Rev Naomi Cooke  
Keith Norman  
Andy Sparkes  
Teresa Griffiths  
Tina Savage  
Celia Kidd  
David Terry  
Helen Davies  
Helen Taylor  
Jenny Richards  
John Cox  
Lindsay Williams  
Moirra Anderson  
Rachel Simpson  
Sue Harvey  
Brian Robertson  
Peter Allsopp  
Helen Nye  
Catherine Gibb  
Brian Gibb

**Who we are**

Bethesda Methodist Church is situated at 18 Great Norwood Street, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 2AP. Bethesda is part of the Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit.

Bethesda is a community of all ages who love God, find life and hope in the way of Jesus, and seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit in all that we do. We hold together the rich and broad tradition of Christianity with insights and understandings from the present, and this is reflected in our theology and variety of worship.

We support a wide programme of worship events and community activities throughout each week; some we organise, some we host. Bethesda is a place where everyone is encouraged to be themselves, wherever they might find themselves in life; however they might describe their faith or the lack of it.

We are a congregation seeking to follow the way of Jesus.

We ask questions and wonder at answers, deepening our understanding of the call to discipleship through worship, learning together and nurturing faith.

More details can be found at <https://wp.bethesda-church.org.uk/>

Many of our church based activities in this period were disrupted by Covid but as a church we continued to support the wide church family and maintain activities where possible. Sunday worship has continued with a mixture of pre-recorded services aired on YouTube and live worship via Zoom. Junior Church also continued via Zoom. The Church opened for Sunday services again in May 2021.

### **Hawling Methodist Church**

From 1 September 2019 Hawling Methodist Church became a "class" of Bethesda Methodist Church. Bethesda and Hawling have been closely linked for many years, not only as part of the same Circuit, but also receiving pastoral oversight from the same minister. Being a class means that Hawling effectively becomes part of Bethesda whilst still operating with a degree of autonomy. Members of Hawling are on the Bethesda Church Council. The fellowship at North Cerney also comes under the Bethesda umbrella.

**Church groups** – prior to Covid a number of church groups met on a regular basis and it is hoped that most of them will continue again in the Autumn of 2021.

- ✓ Bethesda Singers who meet weekly and enhance worship on a regular basis
- ✓ Weekly Lunch Club to support the elderly in the community
- ✓ Welcome Club meeting weekly and supporting the elderly with talks and activities
- ✓ Toddler group meeting twice per week
- ✓ Bible study
- ✓ House Groups
- ✓ Saturday morning coffee shop open to all to chat, drink tea or coffee and eat cake. There is no charge but any donations are, in turn, donated to local charities – normally over £2,000 per year.
- ✓ Bethesda Backpackers organising weekly walks in the Cotswolds (already taking place weekly)
- ✓ Country Dance Group
- ✓ Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies and Beavers (Groups have started meeting again)

Bethesda has a strong tradition of supporting the community both locally and town-wide and various activities take place in the hall and in the church itself.

Locally, this ranges from parent and child groups, to acting as a polling station for elections, to a meeting place for the Bethesda Scouts and Guides and Brownies groups.

We host a variety of town-wide groups ranging from choir practice for various choirs, to Art classes and Al Anon.

We strongly support several local charities and organisations including G.A.R.A.S. working with refugees, Open Door for the homeless, the Food Bank, Gardners Lane Centre and several others. We believe in playing an active role in the community whenever the opportunity arises.

### **Pastoral support**

In common with many Methodist Churches, we operate a system of pastoral support whereby every member of the church family is linked to a pastoral visitor who will ensure that members are kept in touch with what is happening in Church and is able to offer further support if needed. The Church holds some money in a Benevolent Fund which can provide small cash payments for anyone in particular need (at the discretion of the Minister).

Bethesda also have the advantage of a part-time Lay Worker who supports the work of the minister and pastoral visitors all of which has been more important than ever during Covid.

## **Creative Age**

With the assistance of financial grants from Gloucestershire County Council and the Methodist Church and pastoral overview from our minister and lay worker, assisted by church volunteers, Bethesda works with individuals to enrich the lives of elderly dementia sufferers and their carers. Activities and support continued during Covid with telephone calls, newsletters and garden based activities.

## **Safeguarding**

Bethesda Methodist Church commits itself to ensuring the implementation of the Connexional Safeguarding Policy, government legislation, guidance and safe practice within our Church premises. There is a safeguarding officer appointed by Church Council.

## **Financial review**

The financial statements show a surplus for the year on the general account of £1,773 giving a general fund balance at 31 August 2021 of £24,750. In addition to this a generous legacy of £46,000 was received in the year. There are no restrictions on the use of these funds and the trustees are still considering options on how to best use the money for the mission of the church. In the meantime these funds have been ringfenced. Including interest the balance is £46,039 which is held on behalf of the church by Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes. The financial statements are prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

## **Reserves Policy**

The Church needs to hold reserves primarily to manage the funds passing through its accounts. As trustees, the members of Church Council believe that the Church should seek to hold, in the General Fund, reserves of around one third of annual routine expenditure which would amount to £32,000 on the Bethesda account and £1,500 on the Hawling account.. The respective balances at 31 August 2021 were £17,247 and £7,463.

## **Risk management**

The trustees have examined the principal strategic and operational risks, which the charity faces and confirm that the systems have been established to minimise these risks.

## **Structure, governance and management**

The governing document for the Church is the Deed of Union (1932) and the Methodist Church Act (1976).

Detailed governance arrangements are outlined within the Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church by order of the annual conference (CPD).

Day to day management of the church is undertaken by the Church Leadership Team along with the Minister.

## **Responsibilities of the management committee**

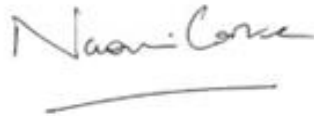
Charity law requires the management committee to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and its financial activities for that period. In preparing those financial statements the management committee are required to:

- ✓ Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- ✓ Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- ✓ State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and;
- ✓ Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operational existence.

The management committee are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Approval**

This report was approved by the trustees on 4 October 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Naomi Cooke". Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Rev'd Naomi Cooke

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## **Bethesda Methodist Church Independent Examiners' Report**

### **Independent Examiners' report to the trustees of Bethesda Methodist Church**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Bethesda Methodist Church for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Charities Act 2011, s.144(2) (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act;  
or

the accounts do not accord with those records; or

the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

S M Davies  
51 Roberts Road  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire  
GL52 5DJ

4 October 2021

**Bethesda Methodist Church**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>					
Donations, gifts and legacies		138,913	3,601	142,514	83,340
Grants		-	32,004	32,004	18,335
Bank account interest		107		107	366
Other income	<b>3</b>	4,827	-	4,827	15,311
Internal organisations		-	1,206	1,206	5,442
		<u>143,847</u>	<u>36,811</u>	<u>180,658</u>	<u>122,794</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
<b>Direct charitable expenditure</b>					
Circuit assessment		81,792	-	81,792	80,772
Donations		3,150	190	3,340	12,343
Project expenses		-	31,067	31,067	22,130
<b>Other expenditure</b>					
Operating	<b>4</b>	11,093	5,353	16,446	23,153
Internal organisations		-	3,622	3,622	4,886
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>96,035</u>	<u>40,232</u>	<u>136,267</u>	<u>143,284</u>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS FOR THE YEAR</b>		47,812	(3,421)	44,391	(20,490)
FUND BALANCES AT 31 AUGUST 2020		22,974	39,920	62,894	74,499
Balance transfer	<b>5</b>	-	-	-	8,885
<b>FUND BALANCES AT 31 AUGUST 2021</b>		<u>70,786</u>	<u>36,499</u>	<u>107,285</u>	<u>62,894</u>

**Bethesda Methodist Church**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**as at 31 August 2021**

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>107,285</u>	<u>62,894</u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>			
General fund		70,786	22,974
Restricted funds	6	29,813	30,818
Internal organisation funds	6	6,686	9,102
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<u>107,285</u>	<u>62,894</u>

Rev'd N Cooke  
 Trustee  
 Approved by the trustees on 4 October 2021

*N. Cooke*

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**Bethesda Methodist Church**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

**1 Accounting policies**

**Basis of preparation**

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Designated funds - these are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Restricted funds - These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the original purpose for which the funds were given.

**Going concern**

At the time of approving the accounts the trustees have a reasonable expectation that they have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

**Church buildings**

It is not considered relevant to include a valuation of the church buildings on the Balance Sheet. The church building and halls are insured for £4,611,000.

**2 Trustees**

None of the trustees received any remuneration or benefits from the charity, directly, during the year. Any payments made to trustees were reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the charity. The minister and lay worker are employed by the Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit. Bethesda contributes to circuit costs via the assessment payments.

**3 Other income**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2,020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Room hire	1,552	-	1,552	6,286
Solar panels	3,225	-	3,225	4,420
Sundry	50	-	50	950
Special collections for third parties	-	-	-	2,219
	<b>4,827</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,827</b>	<b>13,875</b>

**Bethesda Methodist Church**  
**Notes to the Accounts**  
**for the year ended 31 August 2021**

<b>4 Operating expenses</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2,020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cleaning	512	-	512	4,147
Insurance	3,603	-	3,603	3,408
Light and heat	2,821	-	2,821	4,242
Printing and stationery	194	-	194	676
Repairs and renewals	935	5,353	6,288	7,605
Telephone and internet	1,297	-	1,297	1,212
Sundry	1,731	-	1,731	3,118
Special collections for third parties	-	-	-	2,219
	<u>11,093</u>	<u>5,353</u>	<u>16,446</u>	<u>26,627</u>

**5 Balance transfer**

Following Hawling Methodist Church becoming a class of Bethesda as at 1 September 2019 the balance on the Hawling General Fund was transferred to Bethesda.

**6 Restricted funds analysis**

	<b>Balance</b>			<b>Balance</b>
	<b>01/09/2020</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>31/08/2021</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Benevolent Fund	555	130	(189)	496
Coffee Shop	513	529	-	1,042
Covid Fund	1,750	-	-	1,750
Creative Age	5,972	22,355	(15,746)	12,581
Lay Worker	7,540	12,591	(15,322)	4,809
Music Fund	570	-	-	570
Property Fund	13,918	-	(5,353)	8,565
	<u>30,818</u>	<u>35,605</u>	<u>(36,610)</u>	<u>29,813</u>
<b>Internal Organisation Funds</b>				
Bethesda Singers	707	-	-	707
Bethespians	380	-	-	380
Flower Fund	701	-	-	701
Lunch Club	2,420	-	(750)	1,670
Toddlers	2,665	-	(1,700)	965
Traidgreen	212	1,206	(1,172)	246
Welcome Club	2,017	-	-	2,017
	<u>9,102</u>	<u>1,206</u>	<u>(3,622)</u>	<u>6,686</u>